



Pacific Council News

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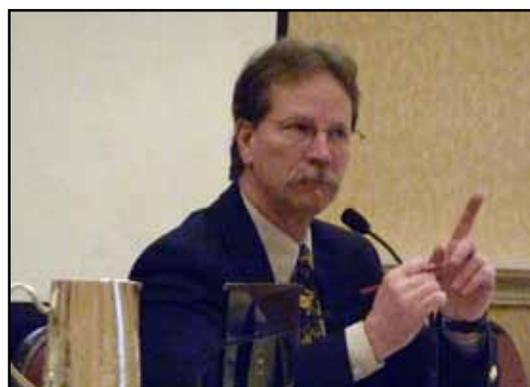
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Events Back cover

Acronyms are now explained at the bottom of each page

Council Makes Major Changes to Salmon Fishery Management Plan

At its June meeting, the Council selected final preferred alternatives for *de minimis* fishing provisions, status determination criteria, annual catch limits, salmon stock classification, and accountability measures.



Council staffer Chuck Tracy clarifies a point during the salmon agenda item.

Preliminary alternatives for public review were adopted in September and November 2010. Since then, the ad hoc Salmon Amendment Committee completed a draft environmental assessment describing and analyzing

the effects of the alternatives.

De minimis fishing provisions

The Council's final preferred alternative for default *de minimis* fishing provisions would be applied to Sacramento River and Klamath River fall Chinook. At low abundance, it would allow a maximum 25 percent spawner reduction rate (adult equivalent total exploitation rate) at stock levels between the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) spawning escapement conservation objective and the mid-point between the conservation objective and the minimum stock size threshold (MSST; a reference point that determines

when a stock is overfished). As abundance declined, the maximum allowable harvest rate would further decrease to 10 percent at the MSST (three quarters of MSY for Sacramento and Klamath fall Chinook). At half of MSST, the maximum allowable exploitation rate would decrease to zero as abundance approached zero. Application of the *de minimis* exploitation rates would depend on year-specific circumstances such as the status of comingled stocks, trends in spawning escapement (overfished, approaching overfished status), environmental conditions, etc. The MSY spawning escapement conservation objectives used to establish *de minimis* fishing exploitation rates are 122,000 hatchery and natural area adult spawners for Sacramento River fall Chinook, and 40,700 natural area adult spawners for Klamath River

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Mallet, Cedergreen, Moore Leave Council; Feldner, Lincoln Join

In June, the Department of Commerce announced new appointments to the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Jeff Feldner of Logsdon, Oregon was appointed to the at-large seat on the Council, replacing Rod Moore; and Richard Lincoln of Olympia, Wash. was appointed to the Washington obligatory seat, replacing Mark Cedergreen. Rod Moore and Mark Cedergreen served two and three terms, respectively. Jerry

Mallet, Idaho Fish and Game Director Virgil Moore's designee to the Council, is retiring from his position on the Council.

Both Feldner and Lincoln bring past experience with the Council, having served in other capacities. Feldner is a longtime commercial fisherman who currently serves with Oregon State University's Sea Grant Extension program. He has also served on the Oregon Salmon Commission and the Oregon

Fish and Wildlife Commission. He served on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel from 1986 to 1995, including several years as chair.

Lincoln works with the Wild Salmon Center in Portland and has 33 years of experience in fisheries research, management, and policy in the Pacific Northwest. Prior to that, he worked the Washington Department of Fish and

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Groundfish News

Council Finalizes Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions

In June, the Council took some final actions, some preliminary actions, and provided guidance on a number of trailing action issues for trawl rationalization (Amendment 20) and intersector allocation (Amendment 21).

Final Actions

In its final actions, the Council recommended that:

- The Amendment 21 trawl/non-trawl allocation supersede Amendment 6 limited entry/open access allocations. Any superceded limited entry/open access allocations that are needed will be established through the regular biennial process.

- Flexibility be provided for the inseason modification of set-asides for exempted fishing permits (EFPs), research, and the incidental open access fishery; and for tribal whiting reapportionment. This flexibility may result in the midseason release of nonwhiting for directed fisheries and a rollover of whiting from tribal to nontribal fisheries. A process for making these modifications still needs to be identified.

- The use of factors to expand the trawl bycatch mortality allocation of Pacific halibut be made permanent. For 2011, the halibut allocation to the trawl fishery was interpreted as an allocation of dressed legal-sized fish, and the amount of pounds allocated to the trawl fishery was expanded to account for the fact that trawl limits are in terms of round legal and sublegal fish. This interpretation and expansion was implemented through

an emergency rule that expires at the end of 2011. The Council's action will make the use of expansion factors permanent. The values used for the factors may vary from year to year as necessary to take into account the best information available.

For 2012 through 2014, the amount of the trawl bycatch mortality limit will be 15 percent of the total constant exploitation yield for halibut, not to exceed 130,000 lbs. Beginning in 2015, the amount of the trawl bycatch mortality limit will be capped at 100,000 lbs. The bycatch allocation percent can be adjusted upward or downward (i.e., above or below 15 percent) through the biennial specifications and management process, but the upper bound on the maximum allocations can only be changed through a fishery management plan amendment.

- Whiting mothership sector catcher vessel (MS/CV) endorsements and catch history assignments be made severable for limited entry catcher vessel permits. Specifically, 1) the MS/CV endorsement (together with the associated catch history assignment) may be severed from the groundfish limited entry trawl permit (the endorsement and catch history assignment stay together); 2) catch history assignment associated with the MS/CV endorsement may not be subdivided; 3) the severed MS/CV endorsement and catch history assignment may be transferred together to any limited entry trawl permit (if the permit to which the MS/CV endorsement is transferred already

has an MS/CV endorsement and catch history assignment, multiple MS/CV endorsements and catch history assignments would be stacked on the single permit); and 4) the endorsement and catch history assignment would be maintained separately on the limited entry permit (i.e., stacked, but not merged or combined with any other MS/CV endorsement or catch history assignment on the permit). Such endorsements could later be transferred away from the permit.

The severability provision will not be fully put in place until mid-2012.

- The rules for passing through the adaptive management program (AMP) quota pound to quota share (QS) holders originally set to expire at the end of 2012 will be extended through 2014, or until alternative rules are developed, whichever comes first. Ten percent of all nonwhiting QS have been set aside for the AMP. The AMP criteria for distribution of the quota pounds associated with these shares has yet to be developed. For 2011, the AMP quota pounds were distributed to QS holders in proportion to their QS holdings (a pass-through). The Council action will continue the pass through for 2013 and 2014, unless alternative distribution criteria are developed and implemented before that time.

- A grandfather provision be provided for vessels that processed their nonwhiting shore-side allocation at sea prior to July 20, 2010. This exception would apply to the vessel, not the per-

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AMP = adaptive management program; EFP = experimental fishing permit; MS/CV = mothership/catcher vessel; QS = quota shares

Groundfish News

Council Adopts Stock Assessments for 2013, 2014 Groundfish Fisheries

Canary, yelloweye, cowcod on track to rebuild; bocaccio recruitment unexpectedly high

At its June meeting, the Council adopted new stock assessment updates for canary and yelloweye rockfish, a cowcod status report, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommendations regarding the use of data-limited methods for determining groundfish harvest specifications for unassessed stocks. The Council recommended the bocaccio and darkblotched rockfish assessments be forwarded to the

assessment update also indicates no significant change in our understanding of stock status with an estimated depletion of 21.3 percent of unfished biomass at the start of 2011. Updated data in the assessment includes revised Oregon historical catches; updated and revised West Coast Groundfish Observer Program discard estimates; revised 2008 recreational catch estimates; 2009 and 2010 fishery landings and compositional data; updated 2009 and 2010 trawl survey data;

model run within the Terms of Reference criteria; however the results were questionable and therefore he provided an alternative model. New 2010 length composition data from the National Marine Fisheries Service trawl survey showed the recruitment (the entry of new fish into the population) of the 2010 year class was unprecedented – the highest estimated recruitment in over 60 years. The alternative model recommended by Dr. Field removed the 2010 survey length composition data and added a southern California power plant impingement recruitment index that was not included in the base model in the full 2009 assessment.

darkblotched assessment at the mop-up panel. The SSC will work with the darkblotched stock assessment team to outline which model runs and sensitivity analyses they would like to explore in September.

The SSC also reviewed the results and recommendations from the late April review of methods for determining harvest specifications for unassessed, **data-limited groundfish stocks**. The data-limited methods review panel and the SSC recommended three catch-based methods for determining harvest specifications for unassessed stocks. These methods include the depletion-corrected average catch and depletion-based stock reduction analyses used to inform 2011 and 2012 harvest specifications. An alternative catch-only Stock Synthesis method was also recommended for determining new harvest specifications. More elaborate “simple assessment” methods, where catch data is augmented with some fishery-independent data, were also reviewed at the data-limited methods review panel meeting. The full report from the data-limited methods review panel are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/3t4p947>. The panel and SSC recommended further work and review needs to be done before these simple assessment methods are used to inform harvest specifications. The Council endorsed all the June SSC and GMT recommendations regarding these data-limited methods.

For more, see the June groundfish briefing book materials:
<http://tinyurl.com/4xydn44>

and 2009 and 2010 International Pacific Halibut Commission survey indices.

The Council adopted a **cowcod**

late September mop-up Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panel for a review of limited additional analyses.

The **canary rockfish** assessment update indicates our understanding of stock status has not significantly changed since the 2009 assessment. The new assessment indicates the stock is at 23 percent of unfished biomass at the start of 2011. Updated data in the new assessment include a formal reconstruction of historical groundfish landings in Oregon for 1892-1986; estimated 2009 and 2010 landings, discards, and total mortality; updated 2009 and 2010 trawl survey data; and 2009 and 2010 fishery and survey length and age composition data.

The **yelloweye rockfish**

status report that indicated that management action has kept incidental bycatch of cowcod within the constraints of the rebuilding plan (i.e., below specified catch limits). The SSC said there was no need for an updated cowcod assessment until further data on stock trends becomes available or significant overages in catch are observed. The SSC also recommended that rebuilding analyses could be provided every other assessment cycle, as there is no information that would change the rebuilding trajectory, except for catch, which is too small to have an impact over just two years.

The SSC reviewed a **bocaccio** assessment update at their June meeting. The stock assessment author, Dr. John Field, provided an updated

Groundfish News

Amendment 16-5 (Rebuilding Plans), 2012 Harvest Specifications Process Continues

After much discussion, a Secretarial amendment process will be used to finalize the regulations

This June, the Council discussed groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) Amendment 16-5, which concerns revised rebuilding plans for seven overfished rockfish species, a new rebuilding plan for petrale sole, and new management reference points for assessed flatfish species. The Council adopted their recommendations for Amendment 16-5 in June 2010, but National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) disapproved the Council's preferred alternative in December of last year. NMFS preferred lower annual catch limits (ACLs) for yelloweye (17 mt vs. 20 mt) and cowcod (3 mt vs. 4 mt) and consequently shorter rebuilding periods for these species, as evidenced by their emer-

gency action to implement 2011 groundfish harvest specifications. Additionally, NMFS disapproved two management measures that affect fisheries operating adjacent to the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs). The disapproved management measures are allowing fisheries to operate from the shore to 30 fm rather than 20 fm adjacent to the CCAs and allowing the retention of shelf rockfish species while fishing in the open shoreward areas adjacent to the CCAs.

As per the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Council must be afforded the opportunity to reconsider its decision on a disapproved FMP amendment. The Council was afforded that opportunity at their June meet-

ing. The Council was faced with the choice of a) reaffirming its original preferred alternative; b) concurring with the NMFS preferred alternative; c) adopting another alternative that was analyzed in the 2011-12 harvest specifications and management measures final environmental impact statement (spex FEIS); d) adopting a different alternative than was analyzed in the spex FEIS; or e) recommending that the Secretary of Commerce pursue an FMP amendment independently of the Council. The tradeoff involved with this decision is that any Council action would risk a January 1, 2012 implementation of Amendment 16-5 and associated management measures, due to lengthy procedural neces-

sities. It is likely Amendment 16-5 could be implemented at the start of 2012 under a Secretarial amendment, which would require less workload for both the Council and NMFS, and would use a more simple process.

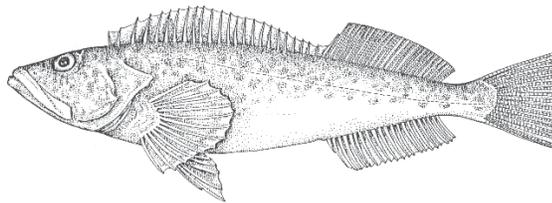
The Council recommended that NMFS pursue a Secretarial amendment process for implementing Amendment 16-5 and 2012 regulations to increase the likelihood of implementing new rebuilding plans and management measures by January 1, 2012. Details of the proposed Secretarial amendment will be provided by NMFS at the September Council meeting, which will also serve as a public hearing on Amendment 16-5. 

Schedule for 2013-2014 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Set

In November 2010, in response to continuing problems with achieving a January 1 start to the groundfish fishery, the Council began looking at ways to improve the process, including amending the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP). In April 2011, the Council adopted a very detailed schedule for decision-making, review and implementation of 2013-14 harvest specifications and management measures, as a preliminary preferred alternative for public review and further analysis.

In June, the Council an-

nounced the intent to restrict the scope and complexity of harvest specifications and management considerations for the 2013-14 biennium to be similar to those in place in 2012. The Council intends to meet the FMP requirements, while simplifying the process in order to increase the likelihood of a January 1 fishery start date. Towards this goal, the Council adopted a frontloaded schedule and process for Council activi-



ties (see non-italicized font at <http://tinyurl.com/3vhcwoq>), but did not adopt a schedule and process for the NMFS review and implementation process (see italicized font items at <http://tinyurl.com/3vhcwoq>). Based on the Council's scope of action, an updated NMFS review and implementation schedule will be provided at the

November 2011 meeting. The Council also adopted an amended Council Operating Procedure 19 for exempted fishing permits (EFPs), moving from annual consideration of EFP applications to consideration every two years, aligned with the biennial decision-making process, starting at the November 2011 meeting (<http://tinyurl.com/3tuthpc>). Finally, the Council concluded there is a need for long-term solutions for biennial cycle process issues. The Council plans to discuss the issue at the November, 2011 Council meeting. 

Groundfish News

Inseason Adjustments Set for 2011 Groundfish Fisheries

The Council received new information on the status of 2011 groundfish fisheries and recommended that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implement the following inseason adjustments.

Trawl

The Council recommended moving the seaward boundary of the trawl rockfish conservation area from 200 fm to 150 fm for the area 45°46' N. lat. (Cape Falcon) to 48°10' N. lat. (Cape Alava) starting September 1 through the end of the year (i.e., Periods 5 and 6). The action will provide greater access to target species while the individual accountability afforded by the rationalized fishery will mitigate bycatch concerns. The Council also noted the request was only for a small portion of the coast and was a precautionary approach to providing increased flexibility.

Fixed Gear Sablefish

At the March, 2011 meeting, the Council recommended precautionary adjustments to sablefish trip limits in response to discovery of a long-standing error (since 2004) in the algorithm that estimates the daily trip limit fishery (DTL) sablefish landings in the PacFIN database. Since March, the PacFIN algorithm has been corrected and thoroughly reviewed by the NMFS Northwest Region, PacFIN and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff and as such, the new algorithm represents the best available data for use in estimating catch in the fishery.

The projected sablefish catches using the new algorithm for 2011 under the current trip limits in the limited entry fixed gear DTL fisheries north of 36° N. latitude are 160 percent (439 mt) of the harvest guideline (HG). As such the Council recommended reducing the bi-monthly trip limits from 2,000 lb per week, not to exceed 6,500 lb per 2 months to 2,000 lb. per week, not to exceed 3,500 lb per 2 months, beginning on July 1 through the end of the year.

The current model-projected catches for the open access daily trip limit fishery for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude are 101 percent (436 mt) of the harvest guideline. Corrected landings data mentioned above had no effect on these projections. The Council recommended that NMFS reduce the trip limits from 300 lb per day, or one landing per week up to 1,200 lb, not to exceed 2,250 lb/2 months to 300 lb per day, or one landing per week of up to 1,050 lb, not to exceed 2,100 lb/2 months, beginning on July 1 through the end of the year.

California Fixed Gear Fisheries

The following trip limit adjustments were recommended by the Council to allow greater access to target species, while minimizing discard.

- Increase black rockfish trip limits in the limited entry and open access fixed gear fishery between 42° and 40°10' N. lat. from 7,000 lb/2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish to 8,500 lb/2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish on July 1, or as soon as possible thereafter, through the end of the year.
- Increase deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits in the limited entry and open access fixed gear fishery south of 40°10' N. lat. from 700 lb/2 months between 40°10' N. lat. and 34°27' N. lat. and 600 lb/2 months south of 34°27' N. lat. to 900 lb/2 months for the entire area south of 40°10' N. lat. starting July 1, or as soon as possible thereafter, through the end of the year. This action was recommended by the Council to increase harvest of deeper nearshore rockfish.
- Increase shelf rockfish trip limits in the open access fixed gear fishery south of 34°27' N. lat. from 750 lb/2 months to 1,000 lb/2 months on July 1, or as soon as possible thereafter, through the end of the year. 

Highly Migratory Species News

Economic Analysis of Albacore Tuna Fisheries Outlines Challenges, Changes

In June, the Council heard a report on an economic analysis of the West Coast commercial albacore fishery. The study was conducted by Lisa Wise Consulting Inc. under contract to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center. The report describes five key findings on

the current state of and future prospects for the fishery:

Fleet size declining. The number of vessels operating in the U.S. commercial albacore industry has fluctuated over time and trended downward since 1977. While the size of the U.S. fleet has declined recently, overall

U.S. commercial albacore fishing activity has not.

Markets, regulations changing. Market and regulatory conditions faced by the U.S. commercial albacore industry have changed fundamentally over the last 30 years. Today's commercial albacore fleet

faces rising operating costs and declines in real prices. This may lead to declining profitability in the industry, unless fishermen compensate by increasing the volume of their catch or by differentiating their product.

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Highly Migratory Species News

Council Makes Recommendations to Regional Fishery Management Organizations

In June, the Council discussed its recommendations to the international fishery management organizations that coordinate management for highly migratory species in the Pacific – the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) for the eastern Pacific, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and their subsidiary bodies.



Atlantic bluefin tuna (NOAA)

Bluefin tuna

In April 2011, National Marine Fisheries Service declared that Pacific bluefin tuna is subject to overfishing. In the Western Pacific, the bulk of the bluefin tuna catch is made by Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei; in the Eastern Pacific, Mexico accounts for most of the catch. Since Pacific bluefin is considered a single stock across the North Pacific, coordination between these nations (particularly Japan and Mexico) is important.

The Council made the

following recommendations on bluefin tuna to the U.S. delegation to the 82nd IATTC meeting:

- Support the adoption of biological reference points and effective conservation measures for Pacific bluefin tuna.
- Support the adoption of management measures in the commercial fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna.
- Do not support the

adoption of management measures in the recreational fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna; if an exemption cannot be agreed to, any measure should use the same base period as proposed for commercial vessels (1994-2007 was recommended by the Secretariat) for the application of catch or effort controls.

Albacore tuna

Although currently not considered subject to overfishing, the last stock assessment for North Pacific albacore tuna, completed in 2005, raised concerns that current levels of

fishing mortality could lead to a decline in stock biomass over the long term. The International

Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean North Pacific Albacore Working Group met June 4-11, 2011 to complete a stock assessment, but results were not available at the time the Council made its recommendations.

For the 7th WCPFC Northern Committee (NC7) meeting, the Council made the following recommendations regarding albacore tuna:

- Support management measures that address the relative impacts of all international fisheries participants without disadvantaging the U.S. fleet.
- Support the Northern Committee's proposed three-year stock assessment cycle.
- Promote research to update albacore life history parameters such as maturity, age, and growth in the stock assessment, efforts which will require additional sampling and data collection.
- Define reference points for international management, and use simulation analyses of potential biological reference points as appropriate.
- Give weight to management measures for which monitoring, compliance, and enforcement are effective.
- If the stock assessment results are similar to the 2006 stock assessment results, the

For more, see the June HMS briefing book materials: <http://tinyurl.com/3vx898m>

current management measures should be maintained and clarified, and compliance with data reporting requirements should be promoted.

In addition, the Council made a recommendation to the NC7 delegation not specific to albacore tuna: Encourage members of the Northern Committee, particularly Japan, to define artisanal fisheries and propose a method to quantify their harvest capacity. (A conservation measure for Pacific bluefin tuna exempts artisanal fisheries in Japan; if the artisanal fishery concept is applied more broadly in the future, it needs to be better defined.)

Council representatives on the U.S. delegation will monitor and provide input on any proposals to reduce fishing effort on North Pacific albacore if the pending stock assessment indicates such a need and if the International Scientific Committee of the IATTC makes such a conservation recommendation.

Other recommendations

The Council made additional recommendations for the U.S. delegation to the IATTC meeting:

- Support reopening the non-binding recommendations agreed to at last year's IATTC meeting for adoption as bind-

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Coastal Pelagic Species News

Workshop Aims at Improving Stock Assessments for Pacific Sardine

In May, the Council co-sponsored a workshop designed to improve stock assessments for Pacific sardine.

The objectives of the 2011 workshop, held in La Jolla, California, were to develop a plan for a coordinated sardine survey designed to compare abundance estimates from different survey methods, enhance collaborative research opportunities and coordination between the sardine industry and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and develop a detailed plan for a coordinated survey.

In recent years, sardine stock assessments have been based on the daily egg production method and industry-



Sardines (NOAA)

sponsored aerial surveys. The acoustic-trawl survey method was recently approved for use as well. Three other survey methods were also considered at the workshop: Canada's swept area trawl survey, Mexico's IMECOCAL* survey (which can incorporate several different

methods), and the incorporation of LIDAR* into aerial imaging efforts.

NMFS, the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and the California Wetfish Producers Association co-sponsored the workshop, and a final report

was published in the June 2011 Briefing Book (<http://tinyurl.com/3pn6uqx>).

The final research plan aims to obtain meaningful stock abundance information while comparing several survey methods. The report offers two versions: the "level fund-

ing" scenario of approximately \$1 million, which assumes no significant increase in available dollars to conduct the research; and a "fully funded" version, which identifies an additional \$1.1 million to conduct the full suite of surveys and comparative research.

The Council has expressed support for international research, and the workshop successfully brought together a diverse array of participants, including Canadian and Mexican scientists and fishermen. The December 2011 Trilateral Sardine Forum will provide further opportunity to enhance international collaboration in stock assessment science. 

Council Approves Mackerel Management Measures

In June, the Council approved the current Pacific mackerel stock assessment and adopted a harvest guideline for the upcoming Pacific mackerel fishing season, which runs from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (see table at right).

Mackerel management will work slightly differently than in the past, to comply with National Standard 1 Guidelines. Upon attainment of the annual catch target of 30,386 metric tons, the directed fishery will

close. For the remainder of the fishing year, incidental harvest measures will kick in (i.e., other coastal pelagic species fisheries harvest may include up to 45 percent Pacific mackerel by weight, and directed harvest of Pacific mackerel up to one metric ton (mt) will be allowed), up to 40,514 mt. After 40,514 mt has been landed, no landings of Pacific mackerel will be allowed, incidental or otherwise.

The Council also approved an opportunity for inseason review in April 2012 of mackerel harvest

Biomass Estimate	211,126 mt
Overfishing Limit (OFL)	44,336 mt
P* (risk of overfishing)	0.45
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	42,375 mt
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	40,514 mt
Harvest Guideline (HG)	40,514 mt
Annual Catch Target (ACT)	30,386 mt

levels to consider allocating any remaining incidental set-aside to the directed fishery.

The National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center led the development of a new full assessment this year, the first since 2009. This estimate showed a moderately lower biomass than in 2009. Despite a lower biomass estimate, the harvest guideline is higher

this year, because the Council is more comfortable with the estimate, and more confident of avoiding an overfishing scenario. The stock has faced very low fishing pressure in recent years and the harvest guideline has not been attained recently. However, mackerel harvest can jump significantly when the fish are in sufficient proximity and densities to be worth targeting. 

For more, see the June CPS briefing book materials: <http://tinyurl.com/6a7mojh>

A Look at Current Congressional Legislation Related to Fishery Management

In June, the Council and its Legislative Committee reviewed current fisheries legislation in Congress. They focused their review on H.R. 946, the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, and prepared comments on the bill as requested by Congressman Doc Hastings (WA).

H.R. 946, the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) to authorize the Secretary of the department in which NOAA is operating to issue one-year permits for the lethal taking of California sea lions on the waters of the Columbia River or its tributaries if the Secretary determines that alternative measures to reduce sea lion predation on salmonid stocks listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act do not adequately protect such stocks. H.R. 946 was introduced on March 8th, 2011 by Congressman Hastings and was referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs which held a hearing on the bill on June 14th, 2011.

The Council is encouraged by the success of the MMPA in restoring healthy marine mammal populations, but is concerned about marine mammal predation on salmon and other stocks at critical migration areas of the Columbia River basin. The Council was generally in favor of H.R. 946's measured and cooperative approach to salmon predation issues on the Columbia River and its tributaries. The Legislative Committee drafted, and the Council

approved, comments focused on creating a more rapid response to time-sensitive salmon conservation situations by continuing existing state, tribal, and Federal coordination, streamlining the permit process for lethal removal, and maintaining Federal oversight while allowing the states and tribes greater flexibility on predation control decisions. The Council Executive Director, Dr. Don McIsaac, conveyed these recommendations to Congressman Hastings and the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources in late June.

The following two Congressional bills may warrant additional review at the September Council meeting. However, no formal requests for Council comments on these bills have been received to date, and the Council must receive a formal Congressional request in order to comment.

The International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act (S. 52) would establish uniform administrative and enforcement procedures and penalties for the enforcement of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and similar statutes, and includes the Antigua Convention Implementing Act of 2011 that amends the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to revise provisions regarding: (1) the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission; (2) the General Advisory Committee; (3) the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee; (4) prohibited acts; and (5) enforcement. In April 2010, the Committee and the Council reviewed similar legislation that

was introduced in the previous Congress.

The San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act (H.R. 1837) amends the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and includes provisions that would alter water use policy in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins. The legislation has raised concerns among California's salmon fishing industry as expressed in a draft letter to Congressman Tom McClintock, the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Water and Power.

Other legislation

The following is a summary of legislation being tracked by the Legislative Committee and Council staff:

California Assembly Bill: Forage Species Conservation and Management Act (AB 1299). California State Assembly Member Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) introduced AB 1299 which, in summary, intends to implement a precautionary management policy that accounts for the ecological role of forage species and puts an emphasis on human consumption as a primary utilization of forage species landings.

California AB1299 has been amended twice since its introduction in the California Assembly. The bill was favorably reviewed by the California Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife and has been referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

S.46 Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2011 – A bill to increase protective measures for the

Nation's coral reefs through amendment of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and the development of a national coral reef ecosystem action strategy. The bill was introduced January 25, 2011 by Senator Inouye, Hawaii, and referred to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. On May 5, 2011, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation ordered the bill be reported to the full Senate without amendment favorably.

S.50 Commercial Seafood Consumer Protection Act. A bill to strengthen Federal consumer product safety programs and activities with respect to commercially marketed seafood by directing the Secretary of Commerce to coordinate with the Federal Trade Commission and other appropriate Federal agencies to strengthen and coordinate those programs and activities. Introduced January 25, 2011 by Senator Inouye, Hawaii and referred to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S.171 West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2011. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. Introduced January 25, 2011 by Senator Boxer, California and cosponsored by the other five U.S. Senators from the West Coast States. The bill has been referred to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Continued on page 9

Recipe: Halibut or Cod with Zucchini Salsa Verde

Ingredients

- 10 ounces zucchini (about 2 medium), trimmed, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro plus leaves for garnish
- 1/3 cup chopped white onion
- 5 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 2 1/2 tablespoons chopped seeded jalapeño chiles
- 1 1/4 teaspoons finely grated lime peel
- 2 1/4 teaspoons coarse kosher salt, divided
- Nonstick vegetable oil spray
- 1 1/4 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
- 1 1/4 teaspoons ground coriander
- 6 6-ounce skinless halibut fillets or cod fillets

Combine zucchini, chopped cilantro, and next four ingredients in blender. Add 1 1/4 teaspoons coarse salt. Puree until salsa is smooth. Can be made two hours ahead. Transfer to small bowl. Cover; chill.

Preheat broiler. Line broiler pan with foil; coat foil with nonstick spray. Combine 1 1/4 teaspoons pepper, coriander, and remaining one teaspoon coarse salt in small bowl; stir to blend. Pat fish dry. Sprinkle fish on all sides with seasoning mixture.

Arrange fish on prepared pan. Broil until just opaque in center, three to four minutes per side, depending on thickness.

Transfer fish to plates. Spoon some salsa over. Garnish with cilantro leaves. Serve with remaining salsa.

Serves six. From *Epicurious.com* (<http://www.epicurious.com>)

Legislation, continued from page 8

S.229 and S.230 Pertaining to genetically-engineered fish. Bills to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling (S.229) or prevent the approval of (S.230) genetically-engineered fish. Similar legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House. Introduced January 25, 2011 by Senator Begich, Alaska and referred to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. 238 FISH Act of 2011. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) to require that Fishery Impact Statements (1) be prepared by an objective person (prohibits U.S. government officers, employees, or entities) selected by the Comptroller General; and (2) determine if the fishery management plan or amendment is consistent with specified national standards for fishery conservation and management, including whether the relevant measures provide for the sustained participation of

fishing communities and minimize adverse economic impacts. Introduced January 31, 2011 by Senator Brown, Massachusetts and referred to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 632 Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2011. Amends the MSA to require fishery management plans, amendments, or regulations for overfished fisheries to specify a time period for ending overfishing and rebuilding the fishery that is as short as practicable (under current law, as short as possible). Modifies the exceptions to the requirement that such period not exceed ten years. Introduced March 17, 2011, by Senator Schumer, New York and referred to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. A similar bill was introduced in the U.S. House. Similar bills have been introduced in previous Congresses and reviewed by the

Committee.

H.R. 574 Pertaining to Finfish Aquaculture. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone except in accordance with a law authorizing such action. Introduced February 9, 2011 by Congressman Young, Alaska and referred to the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.1251 More Water for Our Valley Act, 2011. Provides congressional direction for implementation of the Endangered Species Act as it relates to operation of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project and for water relief in the State of California.

Introduced March 30, 2011 by Congressman Costa, California and referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs on March 10th.

H.R. 1646 - American Angler Preservation Act. Amends the MSA to require each Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) of the eight Regional Councils to provide ongoing risk neutral scientific advice. Prohibits SSCs from recommending to increase or decrease an annual catch limit by 20 percent or greater unless the recommendation has been approved in a nongovernmental peer review process. Requires fishery management plans, amendments, or regulations for overfished fisheries to specify a time period for ending overfishing and rebuilding the fishery as short as practicable (under current law, as short as possible). Modifies the exceptions to the requirement that such period not exceed ten years.

Introduced April 15, 2011 by Congressman Runyan, New Jersey and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. 

Habitat and Ecosystem News

Council Approves Purpose and Needs Statement for Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan

The Council is considering ecosystem-based approaches to fishery management and is in the process of developing an ecosystem fishery management plan (EFMP) as a way to bring ecosystem-based principles into the Council decision-making process. In June, the Council approved the draft purpose and need statement as proposed by the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) and moved to develop an ecosystem plan that is primarily advisory in nature but that could expand to include regulatory authority in the future.

The Council has also been exploring ways to broaden the Council's authority to species not currently in existing fishery management plans. In June, the Council recommended continued management of stocks and fisheries through existing fishery management plans, including potential new management measures for forage fish species as the Council deems appropriate. As a first step, the Council asked

the EPDT to develop a list of West Coast species that are currently not included in any fishery management plan, not managed under state authority, and not listed under the Endangered Species Act, with an emphasis on species that could be subject to future target fishing.

In April, members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, and the EPDT met with members of NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Team to discuss ways to conduct peer reviews of ecosystem modeling efforts and how to best tailor IEA results for Council use. The Council postponed a presentation on a pilot IEA effort for the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem and is tentatively planning to reschedule this presentation and discuss the process and schedule for the new plan at its November 2011 meeting in Costa Mesa, California. 

Habitat Committee, Council Discuss Levee Vegetation, Klamath Issues, Aquaculture Policies

At its June meeting, the Council finalized a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers on its policy of removing vegetation from levees, as discussed in the Spring issue of this newsletter. The letter is online at <http://tinyurl.com/6j6fatk>. The Habitat Committee also discussed the following issues:

Klamath/Trinity Chinook Listing Decision Update

In January 2011, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received a petition from several environmental groups to list Chinook salmon in the Upper Klamath and Trinity river basins as threatened or endangered under the Endangered

Species Act. In April, NMFS determined that the petition warranted a status review of the species by a biological review team of Federal, state and academic experts. The decision on whether or not to list this species will be made by January 28, 2012. If the fish are listed, a proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* requesting public comment.

Klamath Dam Removal

A draft environmental impact statement regarding the removal of four dams from the Klamath River and the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement is expected to be released within the next few months; a draft

is currently being reviewed by the co-managers. The California Public Utilities

Commission recently approved PacifiCorp's request for a surcharge to California customer rates to assist with dam removal costs, in accordance with the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. This follows the Oregon Public Utility Commission's agreement to do the same.

National Aquaculture Policy

For more, see the June habitat & ecosystem briefing book materials:
<http://tinyurl.com/3q7b7vs>
<http://tinyurl.com/42zn48m>

On June 9, 2011, NOAA released its final national aquaculture policies. These policies establish a framework to guide Commerce and NOAA's actions and decisions on aquaculture. More information is available at http://aquaculture.noaa.gov/us/aq_policies.html.

NOAA also announced the development of a National Shellfish Initiative in partnership with the shellfish industry. 

September Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held September 14-19, 2011, at the San Mateo Marriott in San Mateo, California. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on August 25, 2011** will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the September meeting. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on September 5** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the September meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

Enforcement Corner

A Roundup of Enforcement Stories from Around the West Coast

In Washington: *Multiple violations:* During the latter part of June, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officer Jeff Wickersham and new Officer Loc Do conducted an at-sea patrol to check commercial salmon trollers in Marine Area 2 (Westport). Officer Do boarded a vessel that had been fishing at sea for two days and had caught 13 Chinook salmon. He inspected the troll gear and noticed they were using barbed hooks. When asked for a commercial license, the boat operator showed him one that belonged to someone else. The vessel was directed back to port. Once back at Westport, the fisherman was cited for the violation and released, and the salmon were seized. In the past, the operator had been caught fishing crab commercially in a closed area, and his recreational

fishing privileges have also been suspended.

False labeling: WDFW officers regularly inspect retail market products and records, tracking seafood products back to their origins to ensure catch accounting and compliance with regulations. Labeling violations are often discovered during these efforts, both at retail establishments and while inspecting shipments at borders, airports, and cold storage facilities. Throughout the winter of 2010, a subject was offering home delivery of self-caught commercial fish. Some of the product was marketed as high value smoked sockeye salmon, when the fish was actually low grade Chum or Keta salmon. In addition to the false labeling, he failed to deliver much of the product after payment by customers. A WDFW Officer investigated and

filed 13 counts of theft with the King County Prosecutors Office in June after completing her investigation.

In Oregon: *Undersized lingcod:* On May 3, 2011, Trooper James O'Connor (Astoria) monitored a groundfish offload at a Warrenton-area fish processor. During the offload, O'Connor noticed a tote of lingcod that appeared to be undersized. Upon measuring, 42 percent of the total 348 pounds of lingcod were undersized. O'Connor contacted the captain of the vessel and determined he had misunderstood regulations. Consequently, he cited the captain for Unlawful Possession of Commercially Taken Undersized Lingcod and seized 145 pounds of lingcod.

In California: California

game wardens can stop and question motorists leaving hunting or fishing grounds even if they have no reason to believe the person has done anything illegal, the California State Supreme Court ruled in June.

The need to protect wildlife for future generations outweighs the minor intrusion of a vehicle stop on a participant in a regulated activity like hunting or fishing, the court said in a unanimous ruling.

State law also allows wardens to see motorists' hunting or fishing licenses and any game they have caught, and to search any receptacles that might hold fish or game. The wardens' actions would be for the purpose of conservation and not criminal law enforcement, which would require a search warrant or probable cause of wrongdoing. 

Regional Fishery Management Organizations, continued from page 6

ing resolutions at this year's meeting. (These recommendations relate to tuna conservation, seabirds, and prohibiting fishing around data buoys.)

- Support proposals that would increase compliance with IATTC management measures.
- Advocate for more comprehensive data reporting and collection by members of the IATTC.
- Encourage the establishment of national observer programs to put observers on longline vessels.

The Council also identified the following actions, not directed specifically to U.S. delegations:

- Encourage discussions between the U.S. and Mexico through the MEXUS-Pacifico research program (part of an informal agreement between the U.S. and Mexico to consult on the broad range of issues involved in the bilateral fisheries relationship) concerning albacore fishing opportunities;
- Remind NMFS of the Council's request to secure data

from the Canadian government on landings by Canadian vessels in Canadian ports of albacore caught in the U.S. West Coast exclusive economic zone;

- Ask the NMFS Southwest Regional Administrator that the Southwest Region take a lead role in the U.S. delegation to the WCPFC concerning northern stocks of highly migratory species, including North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna.

Finally, the Council tasked

the Highly Migratory Species Management Team and Advisory Subpanel to develop a proactive management framework for North Pacific albacore that could be proposed at the international level through U.S. delegations. This would include identifying precautionary biological reference points and associated management responses in the form of measures that do not disadvantage the West Coast albacore fishery. Such a framework will put the Council in a better position

Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions, continued from page 2

mit, and could not be transferred to a different vessel. If National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approves the recommendation, full implementation is not expected until mid-2012.

- The Council supported most of the NMFS-recommended regulation language for the program improvements and enhancement rule to be put in place in 2012. There were a total of 31 changes, mostly minor (Items 1–27 and 33–36 in the NMFS reports at <http://tinyurl.com/63fjqt7> and <http://tinyurl.com/6ark8bn>). In general, the Council endorsed the NMFS recommendations contained in these reports, with some adjustments. For Item #1 “Revision to requirement for observer coverage until offload complete,” the Council agreed with the process which would allow the observer to leave a vessel prior to the offloading, with the exceptions of the provisions pertaining to the posting of a placard (paragraphs 3, 4 and part of 5). For Item #2 on “moving between the limited entry and open access fisheries,” the Council agreed with the regulatory adjustments to allow trawl permitted vessels to use non-groundfish trawl gear without having to cover their landing with quota pounds and without removing their trawl permits, but left for later consideration other issues pertaining to the movement of vessels between the limited entry and open access fisheries. The Council also left Item #4, “review, and as necessary, revise catch accounting regulations” to be addressed at a later time. The Council modified Item #36, specifying that the value of the factor used to expand the trawl allocation from legal-sized fish to legal and sublegal-sized fish

would be adjusted based on the most recent information available, and that some of the trawl halibut allocation might be held back at the start of the year, until the International Pacific Halibut Commission adopts its final total constant exploitable yield.

Other Trailing Actions

The Council provided preliminary guidance on Community Fishing Associations, Risk Pools and Cost Recovery and will address these issues again at its September 2011 meeting, potentially taking final action at that time.

Community Fishing Associations

In September, the Council will consider all alternatives regarding safe harbors from QS control limits for designated community fishing associations (CFAs). The level of the control limit exception provided for designated CFAs could vary widely by species and area, and could run from no exception to the maximum exceptions provided in Options 1b and 1c of Alternative 1. In order to finalize the alternative to status quo, the Council will need to establish the criteria for determining what organizations might qualify as a designated CFA.

Risk Pools

With respect to safe harbors from control limits for risk pools, the Council narrowed options and focused in on an alternative that would allow qualified risk pools to have multiyear contracts without necessarily triggering QS control limits, so long as all signatories to the contract have the opportunity to opt out each year, subject only to satisfying their obligations. Another op-

tion still under consideration would provide qualified risk pools the opportunity to enter into 12 month agreements that cover catch in one year with quota pounds/QS from the next year without necessarily triggering QS control limits, provided that the obligation for the next year is solely to cover overages that could not be covered by the risk pool in the year in which they were incurred. In addition to making a final choice between these two options, the Council will need to make a number of choices regarding the organizational and operation criteria that a risk pool must meet in order to qualify for the safe harbor. The process for identifying qualified risk pools might involve only a notification to NMFS that the risk pool exists. Contracts and other information would be made available to NMFS on request, if NMFS decided to verify whether a particular risk pool is operating in conformance with the risk pool provisions.

Cost recovery

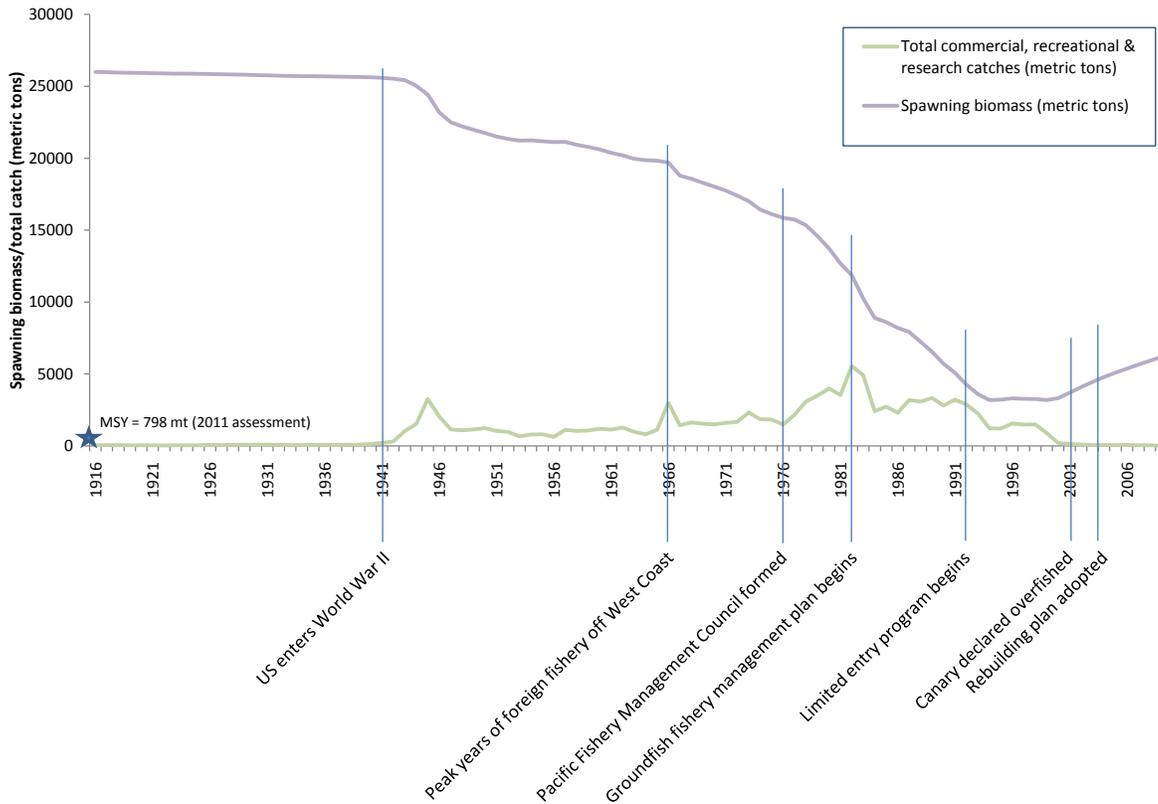
In June, the Council narrowed the options for the structure of various cost recovery provisions and created a Cost Recovery Committee (CRC) to identify costs associated with the trawl rationalization program and to discuss long-term efficiencies. The CRC will hold its first meeting on July 29 (see committee composition on page 15). With respect to the structure of the cost recovery program, the Council indicated costs and fees should be assessed by sector. For catcher vessels, the fees would be assessed to the vessels catching the fish, but would be collected and remitted to NMFS by the entity receiving the fish (the shoreside first receivers or moth-

ership) in coordination with the buyback fee. Catcher-processors would be directly responsible for paying fees they owed for fish caught to NMFS. With respect to the question of whether paying the fees would be linked to subsequent year permit issuance, the Council left all options open but indicated that any linkage would be to the entity responsible for remitting payment to NMFS. On this issue, NMFS was asked to provide a preferred alternative and rationale at the next meeting. Costs would be determined based on an annual preseason projection of expected agency costs. Fees would be assessed based on exvessel value, and would be in line with costs but limited to a maximum of 3% of exvessel value. Exvessel value of harvest would be calculated for each sector as follows: For the catcher-processor sector, tonnage caught would be multiplied by the exvessel whiting price from the mothership sector. For the mothership sector, tonnage delivered would be multiplied by the mothership sector exvessel whiting price. For shoreside deliveries, fees would be assessed based on information provided on the exvessel value buyback fee collection forms.

Next Steps

In addition to the above, in September, the Council will address QS control rule safe harbors for lenders and other lender related concerns: third party verification of quota share ownership (in other words, NMFS would tell people who owned particular quota shares); a lien registry, and unique identifiers for quota shares. In September, the Council is also scheduled to scope for the next round of trailing actions. 

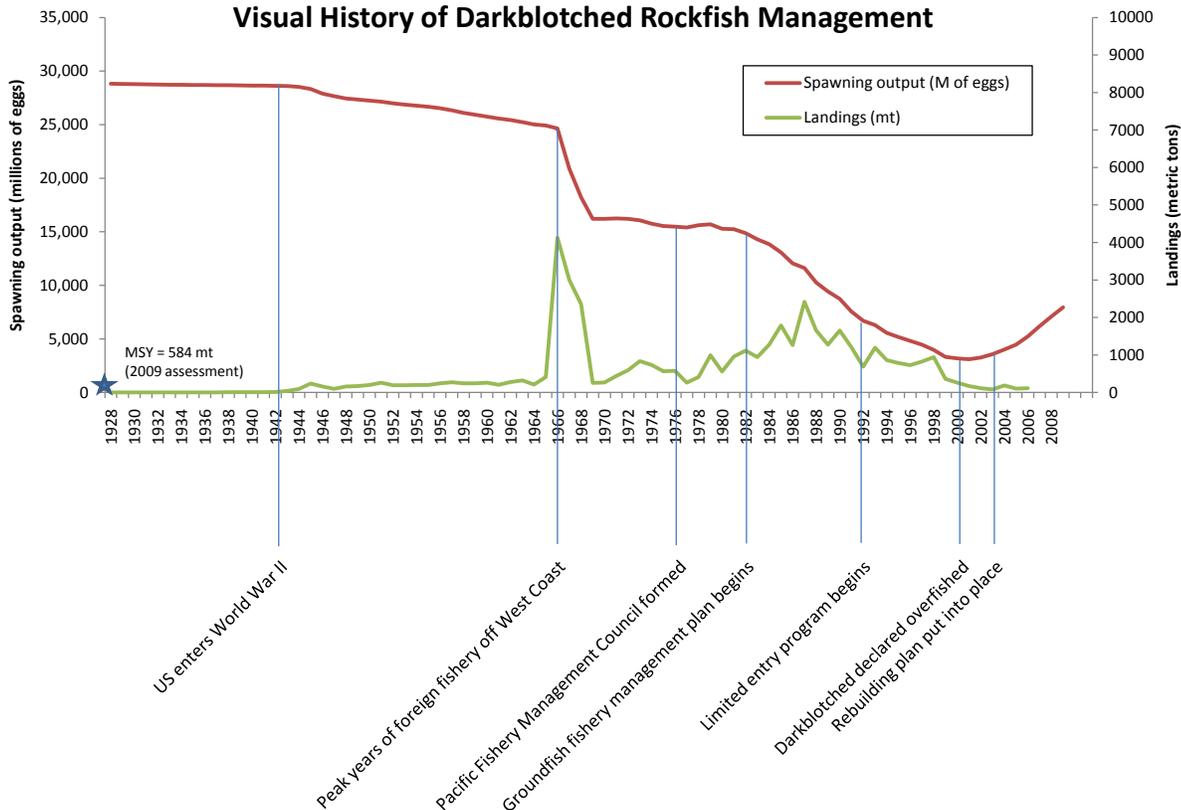
Visual History of Canary Rockfish Management



Visual histories of canary and dark-blotched rockfish management, from a series of slides prepared by Council staff.

The levels of spawning output and maximum sustainable yield (MSY) are as we understand them today - they were understood much differently at other points in history. For example, in the mid-1980s, MSY was calculated to be about twice that estimated today.

Visual History of Darkblotched Rockfish Management



Salmon Amendment 16, continued from page 1

fall Chinook. Existing *de minimis* fishing provisions for other stocks would not be changed.

Status Determination Criteria

The Council's final preferred alternative for status determination criteria includes a single year exploitation rate-based criteria for determining if overfishing has occurred, and three-year geometric mean criteria for assessing whether a stock is overfished or approaching overfished condition. The MSST is half of MSY spawning escapement for most stocks. However, an MSST of three-quarters of MSY spawners was adopted for Sacramento and Klamath River fall Chinook and Washington Coast coho. For Puget Sound coho, other percentages of MSY were used based on existing stock status break points. The Council adopted a default rebuilt status criterion based on achieving a three-year geometric mean of MSY spawning escapement.

OFL/ABC/ACL framework

The Council's final preferred alternative for an Overfishing Limit/Acceptable Biological Catch/Annual Catch Limit (OFL/ABC/ACL) framework specifies these reference points in terms of spawning escapement rather than catch. Scientific uncertainty is accounted for in the specification of ABC using a tiered approach based on data richness. For stocks where the MSY exploitation rate has been directly estimated (Tier 1), the MSY exploitation rate is buffered by five percent when specifying the ABC. For stocks that do not have a direct estimate of their MSY exploitation rate, and a proxy is used (Tier 2), the ABC control rule specifies a 10 percent buffer. The ACL would be equal to the ABC, and be defined annually as preseason abundance multiplied by the complement of the ABC exploitation rate (i.e., the ABC survival rate). Only two stocks, Sacramento and Klamath fall Chinook, would require an ACL. There would be little change in the way the Council manages fisheries as a result of adopting these ACL control rules in terms of the preseason process to establish seasons. The Council would continue to manage these stocks with the harvest control rule based on MSY spawning escapement conservation objectives. The primary differences would be in establishing an exploitation rate cap of 70 percent on Sacramento fall

Albacore tuna analysis, continued from page 5

Increased globalization. Globalization has increased the complexity and challenges faced by commercial albacore fishermen. Global and domestic market forces beginning in the 1980s have required that the commercial albacore industry evolve in order to survive.

Biological conditions important. While biological factors

are a significant determinant of U.S. commercial albacore fishing activity, market conditions (as measured by employment and fuel costs) are also significant. However, the study suggests that economic factors are less significant indicators of fishing activity than biological factors.

Northward shift. The shift

in concentration of commercial fishing activity towards northern ports are primarily due to shifts in albacore migratory patterns toward nearshore waters north of Eureka, California and south of Canada.

Stock Classification

The Council's final preferred stock classification alternative retains all stocks currently identified in the fishery management plan as in the fishery, except for mid-Columbia River spring Chinook and Canadian stocks of Chinook, coho, and pink salmon. Two stocks were added – Willapa Bay natural coho and Oregon Coastal hatchery coho. There would be some minor reorganization and formation of three stock complexes (Central Valley fall Chinook, southern Oregon/northern California Chinook, and Far-North Migrating Coastal Chinook) to facilitate specification of ACLs.

The exception to the ACL requirements for stocks managed under an international agreement would apply to Puget Sound and Washington Coastal coho; Columbia River summer and upriver bright fall Chinook, the Far-North Migrating Coastal Chinook Complex, and Puget Sound pink salmon. These stocks are managed under the Pacific Salmon treaty, and therefore would not require OFLs, ABCs, ACL frameworks or accountability measures, but would require status determination criteria.

Accountability Measures

The Council's final preferred alternative for accountability measures would identify a number of features currently included in the fishery management plan as accountability measures, provide flexibility to institute annual catch targets, and identify potential components for a reevaluation of the ACL framework if compliance was not achieved in more than one in four years. The conservation alert and overfishing concern features of the fishery management plan, including development of rebuilding plans, were replaced with similar actions associated with the status determination criteria thresholds.

A summary of the adopted alternatives will be available on the Council web site (www.pcouncil.org). A final rule implementing Amendment 16 will be published by December 31, 2011. Regulations will be in place for the 2012 preseason management process. 

Participant concerns. Interviews with fishery participants revealed their concern about rising operating costs, uncer-

tainty about future regulations, and the risks involved in a seasonal fishery. At the same time, their outlook is optimistic given increased worldwide and, particularly, domestic demand for albacore.

A copy of the full report may be downloaded from the Council's website at <http://tinyurl.com/3vx5eyb>. 

Appointments, continued from page 1

Wildlife (WDFW), starting as a field biologist working on salmon fishery and freshwater production evaluation studies, and then moving onto various research, management and policy leadership roles in the department. Prior to joining the Wild Salmon Center, Lincoln was International Policy Director with the Marine Stewardship Council in London, UK. He worked with the Salmon Technical Team from 1981-1984 and served as WDFW's designee to the Council from 1999-2005.

Chair and Vice-Chair

For the August 11, 2011 through August 10, 2012 term, the Council elected Dan Wolford (California) as Council Chair and Dorothy Lowman (Oregon) as the Vice Chair. The Council chose to forego election of a second vice chair for the coming term, and modified its procedures to make election of a second vice chair optional.

Advisory Body Changes

The Council made the following appointments to fill advisory body vacancies:

- David Sampson to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) position on the Scientific and Statistical Committee.
- Kirt Hughes to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife position on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT).
- Ricardo Belmontes to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission position on the HMSMT.
- Jennifer Simon to the California Department of Fish and Game positions on the Salmon Technical Team and Model Evaluation Workgroup.
- Susan Chambers to the processor at-large position on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP).
- Jeff Miles to the north of

Cape Mendocino open access position on the GAP.

- Mark Cedergreen to the Washington charter boat operator position on the GAP.

To fill a recent vacancy due to the resignation of Merrick Burden, Council staff will solicit nominations to be considered for a Washington position on the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel and the conservation position on the Groundfish Allocation Committee.

To fill vacancies created by the departures of Council members Mark Cedergreen, Jerry Mallet, and Rod Moore, the Council Chair appointed Dale Myer, Dorothy Lowman, and Dave Ortmann to the Budget Committee. The Council Chair named Ortmann as the Budget Committee Chairman. The Council Chair will appoint a member to fill a remaining vacancy on the Legislative Committee in the near future.

The Council Chair appointed Moore as a processor at-large member of the Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee.

The Council also established a new ad hoc committee, the Cost Recovery Committee, to help guide the cost recovery implementation portion of the trawl rationalization program. The team includes Randy Fisher (Chair), Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; Dan Waldeck, At Sea Catcher Processors; Brent Paine, Mothership Sector; Dave Jincks, Shore-side Whiting; Brad Pettinger, Shoreside Non-Whiting; Rod Moore, Processors; Michele Culver, WDFW; Steve Williams, ODFW; Marija Vojkovich, California Department of Fish and Game; Frank Lockhart, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region; Michell McClure, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center; and Vicki Nomura, NMFS Office of Law Enforcement. 

Coming Up at the September 2011 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in San Mateo, California on September 12-19, 2011. The advance Briefing Book will be posted on the Council website in late August (www.pcouncil.org).

Groundfish

- NMFS report
- Update and hearing on Secretarial Amendment for 16-5
- 2012 specifications & management measures
- Approve stock assessments from July & August STAR panels
- Set scope of biennial management changes; adopt final overfishing levels and preliminary P*s/ABCs for 2013-2014 groundfish specifications

- Adopt 2012 experimental fishing permit recommendations for public review
- Trawl rationalization: lenders, risk pools, community fishing associations, and cost recovery
- Inseason adjustments
- Amendment 20 emerging issues
- Adopt final & preliminary 2013-2014 groundfish spex & range of management measures
- Plan science improvements for next cycle

Salmon

- Progress reports on Columbia River tulle abundance-based methodology & Sacramento winter-run biological opinion revisions
- Adopt priorities for methodology review

Halibut

- Proposed changes to 2012 Regulations
- Review halibut bycatch estimate

Ecosystem-Based Management

- Monterey Bay Ecosystem Management Initiative

Highly Migratory Species

- Swordfish management workshop report
- NMFS report

Other

- Habitat report
- Appointments
- CDFG enforcement report
- Legislative matters

Schedule of Events

For more information on these meetings, please see our website (www.pcouncil.org/events/csevents.html) or call toll-free (866) 806-7204.

Tule Chinook Group Work Session

Purpose: To review work products and develop an abundance-based harvest management approach for Columbia River natural tule Chinook.

Dates: July 14, 2011

Location: Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland

Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: September 14-19, 2011

Location: San Mateo Marriott, San Mateo, CA

Contact: Carolyn Porter (carolyn.porter@noaa.gov)

Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment Review Panel

Dates: October 4-7, 2011

Location: La Jolla, CA

Contact: Kerry Griffin (kerry.griffin@noaa.gov)

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