

Pacific Council News

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Due in part to the work required to carry out the Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 Conference, this issue of the Pacific Council News summarizes Council actions from the March, April, and June Council meetings. In the future, the Pacific Council News will be released after the April, June and November Council meetings, with updates provided after each Council meeting in The Line, the Council's one-page news brief.

In April, after over two years of work, the Council adopted a new fishery ecosystem plan (FEP). "We now enter into a new era of more sophisticated fishery management," said Council Chairman Dan Wolford. "We heard strong public testimony calling for more protection for unmanaged forage fish, and the Council's adoption of this motion today formalizes the Council taking this up this as a fishery management action."

The purpose of the FEP is

to enhance the Council's fishery management with more ecosystem science and to allow broader consideration of ecosystem factors - for example, the food web, climate change, human interactions with fisheries, and habitat. The FEP will not replace the Council's four fishery management plans (for salmon, groundfish, highly migratory species, and coastal pelagic species), but will deliberately insert

Ecosystem-Based Management

additional ecosystem science and factors into the decision-making on fishing seasons that occurs under those plans. The new FEP also mandates an annual "State of the Ecosystem" report to the Council to be made each year.

Eight new ecosystem initiatives are connected to the FEP. The first relates to protecting currently unmanaged forage fish due to their importance in the marine ecosystem. The Council is not pursuing a permanent moratorium on fishing for forage fish; rather it intends to prohibit the development of new, directed fisheries on forage species that are not currently managed by the Council or states, until the impacts of any proposed fishery can be

fully understood.

The seven other initiatives relate to effects of harvest policies on stocks, bycatch, habitat, fisheries safety, fisheries jobs, reacting to climate change, socioeconomics, and other factors. The Council will review ecosystem initiatives in 2015 and during each odd year thereafter. 

The Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 conference was held May 7-9 in Washington, D.C. The Pacific Council was the lead planner for the conference, with assistance from the other seven fishery management councils and National Marine Fisheries Service.

The conference wrapped up on a successful note, with participants developing 128 findings for improving fishery sustainability. The draft findings are online at <http://tinyurl.com/cgugoef> and will be further elaborated in the conference proceedings, which are due out in the fall.

The conference aimed to identify both legislative and non-legislative measures to advance fishery sustainability in light of the upcoming reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (the Act), which governs Federal ocean fishery management in the United States. Most participants seemed to agree that the Act has been successful in managing U.S. fisheries, and that large-scale revisions

would not be needed. For example, under the Act, 32 fish stocks that were previously labeled "overfished" have been rebuilt. However, there was also agreement that some improvements are needed to keep the Act relevant, flexible, and responsive.

"These findings will be considered carefully as we move forward with Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization," said Dave Whaley, Legislative staff for the House Natural Resources Subcommittee. "We do need to act carefully; we do not want to solve problems in one area of the country while creating new problems in other areas."

The conference, held at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C., began with keynotes by Rep. Doc Hastings

(R-WA); NOAA Assistant Administrator Eric Schwaab; chef, author and television host Barton Seaver; and Deadliest Catch skipper Keith Colburn.

Rep. Hastings, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, addressed an

Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3

audience of more than 600 on the need for better science, better technology and better transparency. "Science underpins the entire management process," he said, adding "the problem is that often the 'best' information is not 'available.'" He praised the effective-

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Salmon Season

At its March meeting, the Council reviewed ocean salmon fisheries from 2012 and planned for 2013 fisheries. Three alternatives were adopted for public review, and in April, the Council set salmon seasons for the May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014 season. Abundance forecasts for Chinook were relatively strong, and coho abundance forecasts were moderate, so salmon opportunity in 2013 has been generally good.

Favoring fishing opportunity later in 2013, the Council asked National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to delay the March 15 opening of the Cape Falcon to Oregon/California border commercial fishery until April 1, 2013, and to delay the April 16, 2013 opening of the Fort Bragg, California commercial fishery until May 1, 2013.

Detailed salmon recommendations for 2013 are online at <http://tinyurl.com/2013salmon>.



Chinook salmon (CalFish)

As anticipated, Chinook catch has been strong. Opportunities for coho continued into September with several non-mark-selective fisheries scheduled. The Council will receive preliminary catch and effort estimates at their September meeting in Boise.

Amendment 18: Essential Fish Habitat Updates

In September 2012, the Council adopted alternatives for updating Pacific Coast salmon essential fish habitat (EFH) based on new information developed since salmon EFH was established in 1999. EFH designations are supposed to be revisited and (if necessary) revised at least every five years. At the April meeting, the Council adopted a new alternative to address essential fish habitat in areas where salmon are being, or have been, reintroduced under Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. Final action on this is scheduled for the Council's September meeting in Boise, Idaho.

Klamath Water

In April, the Council wrote to the Department of the Interior, encouraging them to ensure that there is enough water in the Klamath River for salmon this year, given the high number of salmon returning and the expected dry water year. The letter thanked the Department of the Interior for providing additional water under similar circumstances last year, when the highest run of fall Chinook since 1978 (302,100) returned.

Last year, there was excellent cooperation among Federal and state water managers, providing enhanced river flows that allowed the salmon run to successfully return and spawn. In 2013, a similarly large number of salmon are returning, but flows are lower

than in 2012. Therefore, the Council recommended that the Bureau of Reclamation augment flow releases, reserving a block of water for real-time flow management during the fall. The Chinook run size this year is projected to be the second largest on record (271,000) - nearly 1.7 times the 2002 adult run size associated with the fish kill that occurred in 2002, when more than 33,000 adult salmon died in the lower Klamath. The letter stated that "The evidence is compelling that lower-than-average hydrology and greater-than-average fish densities may once again compromise the safe passage of adult fall Chinook in Klamath River in 2013."

Salmon

Southern Oregon and northern California are experiencing drought conditions this year. In spring, the Klamath tribes' water rights were legally recognized as the oldest in the upper Klamath basin, and in June the tribes issued a "call" to the Oregon Water Resources Department giving notice that their water demands were outpacing available flows. Part of the tribes' water uses include maintaining water to provide for fisheries, including salmon and native sucker fish.

On August 6, the Bureau of Reclamation released plans to begin releasing additional flows from California's Lewiston Dam the morning of August 13, 2013. Westlands Water District and the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority immediately filed a request for an injunction, and on August 13 the Court issued a temporary restraining order preventing the water releases. Releases were reduced to the summer minimum later that day, and the restraining order was extended through August 23. Augmentation flows were resumed on August 25, coupled with a flow increase to support the Hoopa Valley Tribe Boat Dance Ceremony, and are expected to continue through September 21, 2013. The case will be taken up again in the near future. At this point it appears that an additional 20,000 acre-feet of water will need to be released from storage to protect the fish, according to the Hoopa Tribe. 

Sacramento River Fall Chinook Rebuilt

In March, NMFS determined that the Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon stock was rebuilt, according to the requirements of the fishery management plan (FMP). Before Amendment 16 to the FMP, an overfished status determination was made when the conservation objective for a stock was not met for three consecutive years. Sacramento River fall Chinook were declared overfished in March 2010, based on annual escapement from 2007 to 2009 that fell below the 122,000-180,000 conservation objective. In April 2012, the Council adopted a control rule in Amendment 16 of the FMP as the rebuilding plan for this stock, with a one-year rebuilding period. The stock would be considered rebuilt when the three-year average escapement exceeded 122,000 spawners. This average from 2010-2012 is 161,471,

which is more than 122,000, meeting the rebuilt criterion.

Salmon

Methodology Review

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) completes a methodology review to help assure that new or modified modeling methods used in the Council's salmon management use the best available science. This usually involves developing a list of potential topics for review at the April Council meeting, developing analytical materials to be reviewed between April and September Council meetings, selecting review topics at the September meeting, having the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and Salmon Technical Team review the topics

in October, and having the full SSC review the topics in November. In November, the Council adopts proposed changes for the coming season or provides direction for making additional adjustments, if time allows.

The SSC salmon subcommittee and the Salmon Technical Team will meet in Portland on October 1-3 to discuss and review proposed changes to analytical methods used in salmon management. A list of topics for the work session includes the Oregon coastal natural coho marine survival rate index, the Lower Columbia River natural coho harvest control rules, new forecast methods for the Sacramento fall Chinook index, and improved modeling of sublegal Chinook encounters. The final list of topics to be considered at the work session will be adopted by the Council during their meeting in Boise. 

In April, the Council adopted limits for incidental Pacific halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery of no

Halibut

more than one halibut per three Chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement and no more than 15 halibut may be landed per trip from May 1, 2013 thru April 30, 2014.

The Council also adopted limits for incidental Pacific halibut catch for the primary fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington beginning May 1, 2013 of 75 lb of halibut for every 1,000

lb of sablefish landed. Up to two additional halibut may be possessed or landed in excess of the 75 lb per 1,000 lb ratio per landing. In 2014, if the Pacific halibut total allowable catch is sufficient to provide an allocation,

limits would be established at the March 2014 Council meeting and retention could be allowed starting April 1, 2014.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) also recommended changes to the licensing process and application deadlines to accommodate an April 1 retention date for both fisheries (<http://tinyurl.com/b83z8k3>). For more information on the Pacific halibut licensing requirements, please contact IPHC at (206) 634-1838. 



Two juvenile Pacific halibut

Stock Assessments

Several new groundfish stock assessments were adopted for use in management this year. Results of these new stock assessments will inform management decisions for West Coast groundfish fisheries in 2015 and beyond.

Two groundfish species (darkblotched rockfish and petrale sole) had full assessments. The darkblotched assessment shows that the stock off the continental U.S. Pacific Coast is currently at 36% of its unexploited level. This is above the overfished threshold of SB25% (25% of the unfished spawning biomass level), but below the management target of SB40%. Historically, the spawning output of darkblotched rockfish dropped below the SB40% target for the first time in 1987 as a result of intense fishing by foreign and domestic fleets. It continued to decline and reached the level of 13% of its unfished spawning output in 1999. Since 2000, when the stock was declared overfished, the spawning output has slowly increased, primarily due to management regulations. The stock is projected to be rebuilt by 2015.

Darkblotched rockfish have had species-specific management guidelines since 2001. They were historically managed with bimonthly cumulative landings limit ("trip limits") as most of the catch came from the limited entry bottom trawl fishery. However, for the last two years, that allocation has been managed as a catch share fishery using individual fishing quotas, where each permit holder has an annual quota.

Like darkblotched rockfish, petrale sole are not subject to overfishing, but are not rebuilt to their target level, although the stock size has been increasing since 2010. In 2013 the stock is estimated to be at 22.3% of unfished biomass. The target for petrale is SB25%. The abundance of petrale sole was estimated to have dropped below the management target during the 1960s and generally stayed there through 2013. The stock declined below the overfished threshold (12.5%) from the early 1980s until the early 2000s. In 1984 the stock dropped below 10% of the unfished spawning biomass and did not rise above the 10% level until 2001. The petrale sole stock is projected to

be rebuilt in 2014.

Eight groundfish species (brown rockfish, China rockfish, copper rockfish, English sole, sharpchin rockfish, strippetail rockfish, rex sole, and yellowtail rockfish) were assessed using a new "data-moderate" assessment framework. Of these, five were adopted for management use and three (brown, China and copper) were tagged for further review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). Data-moderate assessments are more data-limited than full assessments, with inclusion of historical catches and abundance indices allowed, but not age or length composition data. Data-moderate assessments are designed to provide more information than catch-based data-poor methods, which are only used to determine overfishing limits. One of the benefits of creating the new category of data-moderate stock assessments is that it provides for the expeditious review of more stock assessments.

The Council also adopted an update assessment for bocaccio south of 40°10' N lat. The update indicated the stock is close to the target level of SB40% with a depletion of 31.4% of unfished biomass. The stock is projected to be rebuilt by 2015 based on a very low effective harvest rate imposed by the rebuilding plan and very strong recent recruitment.

Barotrauma

In April, the Council adopted depth-based mortality rates used to manage cowcod, canary, and yelloweye rockfish in recreational fisheries when descending devices are used to prevent barotrauma. Most rockfish that are brought up quickly from the deep suffer barotrauma caused by expansion of gases, which can cause tissue damage and death. Descending devices allow fish to

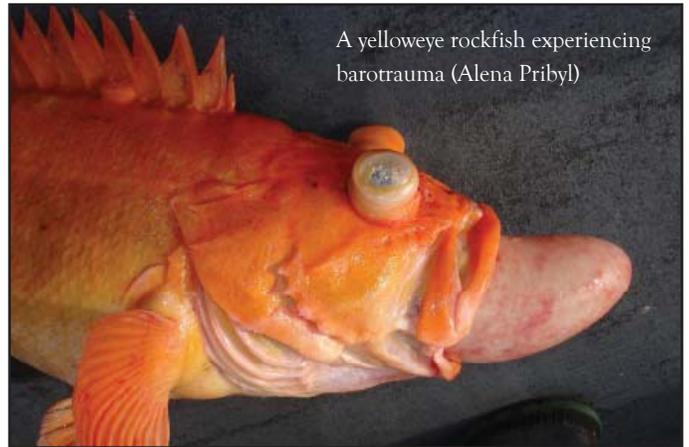
Groundfish

be released at deeper depths, which allows recompression of tissues and restores the ability of fish to attain neutral buoyancy, thereby increasing survival. Studies have shown that the use of descending devices to release fish that suffer barotrauma increases both short- and long-term survival.

The Council and its advisors agreed that descending devices were a "best practice" that should be used in rockfish release. The Council tasked the SSC and Groundfish Management Team to further investigate the mortality rates for future consideration.

Stock Complex Assemblages

The Council is considering restructuring groundfish stock complexes in order to align stock complexes for species with similar life histories, vulnerabilities to the fishery, and responses to management measures. In April the Council adopted a range of alternatives for six species groups (nearshore rockfish, shelf rockfish, slope rockfish, flatfish, carti-



A yelloweye rockfish experiencing barotrauma (Alena Pribyl)

laginous fish, and roundfish).

In June, the Council prioritized restructuring the "Other Fish" complex into cartilaginous and roundfish species; restructuring the slope rockfish and shelf rockfish complexes; and, as the lowest priority, restructuring the "Other Flatfish" complex. Alternatives for restructuring the nearshore rockfish complexes were considered but rejected since any management problems can

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be addressed with management measures. The Council's Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will analyze the implications of these alternatives at their next meeting.

Pacific Whiting

In April the Council received a briefing on the international process for setting 2013 harvest specifications for Pacific whiting. The Joint Management Committee, established in the Pacific whiting agreement between the United States and Canada, recommended a coastwide (U.S. + Canada) total allowable catch (TAC) of 336,200 mt of Pacific whiting for 2013 fisheries. Under the international agreement, the U.S. allocation is 73.88% of the coastwide TAC or 248,385 mt. Consistent with the agreement, a portion of the unused 2012 TAC is carried over to the 2013 TAC for both nations. The U.S. carryover is 21,630 mt for an adjusted 2013 U.S. TAC of 269,745 mt. The Council adopted a set-aside of 2,500 mt of Pacific whiting for 2013 to accommodate research catch and bycatch in pink shrimp fisheries.

Mid-water Recreational Fishery

The Council is considering developing a mid-water recreational fishery in Oregon and California to provide access to healthy groundfish that live in the water column while minimizing overfished species bycatch. In recent years exempted fishing permits utilizing long-leader gears have been used by the Recreational Fishing Alliance to explore the feasibility of such a fishery.

The Council requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) analyze alternatives to provide access to deeper waters for anglers using long-leader gears during times when such areas would normally be closed. These depth closures, designed to reduce bycatch of overfished species like yelloweye and canary rockfish, apply to the entire water column. Overfished rockfish often reside near the bottom in select habitats while the healthy species, like yellowtail rockfish, reside in the water column but are inaccessible to anglers when depth closures are implemented. Under the proposal, regulations would define the gear configuration required in the area,

which is intended to keep the terminal gear off the seafloor and away from overfished species, while bottom contact gear would be prohibited. If adopted, the mid-water fishery could provide increased opportunity for recreational fisheries and reduce fishing effort on nearshore species starting in January 1, 2015. The Council expects to receive a draft analysis from NMFS in 2014.

Groundfish

Inseason Management

In March, the Council recommended issuing the maximum eligible surplus carryover quota pounds (up to 10 percent) for all non-whiting species in the shorebased individual fishing quota trawl (IFQ) fishery. NMFS issued carryover for all non-whiting IFQ species except petrale sole and lingcod (see <http://tinyurl.com/bmf95an> and <http://tinyurl.com/m3fm4eo>). Surplus carryover for petrale sole was not issued because NMFS determined there was a high risk of exceeding the 2013 petrale sole annual catch limit (ACL). NMFS requested guidance from the Council on how to issue surplus carryover for lingcod because the quota pound management unit was previously coastwide, but is now divided north and south of 40°10' N. latitude. The Council recommended the Groundfish Management Team analyze the risk of exceeding the petrale sole ACL, if carryover were issued, for the September Council meeting when more information regarding the progress of the 2013 fishery is available. The Council recommended an approach for issuing lingcod surplus carryover (see <http://tinyurl.com/kt5vhn3>), which was implemented by NMFS on July 9 (<http://tinyurl.com/k373exp>).

In April, the Council recommended adjustments to the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries from 40°10' N. latitude to 48°10' N. latitude with a shoreward boundary of 100 fathoms and a seaward boundary of 150 fathoms starting in period 6 in 2013 through 2014. The RCA modifications should provide greater access

to target species while allowing the individual accountability afforded by the rationalized fishery to minimize bycatch of overfished species. At its June 2013 meeting, the Council was notified that NMFS is preparing additional analysis of the proposed action in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA). The Council will review the draft EA at its September 2013 meeting. In the event

the Council decides to recommend an alternate RCA configuration in

light of the new analysis, it will make such recommendations at that time.

The Council also recommended increasing trip limits starting as soon as possible for the following fisheries and species: limited entry and open access fixed gear for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude, limited entry fixed gear for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. latitude, limited entry fixed gear for shelf rockfish south of 34°27' N. latitude, and limited entry and open access fixed gear for bocaccio rockfish south of 34°27' N. latitude. More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/nxcombk>.

Avoiding Seabird Bycatch

The Council is seeking public review of alternatives for avoiding seabird bycatch (see <http://tinyurl.com/nxw4pum>). Under the action alternatives, streamer lines may be required during setting operations on commercial longline vessels 55 feet or longer, with a possible exemption for rough weather. Final action is scheduled for November.

Status of Rationalized Trawl Fishery

The trawl rationalization (catch share) program began in January 2011. It has now been in place for over two years.

A report by Sean Matson of the NMFS Northwest Region noted that there have been some notable changes during the second year of the shorebased IFQ sector of the rationalized fishery. Non-whiting catch increased from 24 percent of the allocation

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in 2011 to 29 percent in 2012. However, three percent less of the Pacific whiting allocation was taken.

Under the IFQ program, vessels with trawl permits are allowed to switch to nontrawl gears, such as longline and fishpot

in the IFQ program was from fixed gear in 2012, up ten percent from 2011.

Commerce-related quota pound transfers (transfers between vessel accounts for cash, barter or a combination of both) were much more evenly distributed through the

vessel prices and lower attainment of sablefish allocations during 2012, especially south of 36° N. latitude, accompanied by increases in attainment of allocations and revenue of other species, such as petrale sole, Pacific cod, lingcod and slope rockfish.

Catch of rebuilding species was lower for the first two years under trawl rationalization, compared with the two previous years under trip limit management.

Electronic Monitoring

The Council is moving ahead with electronic monitoring of compliance in the trawl catch share program. Electronic monitoring would focus on compliance with fishery regulations, rather than collection of biological data, and reduce the need for on-board observer coverage. In June, the Council formed two ad-hoc groundfish electronic monitoring committees (see "Appointments," page 13). The Council began scoping on electronic monitoring at its June 2013 meeting and will begin developing alternatives in September. Meanwhile, the field study of electronic monitoring that Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission started in 2012 continued this summer with an increased emphasis on bottom trawl vessels.

Fixed Gear Permit Stacking (Catch Shares)

The Council will begin the first steps of a review of the existing limited entry fixed gear permit stacking program in September. The permit stacking program is a kind of catch share program and was first implemented in 2001. 



(fixed gears). Preliminary data indicate that relative to 2011, in 2012 the use of fixed gear increased for sablefish (the most valuable species in the fishery). Hook-and-line gear landings increased from 13 to 19 percent of IFQ sablefish landings; the resulting revenue (hook-and-line sablefish) increased from 18 to 28 percent of all IFQ sablefish revenue. As a result, 58 percent of sablefish revenue

year in 2012 than 2011; transfers started immediately in January of 2012, and activity remained more regular throughout the rest of the year than during 2011. This suggests a greater knowledge of the IFQ management system and earlier planning on the part of participants.

Revenue distribution among species also became more even, coinciding with lower ex-

"Sponges grow in the ocean. That just kills me. I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be if that didn't happen." - Steven Wright

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat

A request for proposals to changes in essential fish habitat (EFH) for groundfish was released in May, with seven proposals received by the July 31 deadline. The Council's EFH Review Committee (EFHRC) will review the proposals and provide a written overview as an informational report at the September Council meeting. At the November meeting, the Council will decide whether there is sufficient new information to warrant making changes to existing groundfish EFH. This decision will be based on recommendations from the EFHRC and other advisory bodies, and on the merits of the proposals that were submitted. Although some of the proposals contain very specific changes to EFH, the Council may wish to pursue only portions or variants of any single proposal. Any changes to groundfish



Deepwater coral off Washington state with aurora and redbanded rockfish (NOAA)

farallones.noaa.gov/manage/northern_area.html.

Habitat & Ecosystem

EFH would be made in a fishery management plan amendment, and would not be initiated until after Council final action in November, which will conclude the periodic review.

Marine Protected Areas

At its March meeting, the Council heard from the Superintendents of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries regarding their plans for expansion. The Council and advisory bodies asked many questions and expressed some concern about the nature of activities that may be disallowed in areas covered by the expansion, and these concerns were detailed in a letter sent to the sanctuaries after the March meeting. The Sanctuaries are planning to issue an environmental impact statement near the end of 2013. Details regarding the expansion can be found at <http://>

Habitat

On April 24, the Council sent a letter developed by the Habitat Committee

on Klamath water (see article, page 2). The Council's Habitat Committee is preparing a draft letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, responding to its request for information on the environmental effects of offshore wind energy, for the September Council meeting.

At its September meeting the Habitat Committee will also be discussing the U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty, a 1964 agreement on the development and operation of dams in the upper Columbia River basin.

The Treaty calls for two "entities" to implement the Treaty – a U.S. Entity and a Canadian Entity. The U.S. Entity consists of the Bonneville Power Administration the Army Corps of Engineers. The Canadian Entity is the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority.

Currently, the U.S. Entity is reviewing current and potential future operations under the Treaty in order to make recommendations to the Department of State on which elements the Pacific Northwest would like the Department of State to pursue in negotiations with Canada. The Habitat Committee is tracking this process for the Council.

Ecosystem-based management

As noted on page 1, in April the Council approved a Fishery Ecosystem Plan. In June, in a related action, the Council began discussing management of currently non-targeted forage fish species by reviewing and updating the list of authorized West Coast fisheries. The Council intends to prevent the development of fisheries for currently non-targeted forage fish.

As the first step to protect currently unmanaged forage fish, the Council reviewed proposed changes to the Federal List of Authorized Fisheries and Gear, which identifies fisheries and gear types that are currently allowed in the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone. The Council plans to take final action on this in September. 

Swordfish

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been conducting research on a number of fronts exploring how to support a west coast swordfish fishery that is both economically and environmentally sustainable. The California drift gillnet fishery has historically landed the most swordfish on the West Coast but has been in decline for many years. This is in part due to regulations needed to reduce incidental take of

Highly Migratory Species

protected species, especially the endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtle. One approach NMFS has been investigating is the use of alternative gear types that would reduce these takes. In 2013 NMFS reported to the Council on ongoing tests of buoy gear and daytime setting of longline gear deep in the water column. Both of these gear types take advantage of the fact that swordfish tend to spend the daylight hours deep in the water column, while sea turtles spend most of their time nearer to the surface. This physical separation between the sea turtles and the gear could reduce takes. If this research demonstrates that either of these gear types is feasible, the next step would involve the Council, either through further testing at a practical level by allowing limited fishing through an exempted fishing permit, or through regulatory changes.

On another front, NMFS scientists are developing a model to predict when and where Pacific leatherback sea turtles may interact with fishing gear. Right now, a large

time/area closure, the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area (PLCA), is the primary tool for preventing leatherback sea turtle takes by the California drift gillnet fishery. This model holds promise for allowing fishery managers to refine the PLCA in a way that could support the economic vitality of the drift gillnet fishery.

On the management side, the Council tasked its Highly Migratory Species

Management Team (HMSMT) to evaluate the feasibility of a limited, trial drift gillnet fishery in a triangular area south of Pt. Sur, between 12 and 100 miles from shore, in the PLCA. During the trial period, vessels would be required to carry

onboard observers and vessel monitoring system units. As part of this project, the HMSMT will also report back to the Council in 2014 on the use of drift gillnet fishery-wide “hard caps” on sea turtle take. If such a cap is reached, the fishery must shut down for the remainder of the season.

Bluefin Tuna

NMFS notified the Council that Pacific bluefin tuna is “overfished,” because current stock biomass is estimated to have fallen to about 3% of unfished biomass. Most Pacific bluefin catch occurs in waters around Japan and off of Mexico’s Baja peninsula. Because this overfishing is an international problem

(the U.S. accounts only accounts for about 2% of total bluefin catch), the Council’s main response is a set of recommendations on what action should be taken by the two Pacific fisheries commissions the work at the international level. The Council received a similar notification in 2011 and, because the problems today are much the same as they were two years ago, is forwarding the same set of recommendations to NMFS, the Department of State, and the U.S. Congress. In addition, the Council may consider changes to the bag limits for Pacific bluefin in West Coast recreational fisheries in 2014.

Albacore Tuna

The Council has also developed recommendations for a precautionary management framework for North Pacific albacore tuna. This framework is being developed at the international level within the Northern Committee, part of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.



Pacific bluefin tuna (NOAA)

The Council made recommendations on the types of biological reference points, decision rules, and management measures that should be included in the plan. The Northern Committee next meets in early September, at which time the U.S. will have an opportunity to use these recommendations in negotiations with other member countries. 

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Managing Our Nation's Fisheries, continued from page 1

ness of the current Act, saying “A one-size-fits-all management structure is not the most efficient structure ... The Act works, it is absolutely necessary to maintain this authority that allows regions to find unique solutions to their problems.” However, he noted that improvements can be made, citing several recent fishery disaster declarations and the need for better scientific information and data management. He also praised the public participation and transparency of the Regional Council process. For his full speech, go to <http://tinyurl.com/kjv6d4j>.

Eric Schwaab, NOAA Administrator at the time of the conference, agreed on the need for more fishery data, fish abundance assessments and understanding of the ecosystem. While stating that U.S. overfishing is at an all-time low, he noted, “Fishing community stability needs to improve.” He urged the conference to come up with innovative

ideas to improve fisheries management.

Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), who chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, addressed the conference attendees, saying “Thank you for taking the first steps with this conference to help us kick off what we need to do in making sure that we do the right thing... This is going to be important for us and our Committee work in knowing where we need to go next.”

Speaking to sustainable seafood, Barton Seaver, director of the Healthy and Sustainable Food Program at Harvard University, said “We are not trying to save the ocean; we are trying to save dinner. ... People understand if we have no farmers, we have no food, but don’t understand, if we have no fishermen, we have no seafood.” He urged chefs to change the nature of their recipes

to include a wider variety of fish species.

“There is no such thing as unsustainable seafood, only unsustainable demand,” he said.

From an Alaska fishermen’s perspective, Capt. Colburn said, “One of the biggest hurdles we have is climate change. ... In the last decade, we’ve seen the three coldest and three warmest years.” He said, “What fishery sustainability means to me is keeping fishing at a level so I can fish, my kids can fish, my grandkids can fish.”

The conference included sessions on improving fishery management essentials, advancing ecosystem-based decision making, and providing for fishing community stability.

See www.managingfisheries.org for materials from the last three Managing Our Nation’s Fisheries conferences, including this year’s meeting. 



Scenes from Managing Our Nation’s Fisheries 3. Upper left: Pacific Council staff. L-R: Kim (Merydith) Ambert, Patricia Crouse, Renee Dorval, Jennifer Gilden, Carolyn Porter, Russell Porter (PSMFC). Upper right: The expert panel convenes on the last day of the conference to discuss findings and priorities; Council Executive Director Donald McIsaac introduces the session. Bottom: Acting NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan speaks to the Council Coordination Committee, with Pacific Council Chairman Dan Wolford listening in on her left and NMFS head Sam Rauch on her right.

Before the Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 conference (see article, page 9), the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils were asked by Congressional representatives for their input on priorities to be considered in reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Further, each Council was asked to identify priorities for discussion at the Managing Our Nation's Fisheries conference. The Legislative Committee recommended the following priorities for Pacific Council consideration:

- Updating and streamlining the rules for changing the Federal List of Fisheries and Gear, which have been in place since 1979.
- The need for increased flexibility in rebuilding plans, including better ways to differentiate between "noise" and "signal" when new stock assessments are adopted, and to not require a significant management response from "noise" changes.
- A better definition of taking the needs of fishing communities into account, such that effects on fishing communities do not need to reach the level of disaster before they can balance greater conservation.
- In order to address flexibility in rebuilding time frames, change section 304 to read "practical" instead of "possible."
- How to better respond when an improved assessment for a rebuilding species is received; for example if an assessment shows that a species was never actually overfished.
- The need for additional flexibility to address scientific uncertainty. Need to improve methods to determine ACLs in low data situations, and properly discriminate between poor, good, or medium-quality science. The best available science is not always good enough to set harvest limits.
- The need to more closely align Na-

tional Environmental Policy Act and MSA requirements and streamline the process.

- Currently, the fines from any illegal, unregulated, and unreported vessel caught operating in the Western Pacific region are provided to a fund that can be drawn on by the Western Pacific Council. Such a system should be pursued for the Pacific



our successes.

Following the conference, the Legislative Committee and Council, along with advisory bodies, will consider the 128 findings resulting from the conference and will pass along West Coast priorities to the Council Coordination Committee and legislative staff.

In addition, the Legislative Committee is currently tracking the following Congressional bills that could impact Council fisheries.

H.R. 1012: Safety and Fraud Enforcement for Seafood Act

Introduced by Ed Markey, MA, and companion bill to S. 520, introduced by Mark Begich, AK. This bill, which is driven by concerns about mislabeling of seafood, aims to strengthen Federal consumer protection and product traceability with respect to commercially marketed seafood. It would require seafood imported into the US "or otherwise distributed or offered for sale in interstate commerce" to be labeled with the acceptable market and scientific name; the harvest method, including gear type; catch date; weight; previous treatment (freezing, chemical treatment, country of processing); whether fish was wild caught or farm raised; location of fish farm; and cultivation method. This information could be made available upon request rather than appear-

Continued on page 10

Legislative Affairs

Council area.

- Councils need to be better funded.
- Approaches for dealing with layers of precaution which sell achieving the optimum yield short, such as averaging annual catch limits (ACLs) over time.
- Limit changes to ACLs to within 10-15 percent of status quo in order to smooth scientific uncertainty (for stocks that show highly variable scientific estimates for the same year, such as bocaccio).
- Preserve positive aspects of current management. The Pacific Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee process, catch shares, and ground-up public involvement process are working well.
- There needs to be an awareness that many changes proposed in legislation are meant to address other Councils' issues but could end up undermining

Continued from page 10

ing on a label.

The Legislative Committee heard concerns from the West Coast Seafood Processors Association that the bill as written would be nearly impossible to implement, particularly the individual fish labeling requirement for products like shrimp, whiting, and crab. The LC plans to continue to track the bill. Currently the bill has 25 cosponsors, but is given a low chance of passage.

H.R. 1308: The Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act

This Act, introduced by Rep. Doc Hastings, would amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to issue one-year, renewable permits to Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Columbia River tribes, and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission to “take” sea lions on the Columbia River or its tributaries in order to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species. Each permit would be limited to a lethal take of 10 sea lions, and the cumulative annual taking of sea lions would be limited to one percent of the annual potential biological removal level. The bill included no specific discussion of criteria for authorizing take, apart from approval by the Secretary of Commerce. A hearing was held on this bill on June 13.

H.R. 1308 is identical to H.R. 3069 and very similar to H.R. 946, both of which were introduced in the 112th Congress. The Council provided comments on H.R. 946. At that time, the comments focused on creating a more rapid response to time-sensitive salmon conservation situations by continu-

ing 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. This bill has four bipartisan cosponsors and is given a moderate chance of passage.

H.R. 1927: More Water and Security for Californians Act

This Act would essentially exempt the Central Valley and State Water projects from Delta pumping restrictions required under the Endangered Species Act to protect Central Valley salmon and Delta smelt. Specifically, the bill text states, “Beginning on April 1 and ending on May 31, rates of pumping at the C.W. ‘Bill’ Jones Pumping Plant and Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant shall not be reduced pursuant to the biological opinion of the National Marine Fisheries Service.” Legislative Committee members felt the bill represented a significant threat to California water management that would negatively affect Sacramento salmon and



Sea lion with salmon (NOAA)

other species, and were prepared to develop comments on the bill if requested. The bill has no cosponsors and is given a low chance of passage.

H.R. 69 (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2013) and S. 269 (International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act)

Both H.R. 69 and S. 269 relate to control of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fisheries through amendments to the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act, and both would alter sections of the Tuna Conventions Act that currently offer protections to U.S. fishermen. Council staff will review the history of Council comments on similar bills from prior sessions of Congress, for further consideration at the September meeting. 

September Council Meeting

The briefing book for the September Council meeting (Sept. 13-18) is online at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

You can listen to Council meetings online; see our website (www.pcouncil.org). Follow the Council agenda on Twitter at @PFMCagenda, and follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PacificFisheryManagementCouncil>.

VMS Declarations

Some vessels have vessel monitoring system (VMS) registered with the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), but have not declared the fishery in which they are participating. Such declarations are not required until a vessel enters the groundfish fishery. However, as a result of the absence of a declaration enforcement, resources are unnecessarily expended determining which fishery a vessel is fishing in. The Council is addressing this issue by amending the

Enforcement

groundfish fishery management plan to require that vessels declare a fishery at the time the VMS unit is registered with NOAA OLE.

National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region reported that IATTC Resolution C-04-06 requires that parties with tuna fishing vessels 24 meters or more

in length establish a satellite-based VMS. The Council will be considering final action to implement this requirement at

its November meeting.

Coast Guard website

The Coast Guard has developed a new website (FishSafeWest.info) which provides information and tools fishermen are likely to find quite helpful, particularly with respect to dockside safety inspections. 

Aerial Survey

In March, the Council recommended that NMFS issue an exempted fishing permit proposed by the Northwest Aerial Sardine Survey. The survey, conducted since 2008, uses a combination of aerial photos of sardine schools, coupled with capture of sardine schools (point sets) to establish the relationship between surface area and weight of an individual school. The survey was scheduled to take place during July and August, and any of the 3,000 metric ton set-aside that is not used will be re-allocated to the third period directed fishery.

the Council is considering using a CalCOFI temperature measurement rather than the Scripps Pier temperatures, in order to more accurately estimate sardine productivity in any given year. The CalCOFI temperature series appears to show a better relationship with sardine productivity. The Council is tentatively scheduled to consider making a change at the November meeting, and requested additional information from the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team to help inform that decision.

becomes available to the Stock Assessment Team, there remains only a very tight time window to generate the draft stock assessment report, conduct a Stock Assessment Review, revise the assessment, and make it available in time for the November briefing book. The new schedule greatly alleviates the time crunch, thereby maximizing opportunity for a quality product and adequate peer review.

Sardine Harvest Parameters

A workshop on Sardine Harvest Parameters was held in February, in La Jolla, California. The workshop examined the temperature-recruitment and distribution variables used in sardine management, looked at a risk assessment model to gauge fishery performance under different theoretical management scenarios, and explored the possibility of developing an ecosystem-based management strategy evaluation (MSE). The workshop panelists and the Council did not feel there was enough information available to them at that time to pursue either the distribution factor or the MSE. However, as a result of discussions held at the workshop,

Coastal Pelagic Species

Sardine Fishery Start Date

The Council approved changing the start date of the sardine fishery from January 1st to July 1st, which will provide a more reasonable amount of time to conduct the assessment, and will align the start date with that of Pacific mackerel. The current schedule results in a difficult situation, which by the time summer survey data (necessary in order to conduct the stock assessment)

Mackerel Management

In June, the Council adopted management measures and harvest specifications for Pacific mackerel for the 2013-2014 fishing year. These include an overfishing limit of 57,316 mt, acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit of 52,358 mt, and an annual catch target of 39,268 mt. The 13,089 mt difference between the annual catch limit and annual catch target is an incidental catch buffer. Some of the buffer may be released for harvest in April 2014 if the annual catch target has been met or approached.

The Council also changed the management schedule for Pacific mackerel, with full stock assessments every four years, alternating with update assessments. Biennial harvest specifications will be made every two years. 

NMFS Regions Merging

In order to cut costs, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently merged its Southwest and Northwest administrative regions, which would result in a savings of \$3 million annually. The NMFS Southwest region managed California, and the Northwest region covered Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The Obama administration proposed the merger to “improve coordination in areas where there is currently joint decision-making” by the two regions.

The regional headquarters will be located in Seattle. However, according to Kevin Chu, a deputy Southwest regional administrator, the Long Beach office will remain open. Also, although there will likely be staff cuts as a result of the merger, Chu claims that the cuts would be achieved through attrition and retirement at the senior level. The changes are expected to occur over the next 18 months.

In June, NMFS announced senior leadership changes that align with the merger. First, the current Northwest Regional Administrator, Will Stelle, will take on the responsibility of regional administrator for the agency’s Northwest and Southwest regional offices as the agency works on forming its new West Coast Regional Office. At the same time, Rod McInnis, the Southwest Regional Administrator, has accepted a new position at Fisheries headquarters in Silver Spring, MD, as the Acting Director of NOAA Fisheries Office of International Affairs.

On the deputy level, North- west Deputy Regional Adminis-

trator Barry Thom will take on new responsibilities as Deputy Regional Administrator for both the Southwest and Northwest Regional Offices – serving with Will Stelle – as the agency works on forming its new West Coast Region.

Although other changes will take place, the agency will maintain all of its current physical field offices within the region, and will continue to provide a sustained level of service to stakeholders in California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho under the new structure.

The shift should be finalized and operational by the end of fiscal year 2014.

The Council recommended that NMFS maintain the structure of the NMFS Northwest Region Salmon Management Program.

Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

Mr. Dan Wolford and Mr. Herb Pollard were reappointed to their current Council seats for an additional three-year term. Ms. Dorothy Lowman will serve as Council Chair and Mr. Herb Pollard will serve as Vice-Chair for the 2013-2014 term.

The Council made following advisory body appointments:

- Dr. Tim Sippel to the Highly Migratory Species Management Team, replacing Dr. Suzanne Kohin

- Dr. Ian Taylor to the Groundfish Management Team, replacing Dr. Jason Cope.
- Dr. Pete Adams to the vacant California seat on the Ecosystem Advisory

- Mr. Calvin Frank to the vacant Washington Coast tribal fisher vacancy on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

The Council confirmed Dr. Bob Emmett as Chair and Ms. Lorna Wargo as Vice-Chair of the

Other Business

Subpanel

- Ms. Heidi Taylor to the NMFS Southwest Region seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team
- Acting SAC Bill Giles to the vacant NMFS Northwest Region seat on the Enforcement Consultants
- Mr. Eric Wilkins to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife seat on the Habitat Committee replacing Ms. Vicki Frey
- Dr. Emmanis Dorval to the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team
- Sgt. Dan Chadwick to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife position on the Enforcement Consultants replacing Assistant Chief Mike Cenci
- Mr. Scott Grunder to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game position on the Habitat Committee replacing Mr. Eric Leitzinger.
- Mr. Steve Copps to a new NMFS position on the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee

Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team; Mr. Joel Kawahara and Ms. Fran Recht as Co-Chairs of the Habitat Committee; and Mr. David Crabbe as Vice-Chair of the Legislative Committee.

The Council modified Council Operating Procedure (COP) 3 by eliminating the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and dissolving the Ecosystem Plan Development Team; however, a new ad hoc Ecosystem Workgroup was established to address the forage fish protection initiative of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan. The Council created a new ad hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Work Group (Dave Hanson, Brent Paine, Heather Mann, Paul Kujala, Travis Hunter, Bob Alverson, Geoff Bettencourt, Howard McElderry and Shems Jud) and an ad hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee (Dave Colpo, Colby Brady, Jon McVeigh, Dayna Matthews, Mariam McCall, Dan Chadwick, Maggie Sommer, Robert Puccinelli).

The Council also modified COP 3 by establishing an Endangered Species Work Group to work on Endangered Species Act issues related to groundfish management. 

Coming Up at the September 2013 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Boise, Idaho on September 13-18, 2013. The Briefing Book is currently available on the Council website (www.pccouncil.org).

Groundfish

- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report
- Sablefish Permit Stacking Program Review
- Approve stock assessments
- Science improvements for next groundfish management cycle
- Inseason adjustments
- Consideration of trawl Rockfish Conservation Area boundary modifications

- Initial actions for setting 2015-2016 groundfish fisheries
- Consider stock complex aggregations
- Trawl rationalization trailing actions
- Scoping for electronic monitoring

Salmon

- Methodology review
- Amendment 18—Update essential fish habitat for salmon
- Lower Columbia River Double-Crested Cormorant Management Plan

Pacific Halibut

- Pacific halibut bycatch estimate
- 2014 Pacific halibut regulations

Other

- Update List of Fisheries
- Unmanaged Forage Fish Protection Initiative
- Tri-state enforcement report
- Current habitat issues
- Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 Conference followups and unrelated legislative matters

Draft Agenda for the November 2013 Meeting

The November Council meeting will be held in Costa Mesa, California on November 1-6, 2013. The following draft agenda will likely be altered at the September meeting; check the Council website for updates.

Groundfish

- Sablefish Permit Stacking Program Review
- Stock assessments from mop-up panel and rebuilding analyses for overfished species
- Preliminary exempted fishing permit approval
- Inseason adjustments
- Further actions for setting fisheries in 2015-2016 & beyond
- Consider stock complex aggregations
- Trawl rationalization trailing actions
- Electronic monitoring: Adopt range of alternatives

- Seabird avoidance regulations: final action
- Review and approve proposals to modify essential fish habitat

Salmon

- NMFS Report
- Methodology review
- Preseason salmon management schedule for 2014

Pacific Halibut

- Adopt changes to Catch Sharing Plan and annual regulations for 2014

Coastal Pelagic Species

- Methodology review process & preliminary topic selection for 2014
- 2014 exempted fishing permits
- Sardine harvest parameters
- Establish MSY for northern anchovy
- Adopt sardine management measures

Other

- Current habitat issues
- Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 Conference followups and unrelated legislative matters

Proposed Agenda Items for the March 2013 Meeting

Proposed items for the March 2014 meeting in Sacramento, California include:

- Groundfish: NMFS report, inseason management, methodology review process discussion, biennial specifications and management measures, sablefish catch share program review, Report to Congress on rationalized trawl fishery, trawl trailing actions, midwater sport fishery, barotrauma mortality rates, essential fish habitat amendment (if necessary)
- Highly Migratory Species: NMFS report; US-Canada albacore update; update on international issues; drift gillnet monitoring, management and alternate gear report;
- Salmon: NMFS report; approve review, forecasts, status determination criteria, and annual catch limits; approve rebuilding plans if necessary; 2014 season setting
- Other: Routine administrative issues, habitat, Regional Operating Agreement
- Pacific Halibut: Preliminary incidental regulations, International Pacific Halibut Commission meeting
- Ecosystem: California Current Ecosystem Report, Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Report
- Coastal Pelagic Species: Final recommendations on exempted fishing permits



Acronyms

ACL	annual catch limit	MSE	management strategy evaluation
CalCOFI	California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations	MSY	maximum sustained yield
COP	Council Operating Procedure	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
EA	environmental assessment	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
EFH	essential fish habitat	OLE	NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
EFHRC	Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee	PLCA	Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area
FEP	Fishery Ecosystem Plan	PSMFC	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
FMP	fishery management plan	RCA	Rockfish Conservation Area
GMT	Groundfish Management Team	S (as in S 269)	Senate
HMSMT	Highly Migratory Species Management Team	SB25%, SB40%	25, 40% of the unfished spawning biomass level (the level if the stock were not fished)
HR	House of Representatives	SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	TAC	total allowable catch
IFQ	individual fishing quota	VMS	vessel monitoring systems
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission		

Recipe: White Bean & Bread Salad with Tomatoes, Capers and Anchovies

Ingredients:

- 3 red peppers, halved
- 1 yellow pepper, halved
- 3/4 cup olive oil, plus extra for tossing
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/2 loaf ciabatta
- 1 14-ounce can white cannellini beans, drained
- 8 anchovy filets (shop local!)
- 1/3 cup capers
- 1/2 cup basil leaves
- 1/4 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

For the tomato dressing:

- 3 ripe tomatoes
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Toss the peppers in the olive oil and scatter with the garlic. Transfer to a baking tray and roast for 30 minutes, or until blistered. Remove from the heat and cover with foil. Leave to sweat until the skins soften and are easily peeled away. Discard the skins.

Roughly tear the ciabatta and, in a pan over a medium heat, lightly fry the pieces in the olive oil until slightly crisp and golden. Rinse the beans and toss with the thinly sliced anchovy fillets, capers, basil, parsley and roasted peppers. Toss the crusty ciabatta bits into the salad at the last minute, allowing them to soak up the juices. Season to taste. Serve with the chunky fresh-tomato dressing.

To make the tomato dressing: Roughly purée the tomatoes and garlic. Add the olive oil and season to taste.

Pacific Fishery Management Council

Toll-free (866) 806-7204
www.pcouncil.org

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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.

Salmon Methodology Review

Purpose: Review new modeling and forecasting methods for potential use in 2014.

Date: October 1-3, 2013

Location: Holiday Inn, Portland Airport

Contact: Mike Burner (mike.burner@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: September 13-18, 2013

Location: Riverside Hotel, Boise

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

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: November 1-6, 2013

Location: Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa, California

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

Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Committee

Dates: October 15-16, 2013

Location: Seattle, Washington

Contact: Brett Wiedoff (brett.wiedoff@noaa.gov)



Pacific Council News
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384