



**REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
November 15 - 21, 2016 Garden Grove, California**



SALMON MANAGEMENT

D.4. Preseason Salmon Management Schedule for 2017

The Council adopted the tentative 2017 salmon management schedule [Attachment 1](#) including plans for public hearings in Westport, Washington and Coos Bay, Oregon on March 27 and Fort Bragg, California on March 28.

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT

F.1. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report [Groundfish]

Potential Revision to Sablefish Apportionment of 2017 and 2018 Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)

NMFS recently published the proposed rule for 2017 and 2018 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures, using the Council's Final Preferred Alternative (FPA). The Council's FPA, and the proposed rule, apportioned the coastwide 2017 and 2018 Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) of sablefish north and south of 36° N Lat., according to the relative biomass reported in the 2015 sablefish update assessment of 15.1% in the south and 84.9% in the north to determine ACLs north and south. However, that apportionment represented the estimated relative biomass north and south of Pt. Conception at 34°27' N Lat. rather than 36° N Lat.

In addition, the Councils' FPA, and the proposed rule, set the:

- sablefish allocations north of 36° N Lat. for limited entry fixed gear and open access;
- non-trawl sector allocations for the sablefish fishery south of 36° N Lat.; and,
- sablefish trip limits for the fixed gear fisheries north and south of 36° N Lat., respectively

All under the [incorrect] apportionment described above.

Upon discovering the error, the relative sablefish biomass north and south of 36° N Lat. was recalculated according to the status quo methodology, as described in the 2011 sablefish assessment, resulting in 26.2% in the south and 73.8% in the north. The Council was asked to consider whether they would rather maintain the original proposed apportionment and ACLs in the proposed rule or revise the ACLs according to the revised [corrected] apportionment.

F.3. Inseason Management Final Action

After considerable discussion, advisory body, and public comment, the Council determined to make an inseason management recommendation to the NMFS requesting NMFS correct the computational error published in the proposed rule for 2017 and 2018 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures as quickly as possible.

In addition, the Council recommended adjustments to 2017 cumulative landing limits for sablefish that are responsive to the recommended reapportionment of proposed sablefish ACLs. The recommended cumulative landing limits are as follows:

- Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 36° N Lat.; 1100 lbs/week, not to exceed 3,300 lbs.

Bimonthly;

- Open Access Fixed Gear North of 36° N. Lat.: 300 lbs./day or 1 landing per week up to 900 lbs., not to exceed 1,800 lbs. bimonthly; and
- Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 36° N. Lat.: 2,000 lbs./week.

F.4. Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Amendment 28 Alternatives

The Council adopted a range of alternatives (ROA) at its September 2015 meeting, and narrowed the ROA at its April 2016 meeting. Also in April, the Council identified 7 of the 10 alternatives as preliminary preferred alternatives (numbers 4-10 below). At this [November] meeting, there were three subject areas under consideration, each containing two to four alternatives (numbers 1-3 below):

Fishery Management Alternatives:

1. EFHCA changes contained in public proposals (including the Collaborative proposal)
2. New EFHCAs within current RCA boundaries
3. Adjustments to the trawl RCA
4. Use of MSA Sec. 303(b) discretionary authorities in waters deeper than 3500m (preliminary preferred alternative (PPA))

Administrative Alternatives:

5. Life history descriptions, EFH descriptions, and major prey items (FMP Appendix B) (PPA)
6. Fishing gear effects (FMP Appendix C Part 2) (PPA)
7. Non-fishing effects and conservation measures (Appendix D) (PPA)
8. Information and Research Needs (PPA)
9. Review and Revision Process (PPA)
10. Clarifications and Corrections (PPA)

The Council considered the alternatives and the Amendment 28 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Description and Analysis of Alternatives for Council Decision making document. The Council identified a PPA and provided additional guidance for the area from the Oregon/Washington border to the U.S./Mexico border as follows;

1. Move forward, for further analysis;
 - a. Alternative 1b, a proposal developed by a cooperative group of environmental organizations and fishing industry representatives, known as the “*Collaborative*” proposal. This proposal is coastwide, however it does not include recommendations in the Southern California Bight or in some areas off the Oregon Coast.
 - b. Alternative 1c, known as “*Oceana et al.*”, with California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) recommended modifications to areas in the Southern California Bight.
 - c. All six areas off Oregon proposed by the Midwater Trawler’s Cooperative (MTC) in public comment, with Heceta Head and Daisy Bank as modified by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel. This proposal includes new EFH closures as well

as modest reopenings of currently closed areas, all off the Central Oregon Coast. This proposal has broad support from the impacted industry (Newport, Oregon area fisherman). MTC submitted the proposal to the “Collaborative” for inclusion in that proposal, however the “Collaborative” rejected the MTC proposal following a face-to-face meeting during the April 2016 PFMC Meeting.

- d. From the individual polygons; the individual area “Garibaldi Reef South” closure.
2. For Subject Area 3, Adjustments to the Trawl RCA;
 - a. Adopt Alternatives 3.b (Remove groundfish trawl RCAs) and 3.d (Block Area Closures) for groundfish and protected species (primarily salmon) as a PPA. This would address any unexpected catches of groundfish or protected species, as necessary.
3. For Subject Area 10, include corrected coordinates for Potato Bank.
4. Eliminate Subject Area 2, New EFH Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) within the trawl RCA, based on priority habitats, from further analysis.
5. Eliminate Alternative 3c, Discrete Area Closures for Overfished Species, from further analysis.
6. Include for further analysis the modification to Rittenburg Bank closure.

For waters adjacent to the State of Washington the Council adopted;

1. Alternative 1.a (No Action) as a PPA, which would maintain the existing configuration of EFHCAs.
2. Alternative 3.a (No Action) as a PPA, which would maintain the trawl RCA, but continue analyzing the efficacy of discrete area closures to reduce catch of overfished species.

The Council adopted a modified Purpose and Need (page 2 of the Analytical Document), for Purpose 2 and Need 2 (P2 and N2), as follows:

P2: Reconsider the purpose of RCAs as long-term closures to reduce catch of overfished species in the bottom trawl sector in light of the 2011 implementation of the individual fishing quota (IFQ) program and the individual catch accountability that it provides.

N2: Consider transitioning from long-term RCA closures to the Shorebased IFQ Program as the primary catch control tool for IFQ species in the bottom trawl sector in order to provide the bottom trawl sector increased flexibility to achieve Optimum Yield and economic efficiency.

The Council also directed the Project Team to add methane seeps to the description of groundfish habitats in Appendix B.

F.5. Trawl Gear Modification Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Final Action

At its March 2016 meeting, the Council approved a trawl gear regulation package designed to increase flexibility for the trawl fishery based on the individual accountability and 100% at-sea monitoring established by the Amendment 20 catch share program. This package is a trailing

action that helps complete implementation of the regulatory modifications that were envisioned as part of the A20 catch share program. Among the provisions included in that package were measures to replace the selective flatfish trawl requirement in the area north of 40° 10' N Lat. with a small-footrope requirement, and eliminate the minimum mesh size requirement.

Based on calendars indicating that the gear regulations would be implemented by 2017, harvesters and processors began working together to plan a winter/early-spring fishery for pelagic rockfish (widow, yellowtail, and chilipepper) that was dependent on these regulations. The shoreside nonwhiting trawl fishery has been struggling economically under the catch share program; the opportunity to redevelop this fishery and related markets (largely absent since 2000 due to stock rebuilding constraints) was expected to bring economic relief and preserve infrastructure.

At its September 2016 meeting, the Council heard from the NMFS that implementation of the gear package is substantially delayed. In response, it was agreed that an out-of-cycle EFP would be considered to allow an attempt to redevelop the pelagic rockfish fishery early in 2017.

West Coast Seafood Processors, Environmental Defense Fund, Oregon Trawl Commission, and Pacific Seafood, developed and presented the Draft EFP Application titled *"Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP: Monitoring and Minimizing Salmon Bycatch When Targeting Rockfish in the Shorebased IFQ Fishery"*. The EFP is intended to *"bridge the gap"* to full implementation of the Council's trawl gear change package (March 2016) while collecting important information about salmon bycatch. In addition, the EFP should demonstrate that removal of outdated and unnecessary gear restrictions will better meet the objectives of the catch share program. The EFP proposes use of two of the eight FPAs from the Council's Trawl Gear Package, those are;

- Elimination of Selective Flatfish Trawl Requirements shoreward of the Trawl RCA (North of 40° 10' N Lat.); and,
- Elimination of Minimum Mesh Size Requirements for Bottom Trawl Vessels.

The Council recommended NMFS approve the Trawl Gear Modification EFP, as soon as possible in January 2017, with the following modifications and requirements;

- Set the Chinook salmon limit for this EFP at no more than 4,000 fish.
- Add a sub-limit of 17 percent, or 680 Chinook, for the Eureka management area (number of fish to be adjusted to the final Chinook salmon limit).
- Remove the provision to trigger a closure of the Columbia River Salmon Conservation Zone to EFP fishing when 1,000 Chinook have been caught by EFP fishers (such that there would not be a conservation zone closure in this area).
- Add the following criteria to the definition of a high bycatch trip: 1 adult Chinook (defined as 20 inches or greater) caught in the California portion of the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ, defined consistent with salmon regulations as waters from the California/Oregon border south to Horse Mountain).

Further, the Council recommended that vessels be allowed to fish concurrently under both this EFP and the electronic monitoring EFP, and that the EFP applicants prepare an informational

report for the April 2017 Council meeting briefing book, and a full report for the June 2017 meeting.

The Council recommended that the EFP should not be automatically renewed. A review will be scheduled for the September 2017 meeting with renewal (if needed) considered at that time.

F.6. 5-Year Catch Share Program and Intersector Allocation Review Plans and Fishery Management Update

At its June 2016 meeting, the Council adopted a calendar for the process of reviewing the catch share program and the groundfish fishery FMP's intersector allocations. At its September 2016 meeting, the Council accelerated that calendar. Under this revised calendar, the review is scheduled to be finished by November 2017, at which time the Council would adopt ranges of alternatives for priority follow-on action(s). Action(s) would be analyzed over the winter of 2017-2018, with the intent of scheduling final action in the spring. The revised calendar also includes a fallback position that would have preliminary materials in June 2017 that would be available for a July Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting, and a document approved by the Council for public review in September 2017. This would leave a very minimal amount of time after September to incorporate any revisions and release the document with enough time for public comment prior to November 2017. In that case, final document approval might have to be delayed until April 2018.

Both the catch share program and intersector allocation topics are being scoped through the November 2016 Council meeting; however, a plan for moving forward with the intersector allocation rule after the November 2016 meeting has not been adopted. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has released general guidance for intersector allocations, which recommends underlying intersector allocations be reviewed when catch share programs are reviewed. Additionally, the groundfish fishery FMP specifies that *"all intersector allocations will be formally reviewed along with the formal review of the trawl rationalization program five years after implementation of Amendments 20 and 21"*.

As part of the development of the catch share review, the appendix to the groundfish FMP, which describes the program, needs to be updated (Appendix E). For the September 2016 meeting, the Council was provided with a list of the actions taken since first approval of the program and a proposed update of the Appendix E descriptive language with redline and strike-out. At that time, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommended two modifications to the draft and requested more time for review. The Council asked that the GMT recommendations be made, and a clean copy of the draft updated appendix be provided for review at this [November] meeting.

From late August through the end of September, scoping hearings on both the catch share review and intersector allocations were held in fishing communities. Over 150 members of the public attended and over 65 people spoke at the nine hearings (totals adjusted to take into account individuals attending multiple hearings). Additionally, numerous State and Federal agency representatives attended to hear the public comment, in addition to those on the formal hearing teams.

The Community Advisory Board (CAB), appointed by the Council in September to assist in the catch share review, met November 2 and 3 to:

- Receive a presentation from the Economic Data Collection (EDC) team (Dr. Lisa Pfeiffer, Ms. Marie Guldin, Mr. Jerry Leonard, and Ms. Erin Steiner) on their data collection and summarization methods,
- Review Catch Share Program EDC,
- Review the blueprint for the review, and,
- Provide a report with their recommendations.

November Council Action

The Council was scheduled to finalize the blueprint (annotated outline) for the catch share review. This outline will guide the work of analysts in developing a public review draft for presentation to the Council at its June 2017 meeting. The Council provided guidance but did not take action to finalize the blueprint.

The Council directed staff to begin developing a review of intersector allocations and report back on progress at the April 2017 Council meeting. The 5-year review of intersector allocations will be separate from the 5-year Catch Share Program Review, and any revisions to the intersector allocations will follow completion of the 5-year Catch Share Program Review, and be developed through the Council's Groundfish Allocation Committee.

The Council deferred, until June 2017, finalization of the update to the description of the trawl catch share program (Appendix E, to the groundfish FMP).

The catch share review CAB will hold a webinar February 7, 2017, to receive an update on the Council's November actions, and to develop a list of follow-on actions (program improvements/fixes). The CAB requested an additional face-to-face meeting after the Public Draft Review Document is available but before the June 2017 PFMC meeting. This would allow for CAB comment on the Public Draft Review Document before the PFMC finalizes it in June 2017, and to refine CAB recommendations/topics for follow-on actions utilizing information from the Public Draft Review Document. The Council was generally supportive of and approved the additional meeting however funds are limited. The Council clarified the CAB may address within trawl allocation(s) and may comment on trawl/nontrawl allocations as they relate to performance of the catch share program. At this time, it is not the Council's intent to focus on reconsideration of within trawl whiting, sablefish, or trawl/nontrawl allocations.

F.7. Mid-Biennium Harvest Specification Adjustment Policies

The intent of this action is to allow the Council to have the option to consider increasing the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and other harvest specifications a year (roughly) ahead of the normal schedule, when a stock assessment shows a significant increase in available yield. The expectation is that increases in harvest specifications would be limited to levels previously analyzed whenever possible in order to minimize the burden of additional mid-cycle analysis.

The Council adopted a purpose and need statement for the proposed action as follows:

The purpose of this action is to improve the Council's ability to meet the requirements of National Standard 1 to achieve optimum yield, and National Standard 8 for sustained participation of fishing communities and minimization of adverse economic impacts, by enabling a timely management response when new scientific information shows an increase in available yield of a stock.

The need for this action is to reduce the risk of adverse impacts on fishing communities and fishery participants from maintaining existing harvest specifications when the conservation situation (current understanding of stock status, scale, or productivity) has changed enough that the severity of current restrictions are disproportionate to the conservation need.

The Council affirmed the intent to:

- Only consider a mid-biennium increase in harvest specifications for newly-assessed stocks when it would result in significant benefits to fisheries and communities.
- Limit consideration of a mid-biennium ACL increase to fall within the range of the pre-specified ACL, and the ACL specified under default harvest control rules.
- Limit management measures that could be considered with a mid-biennium increase in harvest specifications to routine management measures.

The Council adopted the following ROA for stocks that are eligible for a mid-biennium increase in harvest specifications; Alternative 3 is the PPA:

1. No Action
2. Overfished stocks scheduled for assessment
3. Any stock scheduled for assessment (PPA)

The Council recommended that a qualitative approach be used to evaluate the alternatives. Prior to selection of a Final Preferred Alternative, Council staff shall develop a draft process and schedule for implementing a green light action in the future, and, include an exploration of frontloading workload and of other regions' harvest specifications process, to inform potential regulatory pathways.

Final action on this item is scheduled for September, 2017.

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

G.3. Small Scale Fishery Management Alternatives

At its September 2016 meeting, the Council asked the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) to develop alternatives to allow small-scale directed fishing to continue when directed Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) fisheries are closed. The issue became apparent during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Pacific sardine fishing seasons, when all directed sardine fishing was precluded, except for limited amounts of tribal harvest and live bait fishing. Small producers in the bait and human consumption markets were also closed down.

The Council also adopted a scope for this action that includes the following:

- Include all managed CPS finfish (two stocks of northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, Pacific sardine, and jack mackerel).
- Include all currently-allowed CPS fishing gears.
- No additional permits are required.
- Landing limits are expressed in terms of a daily and/or trip limit.
- Landing limits are one metric ton (mt) per trip or less

The CPSMT developed alternatives around 0.5 mt or 1.0 mt trip limits, and provided additional information to gauge potential impacts.

The Council adopted the following ROA for Small Scale CPS Fishery Trip Limits, to be applicable when the directed fishery for CPS finfish is closed; Alternative 4 is the PPA:

1. Status Quo (No Action).
2. Allow a trip limit up to a maximum of 0.5mt for CPS.
3. Allow a trip limit up to a maximum of 1.0mt for CPS.
4. Allow a trip limit of up to 1.0 mt for CPS with a limit of one trip per vessel per day or one beach seine delivery per day (PPA).

Selection of a final preferred alternative is scheduled for the April 2017 Council meeting. The Council requested the CPSMT monitor landings and prepare an informational report for the September 2017 PFMC meeting.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

1.4. Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits

At its June 2016 meeting, the Council decided to develop special conditions for a deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) EFP program based on a list of key data gaps and research needs with regard to DSBG to be developed by the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT). This list would inform recommending terms and conditions for future EFP applications, as well as aid prospective EFP applicants in developing applications. The Council also tasked the HMSMT with identifying incentives for EFP participation including, but not limited to, prioritized eligibility of EFP participants in a potential future DSBG permit program. Agenda Item 1.4.a, HMSMT Report contains a proposed application template and a revised list of data gaps/research priorities based on Council discussion in September. The data gaps/research priorities list is considered background material to help applicants when drafting proposals. Once the Council is satisfied with the application template, it would be posted to the Council website for potential applicants to use. A webpage has been created to consolidate information for DSBG EFP applicants (<http://www.pcouncil.org/highly-migratory-species/efp-application-info-for-dsbg/>). The application template and supporting materials (including the data gaps/research priorities list) would be posted on this page. The Council also decided to accept DSBG EFP applications at any Council meeting where HMS topics are on the agenda. According to the current Year-at-a-Glance Workload Planner, HMS topics are scheduled on the November 2016, and March, June, and September 2017 meetings.

The Council:

- Granted preliminary approval for the EFP applications submitted by Mr. Fred Hepp (standard deep-set buoy gear) and the Pflegler Institute of Environmental Research, (linked buoy gear) taking into account the recommendations made in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 2. The Council will finalize its recommendation to NMFS on EFP issuance in March 2017.
- Recommended that NMFS reissue a standard deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) EFP to Mr. Stephen Mintz for 2017-2018 with observer coverage consistent with the recommendations from Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 2 (100% observer coverage in the first year with a minimum of 10 sets fished). The geographic area for the EFP would cover waters adjacent to California and Oregon including designated leatherback sea turtle critical habitat.
- Approved for use the DSBG EFP application template developed by the HMSMT (see Agenda Item I.4.a, HMSMT Report) with the addition of a question to solicit information from the applicant on past violations. The final application template will be posted to the Council's and NMFS' websites for easy access.
- Approved the criteria proposed by the HMSMT for determining appropriate levels of observer coverage (see Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 2).
- Tasked the HMSMT with developing criteria for deciding if a DSBG EFP application could be approved in one Council meeting rather than the currently required two Council meetings. This would further streamline the process for approving and issuing EFPs for DSBG fishing that are very similar to current EFP fishing. The Council intends to consider one-meeting approval beginning with the March 2017 meeting.

1.5. Swordfish Fishery Management

NMFS Report

Hard Caps Action Update

NMFS published a proposed rule (81 FR 70660) on October 13, 2016 to establish PFMC recommended protected species hard caps for the California/Oregon large-mesh drift gillnet (DGN) fishery. The proposed rule would implement the Council's final preferred alternative from its September 2015 meeting. The public comment period was scheduled to close on November 28, 2016; however, on October 21, 2016, representatives of potentially affected parties requested an extension of the public comment period to aid in their review of the proposed rulemaking. The request claims that DGN fishery participants are precluded from the public comment process because they are in the peak fishing season, and therefore at sea during the comment period. NMFS considered the request and extended the comment period to December 28, 2016. Following the public comment period, NMFS will prepare a final rule and final Environmental Assessment (EA) for this action. NMFS anticipates that, if approved, the hard caps would be effective before the beginning of the 2017/2018 DGN fishing season (i.e., May 1, 2017).

Monitoring Action Update

At its September 2015 meeting, the Council also adopted the following final preferred alternative for DGN fishery monitoring:

Maintain the 30% target observer coverage level at a minimum and/or require electronic monitoring (for the purpose of catch and bycatch accounting). Remove the unobservable vessel exemption. Achieve 100% monitoring by 2018.

NMFS did not include the monitoring provisions with the hard caps proposed rule because 100% monitoring would not be required until 2018. NMFS is currently drafting the monitoring proposed rule and anticipates that, if approved, the rule to require 100% monitoring in the DGN fleet and remove the unobservable exemption would be effective by May 1, 2018. Since electronic monitoring (EM) has not been fully tested in the fishery, the rule would require on-board observers, rather than EM, on 100% of all DGN fishing trips. Unobservable vessels would have no monitoring options and may have to leave the fishery. Additionally, DGN vessel owners and operators would be responsible for all observer sea day costs. NMFS is using the Preliminary Draft EA to describe the purpose and need, and thus rationale, for impacts associated with the monitoring action.

DGN Observer Coverage Update

DGN observer coverage during the 2015/2016 fishing season (May 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016) was lower than NMFS' 30% target. Observer coverage for the season was 10.8%. Although seasonal coverage was 10.8%, observer coverage for the 2015 calendar year was 20.5%. While total fishing effort for the season was comparable to recent years, the distribution of the timing of fishing was not. Very little fishing occurred until mid-November 2016, with effort for the remainder of the season being much higher than usual. A late-season peak in effort, coinciding with low observer availability by that time, contributed to the low observer coverage. NMFS Observer Program staff worked with the observer provider to identify methods for increasing observer coverage to 30% for the 2016/2017 season, including the hiring of additional observers.

November Council Action

The Council heard Agenda Item I.5.a, Supplemental NMFS/CDFW Report from California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) and NMFS on their ongoing work to detail the elements of the Council's PPA to create a Federal limited entry permit for the California large mesh drift gillnet fishery. The Council supports the direction the agencies are taking and looks forward to taking action on a detailed proposal on a Federal permit in March 2017.

The Council tasked its HMSMT to begin working on a ROA for permitting and other aspects of authorizing a deep-set buoy gear fishery, using the HMSAS's recommendations as a starting point. The HMSMT will seek input from the HMSAS when developing the ROA. The Council expects that continued fishing under EFPs, particularly in areas outside of the Southern California Bight, will inform the development of alternatives.

The Council recognized that as it moves forward on these initiatives, it will need to consider the interplay of various gear types used to target swordfish including currently authorized gear types and the potential to authorize deep-set buoy gear and pelagic longline to target swordfish.

The Council reviewed the proposed rule to establish hard caps for the California large mesh drift gillnet fishery and determined that it is consistent with the Council's final action on this matter in September 2015. The Council supports NMFS' decision to separate the monitoring requirements component of Council action for subsequent implementation.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

C.3. Fiscal Matters

The Council approved a Provisional Council Year (CY) 2017 Operating Budget of \$4,884,362, which included hosting a meeting of the Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS) of the Council Coordination Committee in late 2017. The SCS consists of Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) chairs, members, and Council staff from the eight regional Councils who meet to discuss science issues of national interest. The Council also tasked the Executive Director with pursuing additional funding for special projects not covered by base-level funding. The Council is scheduled to adopt a final CY 2017 operational budget at its June 2017 meeting.

C.5. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

Council Chair Herb Pollard appointed Mr. Josh Churchman to the trawl catch share review ad hoc Community Advisory Board as an at-large member to represent the Non-IFQ Open-Access Sector.

C.6. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for March 7 - 13, 2017, at the Hilton Vancouver Washington, 301 W 6th Street, Vancouver, Washington. Advisory bodies will start Tuesday, March 7, and the Council session will start on Wednesday, March 8.

There are two Briefing Book deadlines for every Council meeting. The first (and main) deadline is two and a half weeks before the Council meeting. Public comments and reports that are supplied before this deadline are included in the advance Briefing Book. The second deadline, known as the supplemental deadline, is four days prior to the start of the Council meeting. Public comments and reports provided by this deadline are given to Council members on the first day of the Council meeting. Comments can be emailed, mailed, or faxed to the Council.

- ✿ This report is provided to the Central Coast Community in 2016 via a grant from the Central California Joint Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee. Any interested parties may request an email copy of future reports (as long as funding continues) by contacting Christopher Kubiak at, ckub@sbcglobal.net



Prepared December 22, 2016
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*The Power of Being First With
Innovation*

Attachment 1

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING 2017 OCEAN SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Nov. 13-21, 2016 The Council and advisory entities meet at the Hyatt Regency Orange County, Garden Grove, California, to consider any changes to methodologies used in the development of abundance projections or regulatory alternatives.
- Jan. 17-20, 2017 The Salmon Technical Team (STT) meets in Portland, Oregon to draft The Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document Review of 2016 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. This report summarizes seasons, quotas, harvest, escapement, socioeconomic statistics, achievement of management goals, and impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. (Available early February.)
- Feb. 21-24 STT meets in Portland, Oregon to complete Preseason Report I Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2017 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations. This report provides key salmon stock abundance estimates and level of precision, harvest, and escapement estimates when recent regulatory regimes are projected on 2017 abundance, and other pertinent information to aid development of management options. (Available early March.)
- Feb. 24 through Mar. 6 State and tribal agencies hold constituent meetings to review preseason abundance projections and range of probable fishery options.
- Mar. 7-14 Council and advisory entities meet at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Vancouver, Washington to adopt 2017 regulatory alternatives for public review. The Council addresses inseason action for fisheries opening prior to May 1 and adopts final alternatives for public review.
- Mar. 15-21 The STT completes Preseason Report II: Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2017 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations. (Available late March.)
- Mar. 15-31 Management agencies, tribes, and the public develop their final recommendations for the regulatory alternatives. North of Cape Falcon Forum meetings are held between the March and April Council meetings.
- Mar. 22 Council staff distributes Preseason Report II: Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2017 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations to the public. The report includes the public hearing schedule, comment instructions, alternative highlights, and tables summarizing the biological and economic impacts of the proposed management alternatives.
- Mar. 27-28 Tentative sites and dates of public hearings to review the Council's proposed regulatory options are: Westport, Washington (March 27); Coos Bay, Oregon (March 27); and Ft. Bragg, California (March 28). Comments on the alternatives will also be taken during the April Council meeting in Sacramento, California.
- Apr. 6-12 Council and advisory entities meet to adopt final regulatory measures at the DoubleTree

by Hilton in Sacramento, California. Preseason Report II: Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2017 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations, results from the public hearings, and information developed and public comment received at the Council meeting are considered during the course of the week.

- Apr. 13-21 The STT and Council staff complete Preseason Report III: Analysis of Council-Adopted Management Measures and Environmental Assessment Part 3 for 2016 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations (Available April 21). Council and NMFS staff completes required National Environmental Policy Act documents for submission.
- Apr. 21 Council staff distributes adopted ocean salmon fishing management recommendations, and Preseason Report III is available to the public. May 1 NMFS implements Federal ocean salmon fishing regulations.