

COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
285th Special Session of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council
December 18, 2025 – 1 p.m-3 p.m.
Online

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains or identifies the various elements, documents, and sources comprising the complete and official record of Council meeting discussions and actions. In addition to the Meeting Summary, which follows this introductory section (see #7 below), it includes information or references that serve as the functional detailed minutes for this Council meeting as required by §302(i)(2)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The full record is maintained at the Council office, is available on the Council website (<http://www.pcouncil.org/>) or upon request from the Council office, and consists of the following:

1. **Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda** – These documents are available on the Council Website prior to and following each meeting at <http://www.pcouncil.org/>.
2. **Attendance Records** – These documents are available for the Council meeting and each advisory body meeting by request from the Council office.
3. **All Documents, Reports, and Presentations for Council Consideration** – These items include (1) all documents produced or received for the meeting briefing book, validated by a label assigned by the Council Secretariat and distributed to Council Members; (2) written public comments received at the Council meeting in accordance with agenda labeling requirements; and (3) electronic material or handout materials used in presentations to Council Members during the open session. They are available from links in the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
4. **Council Decisions Summary Document** – This document is distributed shortly after each Council meeting. It provides very brief descriptions of most key Council decisions and is available at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/> and also provided by agenda item in the Meeting Summary of this document.
5. **Draft or Final Decision Documents Finalized after the Council Meeting** – Documents such as Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments are available on the Council website as they are completed.
6. **Gavel-to-Gavel Audio Recordings and Summary Transcripts** – These recordings contain the testimony, presentations, discussions, and actions occurring at the meeting. For additional reference, verbatim transcripts of Council Actions are available on the Council website. The recordings and transcripts may be accessed from the links contained within the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
7. **Meeting Summary** (immediately follows this section) – The Meeting Summary lists, in agenda item order, the briefing book documents, reports, presentations, and Council motions and actions, including a brief summary from the Council Decisions Summary Document for each agenda item. It constitutes the meeting record formally approved by the Council. Links to the audio recordings may also be accessed at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
8. **Voting Log** – The voting log lists, in Agenda order, the summarized Council motions and actions for each agenda item that took place during the meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks – Pete Hassemer, Chair

Mr. Pete Hassemer, Council Chair, called the 285th meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 1 p.m. on December 18, 2025.

2. Roll Call – Merrick Burden

Council Members present during the meeting:

National Marine Fisheries Service:	Mr. Josh Lindsay, designee
Washington State Official:	Ms. Heather Hall, designee
	Mr. Kyle Adicks, designee
Washington Obligatory:	Mr. Butch Smith
Oregon State Official:	Ms. Lynn Mattes, designee
Oregon Obligatory:	Ms. Christa Svensson
California State Official:	Ms. Marci Yaremko, designee
	Ms. Caroline McKnight, designee
California Obligatory:	Ms. Corey Ridings
Idaho State Official:	Ms. Sharon Keifer, designee
Idaho Obligatory:	Mr. Pete Hassemer, Vice Chair
Tribal Official:	Mr. David Sones
At-Large:	Ms. Jaime Diamond
	Dr. Rebecca Lent
	Mr. Brad Pettinger, Chair
	Ms. Aja Szumylo
U.S. Coast Guard:	Mr. Chris German, nonvoting designee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	Dr. Kyle Hanson, nonvoting designee
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:	Mr. Chris Oliver, Parliamentarian, nonvoting designee
U.S. State Department:	Mr. Colin Brinkman, nonvoting designee

Absent from the Meeting:

Alaska State Official:	Ms. Dani Evenson, nonvoting designee
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3. Agenda – Pete Hassemer

a. Council Action: Approve Agenda

Motion 1: Adopt Agenda Item A.3, December 18, 2025, Council Meeting Agenda as shown.
Sharon Kiefer/Brad Pettinger (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

B. Pacific Halibut Management

1. 2026 Commercial and Recreational Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations – Final Action - Angela Forristall

a. Reports of Management Entities

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final 2026 Commercial and Recreational Catch Sharing Plan and Regulations

Motion 2: Council adopt the proposed 2026 commercial and recreational season structures and changes to the CSP as reflected in B.1, Supplemental Attachment 3, December 2025, and recommend the season dates found in H.1.a, Supplemental Revised WDFW Report 1, November 2025, and H.1.a, ODFW Report 1, November 2025, and a start date for the California recreation subareas of April 1.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: At its November 2025 meeting, the Council took preliminary action to adopt the Washington and Oregon state sport season proposals as presented in the [Washington](#) and [Oregon](#) Department of Fish and Wildlife reports; an April 1 (or as early as practicable) start date for the California sport season, as recommended by the [Groundfish Advisory Subpanel](#); and status quo (the same season structure as in 2025) for the directed commercial halibut fishery, as recommended by both the [Groundfish](#) and the [Salmon Advisory Subpanels](#).

At this meeting, the Council adopted final changes to the 2026 Commercial and Recreational Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and annual regulations. The Council's recommendations align with the state and advisory body recommendations made in November and are summarized below:

NON-TRIBAL DIRECTED COMMERCIAL HALIBUT FISHERY

The Council recommended the *status quo* season structure for 2026:

- The 2026 season will consist of a series of three-day openings each beginning at 8 a.m. Tuesday and ending at 6 p.m. on the Thursday of that week.
- The first opening would be on the fourth Tuesday in June, the second opening would be two weeks after the first opener, and the third opening would aim to be two weeks (but not later than three weeks) after the second opener.
- Subsequent openings would occur as soon as possible. Notice of the dates for the first three openers would be announced in the *Federal Register* prior to the start of the season.

PERMIT DEADLINES

The Council recommended changes include adjusting the CSP to reflect the change in permit deadline to March 15 (or the following business day if March 15 lands on a weekend or holiday) for all Area 2A non-Tribal commercial halibut fisheries. This change was previously announced in the 2025 Pacific Halibut Fisheries of the West Coast, Management Measures for the 2A Pacific Halibut Directed Commercial Fishery Final Rule ([90 FR 26931](#)).

WASHINGTON SPORT

Puget Sound Subarea (Marine Areas 5–10):

- The Council recommended status quo for the Puget Sound Subarea. Under status quo, the 2026 season structure would mirror that of 2025, with the default opening date of the first Thursday in April for 2026 (April 2).

North Coast Subarea (Marine Areas 3 and 4):

- The Council recommended status quo for the North Coast Subarea. Under status quo, the 2026 season structure would mirror that of 2025.

South Coast Subarea (Marine Area 2):

- Consistent with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s recommendation, the Council recommended adjusting the CSP to establish a season that is open four days per week in May (Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Tuesday) and three days per week in June (Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday), if sufficient quota remains.
- The Council also recommended that the management objective include a primary goal of using the subarea quota during May and June, with a secondary goal of using any remaining quota in August and September if the primary goal is not met.
- The proposed open days are similar to previous years, but add a fourth day (Friday) in May and limit June to three days per week rather than up to eight.

WASHINGTON/OREGON SPORT

Columbia River Subarea (Marine Area 1):

- In line with Washington Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife recommendations, the Council recommended adjusting the CSP to remove the nearshore fishery for 2026 and reallocating the associated 500 pounds to the all-depth fishery.
- The Council also recommended the CSP be adjusted to clarify that the determination of whether quota is sufficient to open back-up dates will be based on May catch and effort and June projections.

OREGON SPORT

Central Oregon Coast Subarea:

- The Council recommended adjusting the CSP to allocate 75 percent of the subarea sub-quota to the spring all-depth fishery, regardless of the Area 2A fishery catch exploitable yield (FCEY), and:
 - If the Area 2A FCEY is 700,000 pounds or greater, allocate 10,000 pounds to the nearshore fishery and allocate the remaining sub-quota to the summer all-depth fishery; or
 - If the Area 2A FCEY is less than 700,000 pounds, allocate the remaining 25 percent of the sub-quota to the nearshore fishery.
- The Council also recommended adjusting the CSP to specify that the nearshore season opens May 1, seven days per week, in waters shoreward of the 40-fathom (73 m)

regulatory line unless the Area 2A FCEY is below 1.2 million pounds, in which case the opening may be postponed to June 1.

CALIFORNIA SPORT:

- For all California sport subareas, the Council recommended changes to the CSP that would allow for the flexibility to open in April.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

None

VOTING LOG

Motion 1: Adopt Agenda Item A.3, December 18, 2025, Council Meeting Agenda as shown. Sharon Kiefer/Brad Pettinger (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 2: Council adopt the proposed 2026 commercial and recreational season structures and changes to the CSP as reflected in [B.1, Supplemental Attachment 3, December 2025](#), and recommend the season dates found in [H.1.a, Supplemental Revised WDFW Report 1](#), November 2025, and [H.1.a, ODFW Report 1, November 2025](#), and a start date for the California recreation subareas of April 1.
Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on December 18, 2025, at 1:22 p.m.



Pete Hassemer
Council Chair

April 3, 2026

Date