

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

2026 Groundfish Management Team (GMT) Overwinter Meeting

The GMT requests an in-person overwinter meeting in January or February 2026 to analyze harvest specifications and management measures as well as prepare for 2026 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meetings. During harvest specification cycles, an in-person GMT overwinter meeting is especially critical, and that format should be preserved. The GMT continues to promote Groundfish Advisory Subpanel involvement (in-person or virtual) at this stage of the Harvest Specifications and Management Measure analyses.

Year-at-a-Glance

The GMT is unclear if both of the underlined items Stock Complex-Scoping and Protocol for FMP Species Review currently scheduled for June must be scheduled at that meeting or if one of them can be moved to a later meeting, such as November. This would allow the GMT to have more time to review this item outside of the harvest specifications cycle. The team recognizes that beginning Stock Complex-Scoping as early as possible is beneficial to the process but notes the overlap with FPA decision for Harvest Specifications and Management Measures. This will limit our ability to contribute to scoping of stock complexes and provide well-developed recommendations due to competing workload priorities.

Given the breadth of topics on the March and April meeting agendas, the GMT requests that the Council prioritize agenda items on which they wish the team to focus.

March 2026

Pending final action at this meeting regarding the F3 - Agenda Item to Adopt Stock Assessments, the Council may need to schedule an agenda item in March to adopt the widow rockfish stock assessment, following another review.

April 2026

Based on the currently proposed April agenda, if a number of groundfish items remain on Saturday, April 11th, the GMT requests that we be permitted to leave Sunday, April 12th to the extent practicable.

Additional Meetings

Members of the GMT will also be participating in a number of ancillary meetings and work sessions outside of Council meetings over the next several months, both as members of the GMT and as part of their other duties. A non-comprehensive list is found in Table 1.

Table 1. Non-comprehensive meetings and workshops the GMT expects to participate in outside of Council meetings in 2025 and 2026 in chronological order, along with expected GMT responsibilities.

Host	Meeting Purpose	Date(s)	Location	GMT Responsibilities
IPHC ^{b/}	Interim Meeting	Dec. 2	Virtual	Participate as part of other job duties
PFMC	Supplemental Review: 2025 update assessment for widow rockfish	TBD (mid-January)	Seattle, WA /Virtual	Attend the SSC stock assessment supplemental review
PFMC	GMT Overwinter Meeting	January or February	Portland, OR	Begin planning on 2027-28 harvest specifications and work on other groundfish items (e.g., stock definitions)
IPHC	Annual Meeting	Jan. 19-22	Bellevue, WA	Participate as part of other job duties
PFMC	Process Review of the 2025 Stock Assessment Cycle	Winter 2026	Virtual	Attend the SSC/STATs 2025 stock assessment review meeting
	Groundfish Methodology Review	Summer 2026	TBD	Attend the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting for the Groundfish Methodology Review

^{a/} Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

^{b/} International Pacific Halibut Commission

PFMC

11/18/25