

## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

NMFS recommends the following revisions to HMS agenda items on the Council's draft June 2019 meeting agenda and Year-at-a-Glance summary (see Table 1).

NMFS recommends moving the deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) authorization final preferred alternative (FPA) from June to September 2019. As outlined in the July 2017 PFMC-NMFS Regional Operating Agreement, the Council should have, at minimum, a draft preliminary NEPA analysis, including a socioeconomic analysis, to support Council final action. However, NMFS staff will not be able to prepare a preliminary draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, including socioeconomic analysis, in advance of the June meeting. It is NMFS's understanding that 2018 DSBG exempted fishing permit landings data will be available sometime in late April, which is needed to conduct a socioeconomic analysis that is expected to take approximately two months to complete. Thus, there will not be sufficient time to prepare a socioeconomic analysis for submission to the briefing book for the June meeting.

Moving the Council's DSBG FPA from June to September will not affect the timeline for final authorization of DSBG, since NMFS must complete a comprehensive NEPA analysis before implementing a Council-selected FPA as well as address socioeconomic impacts with respect to fulfilling requirements pertaining to a Regulatory Impact Review and the Regulatory Flexibility Act. In addition to these requirements to prepare a socioeconomic analysis of the Council's range of alternatives, MSA 303(b)(6) lists several considerations Councils (and the Secretary) should take into account when contemplating a limited access system, all of which are social and economic factors. Moving the FPA to September would give the Council more complete information (i.e., a completed socioeconomic analysis) to use in selecting an FPA, as well as documenting its rationale in accordance with federal law.

NMFS expects to prepare a preliminary draft biological analysis of the Council's DSBG range of alternatives for submission to the June Briefing Book. In June, the Council could provide guidance on the analysis to-date. NMFS recommends 1.5 hours of extra time be added to the June 2019 NMFS Report, or as a separate agenda item, to provide time for the Council to comment on the preliminary draft biological analysis.

NMFS recommends scheduling scoping of an amendment to authorize shallow-set longline for the November 2019 meeting in Costa Mesa, should the Council elect to reschedule the FPA for DSBG to the September meeting. NMFS makes this recommendation based on views of the Council and advisory bodies. During the September 2018 meeting, the Council adopted a motion which included a timeline that the Council would consider in building future agendas. That timeline included scheduling of scoping longline and Council-selection of a FPA for DSBG during the March 2019 meeting. Subsequently, the Council made decisions to reschedule both the FPA for DSBG and scoping for longline to the June meeting, with attention paid to two primary issues: (1) concerns for the Council taking up scoping for longline prior to selecting an FPA on DSBG, and (2) concerns for industry participants interested in the longline scoping discussion being able to easily attend. Moving scoping for longline to the November meeting in Costa Mesa would allow

interested industry participants, whom are based primarily in San Diego, to more easily attend than if scoping were rescheduled to the September meeting in Boise and would also allow the Council to consider selecting a FPA for DSBG in advance.

Moving the DSBG FPA and shallow-set longline scoping to September and November, respectively, could afford additional time on the June agenda for other HMS issues that the Council may want to discuss.

**Table 1.** Proposed changes to the Council’s Year-At-A-Glance as reflected in [Agenda Item D.7, Attachment 1](#). Agenda items proposed to be rescheduled appear in strikethrough text. Agenda items proposed to be added appear in italics.

June 2019 San Diego, CA	September, 2019 Boise, ID	November 2019 Costa Mesa, CA	March 2020 Rohnert Park, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>NMFS Report</i></li> <li>● <i>Add time for Council guidance on DSBG biological analysis</i></li> <li>● International Issues</li> <li>● EFPs: Non-DSBG-Prelim/DSBG- Final</li> <li>● DGN Performance Metrics Review</li> <li>● Yellowfin Tuna Overfishing Response</li> <li>● <del>DSBG Authorization: FPA</del></li> <li>● <del>Candidate Item Scoping Amendment Authorizing SS Longline Fishery</del></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NMFS Report</li> <li>● International Issues</li> <li>● Final Recommendations on EFPs</li> <li>● <i>DSBG Authorization: FPA</i></li> <li>● <del>Candidate Item Amd. Authorizing SSSL: Prelim ROA</del></li> <li>● <del>Candidate Item DSBG Auth: Prelim FMP Language</del></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NMFS Report</li> <li>● International Issues</li> <li>● <i>Scoping Amendment Authorizing SS-Longline Fishery</i></li> <li>● <del>Candidate Item-DGN Hard Caps Revisitation</del></li> <li>● <del>Candidate Item-DSBG Auth: Final Prelim FMP Language</del></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NMFS Report</li> <li>● International Issues</li> <li>● <del>Candidate Item Amd. Authorizing SSSL: PPA</del></li> <li>● <i>Candidate Item-Amd. Authorizing SSSL: Prelim ROA</i></li> <li>● <i>Candidate Item-DSBG Auth: Final FMP Language</i></li> </ul>