

FINAL INSEASON MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING SHOREBASED CARRYOVER AND  
SALMON CAPS FOR MIDWATER TRAWL EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFP) –  
FINAL ACTION

Management measures for groundfish are set by the Council with the general understanding that these measures will likely need to be adjusted within the biennium to attain, but not exceed, the annual catch limits (ACL). This agenda item will consider progress to date of the groundfish fisheries, including considerations for issuing shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) surplus carryover, as well as routine inseason adjustments to the 2019 fisheries. Potential routine inseason adjustments include adjustments to Rockfish Conservation Area boundaries and adjustments to commercial and recreational fishery catch limits. Adjustments are, in part, based on recent landings and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.

*Shorebased IFQ Surplus Carryover*

At this meeting, the Council is expected to provide a recommendation regarding the issuance of 2018 surplus carryover quota pounds (QP) into the 2019 shorebased IFQ program. This action is usually carried out in March; however, due to the partial government shutdown, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was unable to finalize data needed to evaluate remaining 2018 surplus. NMFS briefed the Council at the March meeting on their progress in finalizing these data. The Council elected to move this item to April.

The surplus carryover provision ([50 CFR 660.140\(e\)\(5\)](#)) in the shorebased IFQ program allows unused QP in amounts of up to 10 percent of the cumulative QPs (used and unused) in a vessel account to be carried over from one year to the next (Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 1). The current NMFS policy, based on a court ruling in 2014, is NMFS will not issue surplus carryover QP for IFQ species that have ACLs established equal to their acceptable biological catches ([Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 4, June 2014](#)).

The Groundfish Management Team is expected to provide a supplemental report on fishery performance in 2018 and projections for 2019 to inform decision-making. The Council can recommend, for each individual species or species complex, that NMFS: a) issue carryover up to 10 percent, b) issue carryover at some level less than 10 percent (i.e., reduce the eligible carryover percent), or c) forego carryover.

*Salmon Caps for Midwater Trawl Exempted Fishing Permits*

In September 2018, the Council [recommended](#) Chinook salmon bycatch limits (i.e., caps) for year-round coastwide midwater trawl and gear exempted fishing permits (EFP) under Agenda Item I.8, Continuing Midwater Trawl and Gear EFP and Salmon Bycatch Provisions in New EFPs. The Council recommended limits of 1,000 Chinook for fish taken under EFP activity north of 42° N. Latitude and 100 Chinook for EFP activity south of 42° N. Latitude. As part of this motion, the Council requested flexibility to revisit these caps should any of the Council's recommended provisions Groundfish Bottom Trawl and Midwater Trawl Gear in the Trawl Rationalization Program rulemaking processes not be implemented, opportunity should be made for Council to

reconsider these bycatch limits. NMFS determined one provision in the proposed rule would be out of compliance with the 2017 NMFS [biological opinion](#) *Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation Regarding the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's Groundfish Fishery Management Plan* and implemented a change to the final rule (found at [83 FR 62269](#)) to rectify this issue (Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 2). Therefore, the Council now has the opportunity to review catch to-date in the trawl gear EFPs and revise the Chinook salmon bycatch limits, as appropriate.

#### *Lingcod Projections for California*

At the March 2019 meeting, the Council requested an update to California lingcod catch projections based on the complete set of 2018 data. The updated projections are anticipated to be provided at the April 2019 meeting for the Council to review.

#### **Council Action:**

- 1. Consider projections for the 2019 fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments, as necessary.**
- 2. Consider data on 2018 surplus carryover QPs and projections for fishery performance in 2019. Recommend the amount of surplus carryover that should be issued.**
- 3. Review coastwide midwater trawl EFP salmon caps and consider new bycatch limits, as appropriate.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 1: Excerpt from 50 CFR 660.140 Identifying the Carryover Provision.
2. Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 2: Excerpt from 83 FR 6229: Groundfish Trawl and Midwater Trawl Gear in the Trawl Rationalization Program Final Rule.
3. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#)).

#### **Agenda Order:**

- G.9 Final Inseason Management, Including Shorebased Carryover and Salmon      Todd Phillips
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2019, including Shorebased Carryover and Salmon Bycatch Caps for Midwater Trawl Exempted Fishing Permits, as Necessary to Achieve but Not Exceed Annual Catch Limits and Other Management Objectives

PFMC  
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