

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

November 2025

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the November agenda and appreciates the spacing of groundfish items. The GMT requests to meet in-person, given the critical nature of the groundfish items on the agenda for this meeting. While online meetings provide a workable platform, it is the face-to-face interactions with one another, Council staff, and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) that form the foundation of the GMT's work. In-person meetings result in better understanding of issues among team members. This in turn leads to a more robust analysis of agenda items and, ultimately, improves GMT advice to the Council.

Based on the Council's motion under G.3 at this meeting to move widow rockfish to supplemental review in October, the GMT recommends unshading "adopt stock assessments" on the November agenda.

January 2026 GMT Overwinter Meeting

During harvest specification cycles (i.e., January of even years), an in-person GMT overwinter meeting is especially critical and should be preserved in that format. The GMT remains interested in promoting GAP involvement in this critical mid-winter meeting to review Harvest Specifications and Management Measure analyses. The GMT recognizes that the GAP has made it explicitly clear that they generally do not support in-person involvement of a subset of GAP membership (i.e., "skinny GAP"). In the interest of finding ways to better integrate the GAP into the overwinter GMT meeting, the GMT is interested in scheduling a joint session with the GAP during the November Council meeting to more thoroughly explore opportunities for engagement.

Other Considerations

If the Council is interested in regular cost-saving measures for scheduling meetings, the GMT proposes that April meetings in odd years continue to not include groundfish agenda items and that September meetings of even years be fully remote. From a groundfish-centric perspective, these two meetings offer the least conflict with the Biennial Harvest Specifications and New Management Measures process. They thereby offer the most consistent opportunity for cost-saving measures regarding Council meeting attendance. If remote participation by groundfish advisory bodies is needed at another (i.e., not April or September) Council meeting the GMT requests that consideration include the number, nature, and complexity of the groundfish items scheduled and weigh these carefully when determining whether remote participation is appropriate, since more technically demanding items benefit from the in-person interaction needed to support thorough analysis and coordination.

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
PFMC	Supplemental Review: 2025 update assessment for widow rockfish	Fall	Seattle, WA /Virtual	Attend the SSC stock assessment supplemental review
PSMFC ^{a/}	Fall FIN/Groundfish Workgroup Meeting	Fall	Virtual	Work with PacFIN on data user issues or improvements
	PacFIN Annual Meeting	Oct. 22-24	TBD	Work with PacFIN on data user issues or improvements
	RecFIN Fall Meeting	Oct. 14-16	Monterey, CA	Work with RecFIN on data user issues or improvements
PFMC	Trawl Catch Share Review SSC Economics Subcommittee Meeting	Nov. 7	Virtual	Attend the SSC Economics Subcommittee meeting for the Trawl Catch Share Review
IPHC ^{b/}	Interim Meeting	Dec. 2	Virtual	Participate as part of other job duties
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
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