

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING FOR
GROUNDFISH

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the draft April Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting agenda ([Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 2](#)) and the draft Year at a Glance ([Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1](#)) in the advanced briefing book. We also considered Council discussion at the March meeting and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) Report on Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning ([Agenda Item C.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)).

We propose the following adjustments for the Year at a Glance, based on NMFS staffing capacity (Table 1):

- We suggest adding a Groundfish workload planning agenda item at 4 of the 5 annual Council meetings, consistent with the Council’s discussions on adjustments to Council Operating Procedure 9.
- We support the revised timeline for the Salmon Mitigation Measures Action described in [Agenda Item C.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#).
- We echo the GMT’s discussion in [Agenda Item C.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#) regarding the “Flexibility in ACL Management” agenda item. To this end, we suggest removing the “Flexibility in ACL Management” agenda items from the June and November 2019 meetings. We support instead using staff capacity and time on the June 2019 agenda to develop responses to the new sigma values the Council adopted at the March 2019 meeting.
- We recommend maintaining an electronic monitoring agenda item at the April meeting to update the Council on the new Electronic Monitoring rulemaking and implementation timeline. We also propose a placeholder to update the Council on the Electronic Monitoring 3rd Party Transition Plan at the June Council meeting, and can confirm whether we will be ready for this agenda item during workload planning at the April meeting.
- We recommend removing the Western Cowcod Conservation Area adjustments item from the June and September 2019 agendas. Instead, we recommend adding an agenda item for a Non-trawl Area Management action that analyzes: 1) Western Cowcod Conservation Area adjustments; 2) Non-trawl rockfish conservation area modifications (Item 6 in [Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report 1](#)); and 3) non-trawl logbooks. This package of alternatives builds on the Council's recommendations under the Omnibus Agenda item at the March meeting, appropriately expands the scope of the Cowcod Conservation Area action to benefit more non-trawl vessels, and begins work on a much needed reporting requirement that supports both our fisheries management needs and Endangered Species Act obligations for seabirds and other species that interact with fixed gear. We have proposed waiting to add this agenda item until the June 2020 meeting due to concerns with overlapping this large action with two other large actions (harvest specifications/management measures and sablefish gear switching/area management), but

welcome input on GMT and Council staff capacity to begin analysis on this item at an earlier meeting (e.g., November 2019).

- We recommend delaying selection of the range of alternatives for sablefish gear switching and area management from June to September to give the Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC) time to prepare and submit a report on its May meeting for the advanced briefing book.
- We echo the GMT's recommendation in [Agenda Item C.4.a., Supplemental GMT Report 1](#) for moving the 2020 Midwater Trawl Gear EFP FPA from June to September. That timing will still allow NMFS to undertake the necessary permitting for the 2020 season.

Draft NMFS report on groundfish items workload for year at a glance									
	April 10-16, 2019	June 18-25, 2019	Sept 11-18, 2019	Nov 13-20, 2019	March 3-9, 2020	April 3-10, 2020	June 11-18, 2020	Sept 10-17, 2020	Nov 13-20, 2020
	Rohnert Park, CA	San Diego, CA	Boise, ID	Costa Mesa, CA	Rohnert Park, CA	Vancouver, WA	San Diego, CA	Spokane, WA	Garden Grove, CA
Groundfish	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report
	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management
		21/22 Harvest Specs & MM planning	21/22 Harvest Specs & MM initial actions	21/22 Spex PPA, MM ROA, preliminary EFP approval	(21/22 Spex check-in) tent.	21/22 Spex Management Measures PPA	21/22 Spex Management Measures FPA		
	Cost Recovery Report	Adopt Stock Assessments	Adopt Stock Assessments	Remaining Stock Assessments Rebuilding Analyses	Initial Stock Assessment Plan and TOR	Cost Recovery Report			
	ESA Seabird Mitigation Measures PPA	ESA Seabird Mitigation Measures FPA	(MWT EFP for 2020 FPA) tent.		Whiting Treaty Implementation		(Non-trawl Management Area P&N/ROA) tent.		(Non-trawl Management Area PPA) tent.
	ESA Salmon Mitigation Measures P&N/ROA	ESA Salmon Mitigation Measures PPA	ESA Salmon Mitigation Measures FPA						
	EM Rulemaking Update	EM 3rd Party Transition Plan							
	VMM Update		SaMTAAC report	(Sablefish gear switching and area management P&N/ROA) tent.		(Sablefish gear switching and area management PPA) tent.		(Sablefish gear switching and area management FPA) tent.	
	A26 Blackgill Report	ESA Workgroup Report							
	(Science Improvements and Meth. Review Report) tent.	(Sigma effects exploration and phase-in scoping discussion) tent.	(Science Improvements and Meth. Review Report) tent.						
	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)	Groundfish Workload Planning (Omnibus Open Comment)
**Items in parentheses are included as tentative both based on how they are noted on the Council's year at a glance and based on NMFS suggested changes to their scheduling									