

**Decision Summary Document**  
**Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**November 3-7, 2012**

Council Meeting Decision Summary Documents are highlights of decisions made at Council meetings. For a more detailed account of Council meeting discussions, see the [Council meeting minutes and voting logs](#) or the [Council newsletter](#), which are typically available at some point well after the Council meeting has concluded.

**SALMON MANAGEMENT**

**Preseason Salmon Management Schedule for 2013**

The Council approved the tentative 2013 preseason salmon management schedule as shown in [Agenda item C.2.a, Attachment 1](#).

**2012 Salmon Methodology Review**

The Council approved methodology changes for preseason bias correction and postseason assessment of coho mortalities in mark-selective fisheries as well as a new marine survival indicator for the Oregon coastal natural (OCN) coho harvest matrix that uses OCN jack returns to Mill Creek on the Yaquina River. If this life cycle monitoring site fails to provide a reliable estimate of marine survival, the Council approved the use of the existing hatchery coho smolt-to-jack survival as the default value. The Council further specified that the new OCN marine survival indicator is approved for use only in 2013 pending next year's methodology review where this matter is anticipated to be a high priority.

In response to a request from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to consider scheduling a workshop to explore an abundance based management strategy for California coastal Chinook stocks, the Council tasked the Executive Director with coordinating specific presentations on this methodology topic, as well as considerations of other abundance-based approaches for Sacramento River winter-run Chinook, at the April 2013 and September 2013 Council meetings. This might be accomplished with a workshop, a joint meeting of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and Salmon Technical Team at a Council meeting, or some other open meeting mechanism.

**PACIFIC HALIBUT MANAGEMENT**

**2013 Pacific Halibut Regulations**

The Council adopted changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan as shown in [Agenda Item E.1.b, ODFW Report](#), and [Agenda Item E.1.b, WDFW Report](#) as follows:

Recreational Columbia River subarea;

Change the days of the week for the spring fishery to Friday through Sunday,

Keep the early season open until 80 percent of the subarea allocation is reached, removing the provision that would close the early season on the third Sunday in July.

Oregon central coast subarea;

Reduce the open days per week in the nearshore fishery from seven days to three days (Thursday through Saturday),

Include an Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) trigger of 700,000 pounds to reallocate the summer all-depth quota to the spring all-depth (75 percent) and nearshore (25 percent) fisheries. At any 2A TAC above 700,000 pounds, status quo allocation remains.

Salmon Troll fishery;

Allow incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery beginning in April 1 to better align with salmon seasons.

## **COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

### **Exempted Fishing Permit Process**

The Council adopted Council Operating Procedure (COP) 23, as drafted in [Agenda Item G.2.a Attachment 1](#), but to include limited changes based on the recommendations of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). COP 23 outlines a process for consideration of exempted fishing permit (EFP) research proposals. Under the new process, EFP proponents provide initial notification to the Council at the November meeting. Recurring EFP proposals must submit a letter of intent and the previous years' proposal; while proposals for new EFP research must submit a full proposal, to adopt for public review. The Council will consider the final proposals and take final action at the March meeting.

### **Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment and Management for 2013, including Preliminary EFP Proposals and Tribal Set-Aside**

The Council adopted the 2012 Assessment update of the Pacific Sardine Resource for U.S. Management in 2013 ([Agenda Item G.3.b, Supplemental Assessment Report 2](#)) and the biomass estimate of 659,539 metric tons (mt). The Council adopted an overfishing limit (OFL) of 103,284 mt, a P\* value of 0.40, and a corresponding acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 94,281 mt. The Council set an annual catch limit (ACL) equal to the ABC (94,281 mt) and an annual catch target (ACT) equal to the harvest guideline (HG) of 66,495 mt.

The table below contains the harvest period allocations for 2013 as recommended by the Council. The values in the table will be adjusted accordingly should the Quinault Nation and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determine a Tribal allocation different than the initial 9,000 mt requested. The Council recommended that incidental catch limits during closed periods and rollover provisions for quota overages and underages remain the same as prior years, with the exception of increasing the allowable percentage of sardine in mixed loads from 30 percent to 40 percent, after the directed sardine fishery has closed.

Table 2 Preliminary allocation scheme for 2013 Pacific Sardine Annual Catch Target

HG = 66,495 mt; Tribal set-aside = 9,000 mt; potential EFP set-aside = 3,000 mt  
 Adjusted HG = 54,495 mt

	Jan 1- Jun 30	Jul 1- Sep 14	Sep 15 – Dec 31	Total
Seasonal Allocation (mt)	19,073 (35%)	21,798 (40%)	13,624 (25%)	54,495
Incidental Set-Aside (mt)	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Adjusted (Directed) Allocation (mt)	18,073	20,798	12,624	51,495

Finally, the Council approved the West Coast Vancouver Island trawl survey results for potential use in future Pacific sardine stock assessments, when the proposed methodology is followed and there are a sufficient number of years of data collection.

### **Sardine Harvest Parameters Workshop**

During the Future Council Meeting and Workload Planning agenda item, the Council considered statements of the CPSMT, SSC and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS); and considered NMFS staff support and Council staff capabilities, relative to a harvest parameters workshop. The Council expects a workshop to occur prior to the March Council meeting dealing with the scientific and policy underpinnings of current sardine harvest control parameters. The Council staff will develop terms of reference for this workshop and provide more information on schedule and invitations in the near future.

### **HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT (HMS)**

#### **Council Recommendations on International HMS Management**

With respect to a fishing regime for 2013 under the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty:

The Council reiterated their recommendation from June 2012 that the DOS and NMFS should engage in bilateral negotiations with Canada on a fishing regime for 2013.

In bilateral discussions or by other means the U.S. should address the issue of attribution of Canadian catch in U.S. waters with respect to any future Regional Fishery Management Organizations measure involving national limits on catch or effort based on past levels.

The results of the Joint Working Groups on Data and Economics should be shared as soon as possible to facilitate bilateral negotiations.

Any renewed fishing regime should be based on pre-1998 levels of Canadian effort in U.S. waters.

Bilateral negotiations should resolve problems that have arisen with access to Canadian ports by U.S. vessels and take into account the impact of the Canada-European Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

NMFS should work with the Department of State to ensure that the scheduling of bilateral meetings facilitates continued Council engagement.

The Council made the following recommendations to the U.S. delegation to the WCPFC:

Generally, the U.S. should not agree to conservation measures that disadvantage U.S. vessels or their access to a fair share of the international allowed harvest. Further, any agreed to measures must be equitably enforced by all participating countries and include bycatch and artisanal fisheries.

While supporting the Northern Committee's proposed conservation measure for Pacific Bluefin tuna for 2013, the U.S. should continue pushing for a stronger measure that effectively reduces mortality on juvenile fish in the Western Pacific.

Any new conservation measure for South Pacific albacore should accommodate historic levels of participation by the U.S. pole-and-line fleet.

A replacement conservation measure for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas should prevent range contraction of the skipjack stock so that Japanese pole-and-line vessels operating in the North Pacific that target both skipjack and North Pacific albacore do not increase North Pacific albacore targeting.

Continue actively advancing elements of the Northern Committee work plan for North Pacific albacore, including reporting of catch and effort by vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore and the development of the precautionary management framework.

Support for the [U.S.'s proposed CMM](#) (conservation management measure) on fish aggregating device (FAD) management while ensuring that FAD management proposals do not have any unintended impacts on the US troll and pole-and-line fleet.

Any proposed amendments to the Conservation and Management Measure for Oceanic Whitetip Sharks (CMM 2011-04), as called for in paragraph 6, should strengthen the measure, given the poor condition of the stock and its potential connectivity with Eastern Pacific oceanic whitetip sharks

## **ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

### **Current Enforcement Issues**

The Council tasked the Executive Director with sending a letter to the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement regarding regional law enforcement priorities for the coming year.

## **GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT**

### **Amendment 24 (Improvements to the Groundfish Management Process)**

The Council directed the Amendment 24 Workgroup, along with appropriate Council and NMFS staffs, to continue development of the proposed changes to the biennial process as discussed in the Workgroup Report. Towards a goal of developing a proposal that enables the Council to take final action at the March 2013 meeting:

The Amendment 24 Workgroup should meet to address recommendations provided by the Groundfish Management Team and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

The SSC should meet to develop recommendations on more effective policies and procedures for adopting and amending overfished species rebuilding plans.

While it is not clear at this time that the Council will in fact take final action on all necessary matters at the March 2013 Council meeting, the Council expressed its intent to use the revised process concepts recommended by the Amendment 24 Workgroup for the 2015-16 and subsequent biennial harvest specifications and management measures processes beginning with the June 2013 Council meeting.

### **Progress Report on Using Devices to Mitigate Barotrauma in Recreational Fisheries**

The Council adopted the four recommendations provided by the GMT in [Agenda Item I.3.b, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#) and added an alternative depth stratification and buffer percentages for analysis. The Council is scheduled to conclude its immediate consideration about the use of barotrauma mitigation devices in active fishery management at the April, 2013 Council meeting in Portland, Oregon.

### **Consideration of Inseason Adjustments for 2013**

The Council adopted lower trip limits for the 2013 limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude. Additionally, the Council adopted changes to the Washington recreational fisheries for 2013 to reduce yelloweye rockfish mortality. For more information, please see the Council blog at <http://www.pcouncil.org/2012/11/22971/gf-ins-nov2012/>.

### **Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions and Updates**

The Council adopted as its final preferred alternatives the GAP recommendations on chafing gear, safe harbors for lenders, and whiting season opening date ([Agenda Item, I.5.b, Supplemental GAP Report](#)). The Council did not adopt alternatives for the reallocation of widow QS, nor schedule further consideration during 2013 (effectively delaying final action and further staff work until an undetermined future point) and recommended that the moratorium on trading of widow be extended until reallocation of widow rockfish quota share is completed. The Council also passed a motion to begin scoping on electronic monitoring at the March or April Council meeting and to hold a workshop in preparation for that scoping. Finally, the Council Executive Director was tasked with sending a letter to NMFS headquarters requesting additional staffing support for the NWR in its effort to implement critical elements of the trawl rationalization program trailing actions, funding needs of

the Pacific Council for the necessary regulatory and policy development processes, and support for the Northwest Fisheries Science Center relative to its role in program implementation.

## **ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT**

### **Fishery Ecosystem Plan**

The Council approved a preliminary Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) consisting of the draft considered at this meeting ([Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 1](#)) with modifications as follows, and with the understanding that public review would occur prior to the final action consideration scheduled for the March, 2013 Council meeting in Tacoma, Washington: the Council tasked the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) with incorporating many elements of the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS), SSC, Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), Habitat Committee (HC), Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), CPSAS, and Groundfish Management Team (GMT) statements.; the Council revised the Purpose and Need section of the FEP to reflect Council intent to use FEP as an informative rather than prescriptive document; the Council removed Chapter 7 regarding FEP initiatives preferring to capture them in a stand-alone document while adding two new initiatives on cumulative effects analysis and ecosystem indicator development; the Council tasked Council staff with prioritizing the items in FEP Section 6.2 as recommended by the EAS before moving them to the Council's Research and Data Needs document.

Additionally, the Council directed staff to request input from the States, Tribes, and advisory bodies on draft revisions to the Federal List of Authorized Gear and Fisheries for the West Coast for possible distribution for consideration during future meeting planning activity at the March or April 2013 Council meetings.

### **Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Implementation Report**

The Council was encouraged by progress and preliminary results of the California Current IEA program. The was supportive of the proposed NMFS sponsored workshop on incorporating IEA results into the Council process and developing a mechanism for IEA review by the SSC and other advisory bodies. The Council directed Council staff to work with the West Coast Fisheries Science Centers on the workshop's schedule and participants.

### **California Current Ecosystem Report**

The Council found the inaugural annual state of the ecosystem report succinct and informative. The Council encouraged further development of the report and anticipates continued tailoring the report to meet the needs of management and the FEP.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Fiscal Matters**

The Council approved the Budget Committee Report and adopted its recommendations for a Provisional contract year 2013 Operating Budget with contingencies in the event that the actual funding differs significantly from that which has been assumed.

## Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

The Council made the following changes to Council Operating Procedures (COP):

COP 2: Add a second At Large Trawl seat to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

COP 3: Add a tribal seat to the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team

The Council made the following appointments to the 2013-2015 Advisory Body terms:

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### Coastal Pelagic Species

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#### California Commercial Seats

Mr. David Haworth

Ms. Terry Hoinsky

Mr. Nick Jurlin

#### Oregon Commercial Seat

Mr. Eugene Law

#### Washington Commercial Seat

Mr. Robert Zuanich

#### California Processor Seat

Ms. Diane Pleschner-Steele

#### Oregon Processor Seat

Mr. Mike Okoniewski

#### Washington Processor Seat

Mr. Richard Carroll

#### California Sport/Charter Seat

CPT Paul Strasser

#### Conservation Seat

Ms. Sarah McTee

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### Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel

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#### California Seats

Ms. Kathy Fosmark

Mr. Donald Maruska

Vacant

#### Oregon Seats

Mr. Ben Enticknap

Mr. Scott McMullen

Mr. Frank Warrens

#### Washington Seats

Mr. Paul B. Dye

Dr. Terrie Klinger

Mr. Nate Stone

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### Habitat Committee

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#### Commercial Fishery Seat

Mr. Joel Kawahara

#### Sport Fishery Seat

Ms. Liz Hamilton

#### Conservation Seat

Dr. Douglas DeHart

#### Northwest or Columbia River Tribal Seat

Vacant

#### California Tribal Seat

Mr. Mike Orcutt

#### Public At-Large

Mr. Stephen Scheiblaue

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Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

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Fixed Gear At-Large Seats

Mr. Bob Alverson

Ms. Michele Longo-Eder

Mr. Gerry Richter

Bottom Trawl Seat

Mr. Tommy Ancona

Mid-Water Trawl Seat

Ms. Heather Mann

Trawl At-Large Seats

Mr. Brent Paine

Mr. Kevin Dunn

Open Access South of Cape Mendocino Seat

Mr. Daniel Platt

Open Access North of Cape Mendocino Seat

Mr. Jeffery Miles

Processors At-Large Seats

Ms. Susan Chambers

Mr. Tom Libby

At-Sea Processor Seat

Mr. Dan Waldeck

California Charter South of Point Conception Seat

Mr. Louis Zimm

California Charter North of Point Conception Seat

Mr. Bob Ingles

Oregon Charter Seat

Mr. Wayne Butler

Washington Charter Seat

Mr. Mark Cedergreen

Sport Fisheries At-Large Seats

Mr. John Holloway

Mr. Dave Seiler

Mr. Tom Marking

Conservation Seat

Mr. Shems Jud

Tribal Seat

Steve Joner

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Highly Migratory Species Management

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Commercial Troll Seat

Mr. Wayne Heikkila

Commercial Purse Seine Seat

Mr. August Felando

Commercial Gillnet Seat

Mr. Steve Fosmark

Commercial Fisheries At-Large Seats

Mr. Pete Dupuy

Mr. Doug Fricke

Mr. William Sutton

Processor South of Cape Mendocino Seat

Mr. Steve Foltz

Processor North of Cape Mendocino Seat

Mr. Pierre Marchand

California Charter Seat

Mr. Mike Thompson

Washington/Oregon Charter Seat

Ms. Linda Buell

Private Sport Seat

Mr. Bob Osborne

Conservation Seat

Mr. Charles Farwell

Public At-Large

Ms. Pamela Tom



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Salmon Advisory Subpanel

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California Troll Seat  
Mr. Aaron Newman  
Oregon Troll Seat  
Mr. Paul Heikkila  
Washington Troll Seat  
Mr. Jim Olson  
Commercial Gillnet Seat  
Mr. Kent Martin  
Processor Seat  
Mr. Gerald Reinholdt  
California Charter Seat  
Mr. Craig Stone  
Oregon Charter Seat  
Mr. Mike Sorenson  
Washington Charter Seat  
Mr. Butch Smith

California Sport Seat  
Mr. Marc Gorelnik  
Oregon Sport Seat  
Mr. Richard Heap  
Washington Sport Seat  
Mr. Steve Watrous  
Idaho Sport Seat  
Dr. Richard Scully  
Washington Tribal Seat  
Vacant  
California Tribal Seat  
Mr. Dave Hillemeier  
Conservation Seat  
Mr. Jim Hie

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Scientific and Statistical Committee

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Dr. Vladlena Gertseva  
Dr. Selina Heppell  
Dr. Daniel Huppert  
Mr. Tom Jagielo

Dr. Todd Lee  
Dr. Andre' Punt  
Dr. William Satterthwaite

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The Council also appointed Mr. Alan Sarich to fill the tribal seat on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team.

**Future Council Meeting Agenda Workload Planning**

The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for March 2013 in Tacoma, Washington. A tentative proposed agenda can be found on [the Council website](#), with a draft detailed agenda to be available in February 2013.

PFMC  
11/09/2012  
5:02 p.m.

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