



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Brad Pettinger, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2025

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Angela Forristall, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2025 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person for their [April meeting](#) April 11-15, 2025 at the DoubleTree by Hilton San Jose, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, CA, 95110. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet in person. The STT will meet in the San Jose room at 8 a.m. daily April 10-15. The SAS will meet in the Santa Clara room at 8 a.m. daily April 10-14. All meetings are open to the public and at least one opportunity for public comment has been scheduled for each meeting day.

The Council will consider several important salmon agenda items and related matters of interest at this meeting. The briefing book materials attached to this memorandum provide detailed information for these items on the Council's April 2025 agenda. The following agenda items summarized below may be of particular interest to the STT and SAS. Please note that the Council will continue to encourage participants to obtain briefing book materials via our website. Printed materials may not be available at the meeting.

The Council will discuss salmon agenda items nearly every day of the April meeting. Other topics of interest on the Council agenda include Pacific Halibut, Cross Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and Administrative Matters.

#### **SALMON MANAGEMENT**

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The main salmon issue before the Council will be to adopt management measures for 2025 ocean salmon fisheries (Agenda Items D.2, D.3, D.6, D.7, and D.8). In addition, the Salmon Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Scoping and Workplan (Agenda Item D.5) and first step in the Salmon Methodology Review (Agenda Item D.4) will be discussed and may warrant your attention.

The salmon agenda item will begin on Friday, April 11 (Day 1) with one topic for discussion since Agenda Item D.1 was cancelled. Under Agenda Item D.2, the Council will be briefed by the STT on any changes or new information available since the March 2025 meeting and summarize information in *Preseason Report II: Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment for 2025 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations*, which should be posted to the Council website by March 27. In addition, the SAS will propose 2025 management measures for tentative adoption. SAS representatives should

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finalize these SAS reports by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 10 so that it can be processed and posted by the Secretariat prior to close of business.

After the SAS provides their proposed 2025 management measures, the STT will collate and analyze the alternatives as directed by the Council. The STT results will be first presented under Agenda Item D.3 on Saturday, April 12. Working throughout the week the SAS, STT, and Council will refine the alternatives (Agenda Items D.6 and D.7), which are scheduled for final action on Tuesday, April 15 (Agenda Item D.8).

EFH Scoping and Workplan (Agenda Item D.5) is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 (Day 2). Under this agenda item, the Council will consider adopting the scope, objectives, and schedule to accomplish the first phase of an EFH review for salmon. The SAS will receive a briefing from Mr. Kerry Griffin (Council staff) and may provide any feedback or comments directly to Mr. Griffin and provide a written statement to the Council, as necessary.

The Salmon Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection (Agenda Item D.4) is also scheduled for Saturday, April 12 (Day 2). Under this agenda item the Council will look primarily to the STT and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to provide a preliminary list of candidate items for review in 2025. Consistent with Council Operating Procedure 15, the Council will revisit this list in September to see if any progress has been made on the candidate items and, if so, will move those items forward for review in October with the results reported to the Council in November.

## **PACIFIC HALIBUT MANAGEMENT**

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Pacific Halibut (Agenda Item F.1) will be covered on April 12 (Day 2). Under the halibut agenda item, the SAS will need to recommend landing restrictions for the 2025 troll salmon fisheries to allow for incidental halibut retention. SAS representatives should finalize this SAS report on Thursday, April 10 by 4:00 p.m. so that it can be processed and posted by the Secretariat prior to the close of business.

## **CROSS FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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The Council will discuss three items of potential interest under Cross FMP. These items are part of your briefing packet but may not be on the SAS or STT agendas. The agendas can be adjusted on the first meeting day if there is additional need for discussion.

*Research and Data Needs, Preliminary Priorities (Agenda Item C.2) on Saturday, April 12 (Day 2)*  
According to the [Magnuson-Stevens Act](#), the Council is required to review the issue of research and data needs and provide a list of the Council's priorities to support the management of U.S. west coast fisheries.

Per the framework for this review cycle, in November 2024 the Council adopted science and management challenges to guide the next steps (descriptions provided in [Agenda Item D.3, Supplemental SSC Report 1, November 2024](#)). These high-level challenges were an initial step to communicate prioritization of areas where research is needed to advance Council objectives. The SSC then conducted an exercise to identify and compile preliminary research and data need recommendations which could be pursued for potential solutions under each of these challenges (Agenda Item C.2, Scientific and Statistical Committee Report 1). This included additional outreach with Council advisory bodies where possible. The report format provides a concise and streamlined set of recommended research and data needs.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to adopt a list of preliminary research and data needs. The Council will consider the SSC preliminary recommendations, reports from advisory bodies regarding their perspectives, and any public comment. At the June 2025 meeting, the SSC will provide their final recommendations, the preliminary list could be refined, if needed, and a final research and data needs list is scheduled to be adopted by the Council.

*Socioeconomic Framework Workplan and Update (Agenda Item C.3) on Monday, April 14 (Day 4)*

Under this agenda item, the Council will receive an update on IRA Project 2, *Decision Making for Stronger Fishing Communities*. The focus of this project is to develop a decision support framework that (a) enhances the Council's ability to measure and understand the impacts of its management actions on west coast fishing communities, and (b) helps the Council identify strategies and steps it can take that improve the resilience of these communities to short- and long-term change. An RFP for a contractor to assist with the design and implementation of the project recently closed, and Council staff are now reviewing proposals and hope to identify a contractor in the coming weeks.

*Adaptive Management Workplan and Update (Agenda Item C.4) on Monday, April 14 (Day 4)*

Under this agenda item, the Council will receive an update on IRA Project 1, *Flexible and Adaptive Management*. The focus of this project is to identify and apply innovations that make review and implementation of management actions more timely, efficient, and responsive to changing conditions. A key outcome would be decision-making frameworks and/or new or revised processes that allow for more adaptive and flexible management in the face of rapidly changing conditions.

Council staff will prepare a supplemental attachment that describes some approaches to increase flexibility and responsiveness, including examples of challenges from each of the Council's FMPs that adaptive management may help to mitigate or resolve. Advisory Bodies may wish to provide input to the Council at the April meeting on management or process challenges within their respective FMPs that could benefit from further consideration as candidate topics for this project. The Council may then choose to identify priority actions or a specific FMP to focus on as it moves forward with implementing *Flexible and Adaptive Management*.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

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*Future Council Meeting Agenda & Workload Planning (Agenda Item H.4) on Tuesday, April 15 (Day Last)*

Under this agenda item the SAS and STT may submit reports relating to future meeting schedules and workload planning, as appropriate.

Please take the necessary time needed to review and familiarize yourself with briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting and be prepared for meaningful discussions on the topics outlined in this memo. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council's salmon management process.

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Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C – Cross Fishery Management Plan
3. Agenda Item D – Salmon Management
4. Agenda Item F – Pacific Halibut Management
5. Agenda Item H – Administrative Matters
6. Informational Reports
7. Proposed SAS Agenda
8. Proposed STT Agenda
9. Hotel information and Council Roster

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03/26/25