

## WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURE UPDATE

Under the [groundfish process](#) specified in Council Operating Procedure 9, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considers new management measures during the biennial specifications process and prioritizes these new measures in June of even numbered years. This prioritization process has been known as the omnibus process for new management measures. In June of 2018, the Council delayed prioritization and requested evaluation of the process from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT). After review, the GMT noted multiple inefficiencies in the existing prioritization process and at the September 2018 meeting proposed a [new prioritization method](#) for the Council to consider. They recommended that rather than completing the prioritization process on the biennial cycle, the Council should take up this process on an annual basis.

Specifically, at the September 2018 meeting, the GMT [proposed](#) that the Council create a separate agenda item “at each March meeting for groundfish advisory bodies to review the prior year’s and upcoming fishery years’ fishery status.” This agenda item would set aside a dedicated time for the Council to review the progress to-date, update priorities, and delete unneeded actions from the previous year’s list of priorities. Further, this item would allow the public the opportunity to present new candidate management measures under a specific groundfish agenda item. The GMT additionally suggested that the Council schedule “check-ins on groundfish workload and priorities”, as needed, at multiple meetings throughout the year. The GMT believes this activity would allow the Council to review and revise the project prioritization list throughout the year rather than once every two years. Additionally, this new method may allow for timelier processing of actions as the Council would remain up-to-date regarding of the status of GMT and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) workloads.

At the November 2018 meeting, the GMT and GAP co-developed a revised [project prioritization list](#) and presented it to the Council. The Council directed the GMT to develop their new process proposal and to perform a preliminary workload analysis of the aforementioned list as part of their overwinter work-planning meeting. At the March 2019 meeting, the GMT provided the Council with an updated groundfish workload prioritization list ([Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report 1, March 2019](#)) as well as a straw-man proposal ([Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report 2, March 2019](#)) for the new process at that meeting. Briefly, their proposal calls for one annual agenda item dedicated to workload and project prioritization and, if/when needed, a scheduled agenda item to review and revise workload and the project list at subsequent meetings. A stand-alone version of the GMT’s process flow chart is provided as Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1.

In March, the Council agreed to test this proposed methodology, on a trial basis, to examine its efficacy. At the April 2019 meeting, the Council recommended for a check-in item to be included in the June meeting agenda.

At this meeting, the GMT is expected to report on their current workload and add any new management measures to the prioritization list that have arisen since the March and April meetings. As part of this agenda item, the Council has the opportunity to review and revise the GMT’s workload in conjunction with updating and prioritizing projects on the current prioritization list

(Agenda Item I.2.a, GMT Report 1) and to provide guidance regarding further development of these proposed projects, as appropriate.

**Council Action:**

- 1. Review the List of Proposed Projects and Fishery Management Plan Amendments.**
- 2. Provide Guidance on Priorities and Schedules.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1: Proposed GMT Workload Prioritization Process.
2. Agenda Item I.2.a, GMT Report 1.
3. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- |     |  |               |
|-----|--|---------------|
| I.2 | Workload and New Management Measure Update   | Todd Phillips |
|     | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies   |               |
|     | b. Public Comment  |               |
|     | c. <b>Council Action:</b> Review the List of Proposed Projects, Fishery Management Plan Amendments, and New Management Measures, Consider Overall Workload, and Provide Guidance on Priorities and Schedules |               |

PFMC  
05/24/19