

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

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft April and June 2018 Agendas ([Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 2](#), [Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 3](#)), Year-at-a-Glance ([Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1](#)), and Groundfish Workload Priorities ([Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 4](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book and provide comments below. This report also contains information on other items for which we are involved.

### **April Council Meeting**

The GMT notes that the briefing book deadline for the April Council meeting is March 19th, which is only a few days after the conclusion of the March Council meeting, and may be the first day GMT members return to work following the March Council meeting. Therefore, the GMT does not anticipate that time will allow for any advanced briefing book materials to be completed in time for the April Council meeting.

The draft April Council meeting agenda has several items that will require significant time and workload to complete, including biennial harvest specifications and management measures, such as salmon mitigation measures, and the essential fish habitat and rockfish conservation area action. In anticipation of the agenda items that are scheduled for the April Council meeting, Council staff has announced a GMT pre-meeting webinar scheduled for 1:30 pm on March 30th, 2018. Additionally, the GMT recommends that the GMT start on Thursday April 5th at 1 pm, as referenced in the draft agenda, to allow additional time to complete our work.

### **The Nature Conservancy Ecosystem Workshop**

On May 15th and 16th, the Nature Conservancy (TNC) is holding a workshop in Portland, Oregon, focusing on the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan and examining how climate-related variability and changes could impact managed fisheries. TNC has encouraged the participation of the GMT by inviting up to two members of the GMT to attend this meeting. Although this is not a Council-sponsored event, GMT participation in these discussions may be beneficial to the Council process.

### **June Council Meeting**

Based on the draft June agenda, the Council will be taking final action on the biennial harvest specifications and management measures for 2019-2020 including final approval of exempted fishing permits, stock assessment plan, and Terms of Reference and the research and data needs document, all of which could be high workload items for the GMT.

### **Year-at-a-Glance**

#### **September**

The proposed groundfish agenda items for the September Council meeting will require attendance from the GMT for the full duration of the meeting. The GMT will be covering Methodology Review Planning, Omnibus Workload Considerations, and the Five-Year Catch Share Follow On preliminary preferred alternatives. The GMT anticipates that it will need to start on September 5th in order to allow for time to complete the full workload.