



## REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

March 8 - 14, 2018 Rohnert Park, California

April 5 - 10, 2018 Portland, Oregon



### SALMON MANAGEMENT

#### ***Adoption of 2018 Ocean Salmon Management Measures***

Following review and discussion of Fishery Information and relevant conservation objectives or status determinations, the Council adopted the Stock Abundance Forecasts, Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) and Overfishing Limits (OFLs) described in Salmon Preseason Report 1 (March) as the best available science for use in 2018 Salmon Management.

The Council adopted three Alternative Sets of Management Measures for the 2018 ocean commercial, recreational, and tribal salmon fisheries. Public hearings on the Alternatives were held in Westport, Washington and Coos Bay, Oregon on March 26 and Salinas, California on March 27.

Inseason action was taken to rescind commercial fisheries south of Cape Falcon that were scheduled to begin in March and April. Recreational fisheries scheduled to begin April 7 were also rescinded in the Fort Bragg and San Francisco management areas.

The Council solicited public comments on the proposed management Alternatives in preparation for adopting final management recommendations at its April meeting. Oral and written comments on the proposed management Alternatives were presented at the public hearings and additional comment was accepted during the April Council meeting.

At last, at the April meeting the Council adopted its final recommendation for the 2018 ocean salmon fisheries. The season recommendations provide recreational and commercial opportunities for most of the Pacific Coast, and achieve conservation goals for the numerous individual west coast salmon stocks.

This year's package includes very restrictive seasons coastwide for both commercial and recreational fisheries. Low abundance of Chinook and Coho are in part due to the poor ocean conditions the adult fish faced as juveniles when they entered the ocean, as well as poor in-river habitat and water conditions.

#### ***California and Oregon South of Cape Falcon, Oregon***

Fisheries south of Cape Falcon (in northern Oregon) are limited by the need to protect Klamath River fall Chinook, and south of Point Arena (in northern California) they are also affected by the need to protect Sacramento River winter Chinook. Returns of spawning Klamath River fall Chinook are projected to be the lowest on record in 2017 due to drought, disease, poor ocean conditions, and other issues. At the same time, the Council must protect Sacramento River winter Chinook, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Because both of these fish intermix with other stocks in the ocean, fisheries targeting more abundant stocks must be constrained.

*California Commercial Fisheries*

From the California border to Humboldt South Jetty:

- May 1 - 29 or 3,600 Chinook quota
- June 1 -30 or 4,000 Chinook quota
- July 1 - 31 or 4,000 Chinook quota
- August 3 - 31 or 4,000 Chinook quota

Landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day

From Horse Mountain to Pigeon Point (Fort Bragg and San Francisco):

- July 26 - 31
- August 3 - 29
- September 1 - 30

From Point Reyes to Point San Pedro

- October 1 - 5, 8 - 12

From Pigeon Point to U.S. Mexico Border (Monterey):

- May 1 - 7
- June 19 - 30

**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT*****NMFS Report***

In addition to a list of groundfish and halibut actions that have published in 2018, NMFS provided a list of rulemakings that are currently in progress.

**Some Notable Published Rules**

1. 82 FR 55775: Widow Rockfish Reallocation in the Individual Fishing Quota Fishery – 11/24/17
2. 82 FR 60969: Notice of Fee Rate Adjustment, Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery – 12/26/17
3. 83 FR 4850: Inseason Adjustments to big skate, sablefish, and lingcod trip limits – Effective February 2, 2018 – 2/2/18

**Table 1. In Progress**

	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Timing (Tentative)</b>	<b>Sectors Affected</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Inseason Action</b>	March 2017-effective April 14, 2018	LEFG and Recreational
<b>2</b>	<b>Trawl Gear Modifications Rulemaking</b>	Proposed Rule-Fall 2018 Final Rule-Winter 2018	LE Trawl IFQ, Mothership (MS), Catcher Processor (CP)
<b>3</b>	<b>Vessel Movement Monitoring and 125 Fm lat./lon. changes</b>	Proposed rule –TBD (contingent upon available resources)	LE and OA

4	<b>Amendment 26 Blackgill Rockfish &amp; Minor Slope Rockfish South reallocation</b>	Proposed rule – TBD Final rule – TBD (contingent upon available resources)	Shorebased IFQ, LEFG, & OA
5	<b>Pacific Whiting Tribal Allocation</b>	Proposed Rule-Published January 24, 2018; Final Rule Spring 2018	
6	<b>Electronic Monitoring - Whiting &amp; Fixed Gear</b>	Proposed Rule-Published November 22, 2016 Final Rule-April 2018	LE Trawl & Fixed Gear
7	<b>Electronic Monitoring</b>	<a href="#">Proposed Rule</a> - summer 2016 Final rule - fall 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ)
8	<b>Catch Share Program Follow-on Actions</b>	Ongoing	LE Trawl
9	<b>EFH/RCA Action</b>	Ongoing	LE Trawl

**Table 2. Major Activities (Recently Completed and Ongoing)**

	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Sectors Affected</i>
1	<b>Trawl Gear EFP (2018)</b>	Begin January 1, 2018, additional open enrollment from March 14-March 31, 2018	LE Trawl (IFQ)
2	<b>2017-2018 EFP Emley/Platt</b>	2018 Renewal-January 2018	LE & OA Fixed Gear
3	<b>2017-2018 TNC et al.</b>	Ongoing	LE & OA Fixed Gear
4	<b>Trawl Cost Recovery</b>	Most recent notice with fee percentages published December 29, 2017; Fee Rate adjustment notice published December 26, 2017	LE Trawl (IFQ), MS, C/P
5	<b>Salmon ESA Section 7 Consultation for Groundfish FMP</b>	Completed December 2017; Council discussing mitigation measures during 2019-20 harvest specs & management measures	LE Trawl (IFQ), MS, C/P, Tribal, OA
6	<b>ESA Section 7 Consultation on Eulachon</b>	To be completed May, 2018	
7	<b>Seabird ESA Section 7 Consultation for Pacific Halibut Fisheries &amp; Catch Sharing Plan</b>	Biological Assessment to USF&WS Fall 2017- Bi-Op from USF&WS January 2018-Mitigation measures under development	Non-Treaty directed commercial, incidental catch in salmon troll & sablefish fishery, Treaty Indian comm & ceremonial/subsistence, recreational, IPHC survey
8	<b>MSA Scientific Research Permitting</b>	Ongoing	
9	<b>2019-2020 Harvest Specifications &amp; Management Measures</b>	Ongoing	All
10	<b>Challenge to Divestiture (Pacific Choice)</b>	Ongoing	LETrawl (IFQ), MS, C/P

***Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference***

The Council adopted for public review the following priorities for groundfish stock assessments to be conducted in the 2019 and 2021 assessment cycles.

**2019 Benchmark (Full Assessments):**

Sablefish, Cowcod, Cabezon (Oregon and California), Longnose skate, Big skate, Gopher rockfish (may be gopher and black-and yellow rockfish as a complex), and Dover sole.

**2019 Update Assessments:**

Petrale sole, Widow rockfish.

2021 Benchmark (Full Assessments):

Vermilion rockfish (may be vermilion and sunset rockfish as a complex south of Pt. Conception and as a separate area model north of Pt. Conception), Brown rockfish, Copper rockfish, Quillback rockfish, Bank rockfish, Black rockfish, and Pacific cod.

The Council also adopted the Scientific and Statistical Committee's recommendations for changes to three terms of reference (those defining the processes for conducting and reviewing stock assessments, rebuilding analyses, and new proposed methodologies) and directed Council staff to coordinate proposed changes to those documents.

The Council will take final action on 2019 stock assessment priorities, the three terms of reference, adopt a schedule of 2019 stock assessment review panels, and refine their 2021 stock assessment priorities at their June 2018 meeting.

***Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion on the Take of Listed Salmon in Groundfish Fisheries***

After hearing a presentation from NMFS on the contents of the Incidental Take Statement, the Council expressed concern with the requirement to recommend regulations to close the fishery if guideline amounts for salmon bycatch, plus a reserve amount, were exceeded in a calendar year.

The Council refined a range of alternatives (ROA) proposed by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to address elements in the Reasonable and Prudent Measures that must be implemented as part of the 2019-2020 biennial harvest specifications and management measures process. In particular, the Council addressed fishery specific guideline amounts for the whiting trawl fishery, the shoreside individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery, and other nontrawl fisheries with the intent to "hold harmless" non-trawl fisheries that generally take small amounts of salmon.

***Trawl Catch Share - Final Range of Alternatives for Follow-On Actions***

At its November 2017 meeting, the Council completed work on the five-year review of the trawl catch share program, and provided preliminary guidance on development of a range of alternatives to address actions following from the review ("Follow-on Actions"). The Council selected its initial suite of potential follow-on action topics at its June 2017 meeting.

Some of the topics are being addressed under the biennial specifications and others were assigned to the omnibus processor for prioritization. Two were assigned to other specific agenda items; gear switching and trawl sablefish area management, and, increasing quota pounds (QP) carryover amounts (part of the annual catch limit flexibility agenda item scheduled for the September 2018 Council meeting).

In March the Council moved the Range of Alternatives forward for Follow-On-Action items not assigned to: 1) Other Agenda Items, 2) Specs and Management Measures, and 3) Omnibus, as presented in [Agenda Item H.6. Attachment 1, March 2018](#), with one exception, and with one additional alternative.

The Council will select preliminary preferred alternatives for these items in September 2018.

**Table 3 Follow-on-Actions Not Otherwise Assigned (Final ROA)**

#	Follow-on-Action	Adopted Action
1	At-Sea Whiting Fishery Bycatch Needs	As Presented
3	Shorebased IFQ Accumulation Limits (Control & Vessel Limits)	<i>Only:</i> the alternatives for Daily QP Limits (Overfished Species & Halibut)
4	Shorebased IFQ Sector Harvest Complex Needs	<i>Except:</i> eliminate Suboption B of Alternative 2 ( <i>allow NMFS to sell surplus QP to those with deficits after the end of the fishing year</i> )
5	Catcher Processor Sector Accumulation Limits	As Presented
7	New Data Collections for Catcher Processors & Quota Share Owners	Purpose & Need Statements as presented in Agenda Item H.6 Attachment 1 March 2018
8*	Modify the Vessel Limit for Blackgill Rockfish <sup>1/</sup>	Analyze up to 30% increase

\* New Item

<sup>1/</sup> With respect to “Shorebased IFQ Accumulation Limits,” the Council specified an action alternative for only one species, blackgill rockfish.

### ***Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2019 - 2020 Fisheries - Final Action***

In April, the Council adopted a final preferred alternative for biennial specifications for 2019/2020 groundfish fisheries for all stocks and stock complexes except for yelloweye rockfish.

In 2017, the yelloweye rockfish assessment showed an improved forecast in the time to rebuild relative to the previous estimate from 2011, prompting the Council to consider a range of ACL alternatives for 2019-2020. Under the no action alternative, the median time to rebuild is 2027. However, Alternatives 1 and 2 would require revising the yelloweye rockfish rebuilding plan.

The Council determined to complete additional analyses and consider a change to the yelloweye rebuilding plan at the June meeting. Final harvest specifications for yelloweye rockfish will be set at the June meeting following a decision on the rebuilding plan.

### ***Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Amendment 28 - Final Action***

In November 2016, the Council considered a draft analytical document (Agenda Item F.4.a, Project Team Report, November 2016) on proposed modifications to Pacific Coast groundfish essential fish habitat conservation areas (EFHCAs), trawl rockfish conservation areas (RCAs), and proposed closure of waters deeper than 3,500 meters. The Council selected partial preliminary preferred alternatives (PPAs), and provided additional guidance on continued analysis of the alternatives. For waters off Oregon and California, the partial PPA was to remove the trawl RCA and adopt block area closures (Alternative 2.c). For waters off Washington, the partial PPA was the No Action Alternative for both EFHCAs and the trawl RCA.

In April 2018, the Council considered a Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (PDEIS) (Agenda Item F.3.a, Project Team Report 1) that describes and provides analyses of a suite of alternatives. The alternatives are grouped in three subject areas: Subject Area 1 includes EFHCA modifications, Subject Area 2 includes RCA modifications, and Subject Area 3

includes proposed closure of waters deeper than 3,500 meters to groundfish bottom contact gear.

The alternatives in each subject area are analyzed in Chapter 4 and compared to the other alternatives in the same subject area, as well as to the No Action Alternative. Chapter 5 (“Synthesis”) includes analyses of several combinations of both EFHCA and trawl RCA alternatives to assist in Council decision making.

The Council took final action to reopen the groundfish trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) in Oregon and California to bottom trawling, and to modify the current configuration of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) where groundfish bottom trawl gear is prohibited coastwide. This includes a new EFHCA prohibiting groundfish bottom trawl gear in most of the Southern California Bight. The Council also took final action to prohibit use of all groundfish bottom contact gear in waters off California deeper than 3,500 meters. The action did not affect non-trawl RCAs, the trawl RCA off Washington, the use of mid-water trawl gear within any of the trawl RCAs, nor any of the EFHCAs in the Tribal usual and accustomed fishing areas off the Washington coast.

With adoption of the Final Preferred Alternative, the Project Team will work with the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop a DEIS, to be followed by deeming and rulemaking.

#### ***Preliminary Preferred Management Measure Alternatives for 2019/2020 Fisheries***

In April, the Council selected preliminary preferred management measures, including allocations (status quo) for all 2019/2020 groundfish fisheries, for public review.

**Table 4. Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) 2019 & 2020 Allocations**

Species	Trawl %	Nontrawl %
Cowcod	40	60
Bocaccio	39	61
Big Skate	95	5
Longnose Skate	90	10
Minor Shelf Rockfish Complex North of 40°10'	60.2	39.8
Minor Shelf Rockfish Complex South of 40°10'	12.2	87.8

Additional PPA Management Measures:

- Sablefish South of 36° North Latitude; Within Nontrawl allocation of 70% Limited Entry and 30% Open Access. Both sectors are projected to harvest well below these allocations.
- Updates to Selected Rockfish Conservation Area Coordinates in California; Modify the latitude and longitude coordinates that define various rockfish conservation area (RCA) boundaries in California to better align regulatory fathom lines with their corresponding fathom isobaths.
- A 6 mt annual catch target (ACT) for cowcod, which is below the 8 mt fishery harvest guideline (HG). Although recent mortality has been a small fraction of the ACT, the 6 mt ACT would provide a hedge against uncertainty, especially given the proposed changes

to management areas that could reduce protections afforded by the Cowcod Conservation Areas.

- A 159 mt fishery harvest guideline (HG) for blackgill rockfish within the slope rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. lat. for 2019-2020, until Amendment 26 rulemaking is completed.
- Eliminate daily limits for all species. The Council and NMFS established daily vessel limits to prevent hoarding of available overfished species QPs in any one vessel account due to the low IFQ sector allocations of some overfished species. The daily limits do not appear to accomplish their intended purpose, and may incur more administrative costs to NMFS and vessel account owners rather than benefits to the fishery.
- Implement Survival Credits for Discarded Lingcod and Sablefish. IFQ QP debited based on the following Discard Mortality Rates:
 

Gear	Lingcod	Sablefish
Fixed	7%	20%
Bottom Trawl	50%	50%
- Continue the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) Pass- Through until an alternative use of AMP quota pounds is implemented.
- Allow commercial non-trawl and recreational fishing inside of 40 fathoms in the Western Cowcod Conservation Area.

PPA Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Trip Limits:

**Table 5. Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. for limited entry and open access fixed gears, with landed share and projected attainment for 2019**

Sector	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Landed Share (mt)	Projected Attain (mt)
Limited Entry	1,200 lbs./week, not to exceed 3,600 lbs. bimonthly						273	200.1 - 266.5
Open Access	300 lbs. daily, or one landing per week up to 1,100 lbs., not to exceed 2,200 lbs. bimonthly						449	384.4 - 480.5

**Table 6. Sablefish south of 36° N. lat. for limited entry and open access fixed gears, with landed share and projected attainment for 2019**

Sector	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Landed Share (mt)	Projected Attain (mt)
Limited Entry	2,000 lbs./week						788	445 - 463.8
Open Access	300 lbs. daily, or one landing per week up to 1,600 lbs., not to exceed 3,200 lbs. bimonthly						338	34.6



**Table 7. Canary Rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. for limited entry and open access fixed gears**

Sector	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
Limited Entry	300 lbs. / 2 months	CLOSED	300 lbs. / 2 months			
Open Access	150 lbs. / 2 months	CLOSED	150 lbs. 2 months			

Final Action on 2019/2020 Management Measures is scheduled for the June 2018 Council Meeting.

## HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT

### ***Deep-Set Buoy Gear Authorization - Final Range of Alternatives/Preliminary Preferred Alternative***

Since March 2016, the Council has been developing a range of alternatives to authorize a fishery using deep-set buoy gear (DSBG). At its September 2017 meeting, the Council adopted a preliminary range of alternatives.

Three alternatives are described: 1) no action, 2) an open access fishery, and 3) an open access fishery north of Point Conception and a limited entry fishery south of Point Conception. There are additional alternatives within Alternative 3 to consider the total number of limited entry permits to be issued and the method to allocate limited entry permits.

In March the Council adopted a Final Range of Alternatives/Preliminary Preferred Alternative for public review with final action on the package of management measures scheduled for March 2019.

The Final ROA and PPA are as follows:

- A. Direct the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to conduct at a minimum the following analysis:
  - a. Using available data, including historic gillnet and CPFV data, analyze the number of vessels that could operate within the So Cal Bight and the relative level of effort by fishing block. Provide these analyses to the Council at the June 2018 Council Meeting.
  - b. Using data from the existing Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) effort and historic PacFin landings and swordfish imports data from the NMFS office of science and technology estimate the impacts on price and profitability of DSBG fishing that may occur with larger numbers of DSBG permits. Provide these analyses to the Council at the June 2018 Council meeting.
  - c. Using data provided by EFPs, including EFPs issued in 2018, analyze the amount and type of bycatch and relative level of fishing effort by fishing block and report on any known gear conflicts. Provide these analyses to the Council at the March, 2019 Council meeting.
- B. Move forward with the necessary analyses to complete DSBG authorization in a timely manner so that EFP effort does not become a de-facto fishery:
  - a. During the June 2018 Council meeting, updates on analyses will be provided by the HMSMT.



- b. During the September 2018 Council Meeting the Council will receive input and advice from the advisory bodies on potential qualifying criteria and any additional updates on impact analyses as available.
- c. During the March 2018 Council meeting adopt a FPA for NEPA analysis and qualifying criteria, if needed, for a limited entry fishery.
- C. To facilitate these analyses, adopt a ROA for authorization of a Deep Set Buoy Gear fishery as proposed in the September 2017 motion and modified as noted below:
  - a. Define DSBG, for the purpose of analysis as follows:
    - i. *Possession-*
      - 1. Permits will be issued to any “Person” as defined at 50CFR §660.702.
      - 2. A person may hold multiple permits, but permits may not be stacked on a single vessel
      - 3. The permit holder will assign the permit to a specific vessel that may be changed by written request to NMFS not more than one time per calendar year unless a *force majeure* event renders the assigned vessel incapable of operation.
      - 4. The permit holder will not be required to be onboard
    - ii. *Renewal* – Permits will be valid for one fishing year and expire if not renewed. Such permits would revert to the issuing agency and, if a limited entry program is in place, would be made available for issuance
    - iii. *Transfer*
      - 1. Transfer of permits will be prohibited unless the Council determines transfer would benefit management.
    - iv. *Gear Description*
      - 1. Standard Buoy Gear (SBG) – An actively tended vertical gear configuration that is designed to target west coast highly migratory species. An individual piece of SBG consists of a vertical monofilament mainline suspended from a non-compressible float (>45 lb. flotation) and strike indicator float system that uses a minimum 3.6kg weight to expedite sink rate and facilitate strike detection. A collective gear set includes ten individual pieces of gear that can fish up to three hooks each (30 total hooks maximum; minimum size 16/0 circle hooks with not more than 10 offset) that must be positioned below 90m deep when fishing. Each piece of gear must also include a locator flag, a radar reflector and vessel/fisher identification.
      - 2. Linked Buoy Gear (LBG): An actively tended gear type in which two or more pieces of SBG may be linked together by means of a horizontal monofilament mainline; no more than three gangions/hooks are connected to this horizontal line per individual piece, not the vertical lines. Serviceable links between each LBG section are suspended at a minimum depth of 11m (36 feet) below a non-compressible float system (>45 lb. flotation) that allows for strike detection (based on SBG design standards). No more than 30 hooks (minimum size 16/0 circle hooks with not more than 10 offset) can be deployed simultaneously and all hooks must be fished below >90m. No more than 10 sections of LBG may be used at one time and the overall horizontal footprint of the gear must be less than 5nm. Terminal buoys must include a locator flag, a radar reflector, and vessel/fisher identification.

- v. *Gear Tending*
  - 1. Require that all gear be within a 5nm diameter area and that the vessel be no more than 3nm from the nearest piece of gear.
- vi. *Gear Deployment/Retrieval*
  - 1. Gear may not be deployed prior to local sunrise
  - 2. All gear must be onboard the vessel no later than 3 hrs. after local sunset
- vii. *Multiple Gears*
  - 1. Multiple gears may be used on a trip. All landings must be tagged or marked to identify gear used.
- viii. *Geographic Area*
  - 1. All federal waters offshore California and Oregon
- ix. *Fishery Timing*
  - 1. No restrictions within the existing fishing season/statistical year.
- x. *Species*
  - 1. All species may be retained and landed unless prohibited by other law or regulation
- xi. *Fishery Monitoring*
  - 1. Logbooks will be required
  - 2. All monitoring requirements in the HMS FMP will be followed
- b. The ROA for consideration under NEPA will include
  - i. Permitting
    - 1. Open Access
    - 2. Open Access west of 120° 28.18' W longitude and limited access east of 120° 28.18' W longitude
      - a. Limited Access South and east of Point Conception Alternatives  
Limited Access east of 120 28 18 W longitude
        - i. *Capacity*
          - 1. Not more than 10 permits
          - 2. Not more than 50 permits
          - 3. Not more than 150 permits
          - 4. Not more than 250 permits
        - ii. *Qualifications to obtain permits*
          - 1. The Council will determine qualifying criteria with advise from advisory bodies and the public at the time a FPA is adopted

The HMSMT was directed to consider the use of limited time and area closures in the So Cal Bight to address gear conflict and overcrowding concerns. The analysis should consider both benefits and costs.

### ***Proposed Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits***

The Council recommended NMFS use the HMSMT recommendations for approval, preliminary approval, and resubmission of DSBG EFP applications and that NMFS issue these EFPs in the order they were submitted until reaching the maximum number described in the current consultation for effects on protected resources.

In order to ensure EFP data are collected, the Council recommended that NMFS revoke any DSBG EFPs where the EFP holder has not submitted evidence of DSBG fishing effort by a specified date and issue those EFPs to [other] applicants approved by the Council.

EFP applications that were recommended for resubmission, if resubmitted, will be reviewed by the Council in June 2018. Other than those applications, the Council will revert to the Council Operating Procedures process of receiving HMS EFP applications annually in June and making final decisions in September with the exception that new DSBG EFP applications will not be reviewed until June 2019.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### ***Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures***

At its March 2018 meeting, the Council decided it would create an ad hoc committee to address issues associated with trawl allocation attainment and under harvest of southern sablefish.

The Council Chairman appointed the Ad Hoc Trawl Allocation and Southern Sablefish Attainment Committee as follows:

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Appointee</b>
<b>Council Members (Voting)</b>	
Council Chair	Phil Anderson
NMFS	Kelly Ames
Washington State Rep or Designee	Michele Culver
Oregon State Rep or Designee	Maggie Sommer
California State rep or Designee	Joanna Grebel
At-Large Council Member	Pete Hassemer
<b>Constituent Advisors (Nonvoting)</b>	
Advisor Seat 1	Bob Alverson
Advisor Seat 2	Tyler Besecker
Advisor Seat 3	Bob Dooley
Advisor Seat 4	Kevin Dunn
Advisor Seat 5	Mike Okoniewski
Advisor Seat 6	Dan Platt
Advisor Seat 7	Steve Scheiblaue

And provided the new committee with the following charge:


“Identifying obstacles to achieving the goals and objectives of the catch share plan related to under attainment of non-sablefish trawl allocations and unharvested sablefish quota pounds (QPs) south of 36 degrees. As appropriate to overcome identified obstacles, the committee will discuss and develop options, including but not limited to, actions that may modify rules for gear switching by trawl permit holders and QP leasing to vessels using fixed gear, as well as options that may encourage increased utilization of sablefish QPs south of 36 degrees.”

The new Committee is expected to meet twice between the April Council meeting and the time this issue next appears on the Council Agenda (November 2018).

### ***Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning***

The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for June 7 – 13, 2018 at the Doubletree by Hilton Spokane, Washington. The Preliminary Proposed Agenda represents the agenda expectations for the June 2018 Council meeting

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 (May 11, 2018). 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 (May 30, 2018). 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 2018 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](mailto:ckub@sbcglobal.net) 



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*The Power of Being First With*  
*Innovation*