



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:ID 14-033

Agenda Date 10/6/2014

Agenda Number:E

John Henderschedt, Acting Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Committees and Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME:
4 hours

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review tasking and committees and provide direction.

BACKGROUND

Committees and Tasking

Attached is the list of Council committees, the three meeting outlook, an updated work plan for implementing the programmatic groundfish management policy, and an updated project and staff workload table. The Council may wish to discuss priorities for completing ongoing projects, as well as any new tasks assigned during the course of this meeting.

In addition, the Council may wish to review the list of committees and discuss whether or not some committees have completed their mission and could be potentially disbanded (e.g., the Golden King Crab Arbitration Workgroup, the Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee, and the Non-Target Species Committee). A summary of the status of these committees is provided below.

Golden King Crab Arbitration Workgroup - In the crab rationalization program, the arbitration system, which is used to settle disputes between harvesters and processors over prices for crab deliveries to holders of individual processing quota (IPQ). As a part of the arbitration program, an arbitrator annually produces a report that includes a formula defining an ex vessel price that would preserve the historical division of first wholesale revenues, while considering a variety of other factors in the fisheries. In the golden king crab fisheries, participants have disputed the price formula each year, with either harvesters or processors dissatisfied with the annual formula. To address this issue, the Council created a workgroup of representatives from the harvest and processing sectors to attempt to resolve disputes concerning the formula. The workgroup met 6 times in 2012, but could not reach an agreement on price formulation. In October, the workgroup gave a report to the Council, and the Council noted that although the parties did not reach agreement concerning the formula, the difference in the positions of the two sides is slight and that the parties should be capable of resolving the dispute without further Council oversight.

Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee - In December 2005, the two days of testimony from more than 150 members of the public, the Council elected to reexamine its preferred alternative for managing the charter halibut fishery. Instead of proceeding with its April 2001 preferred alternative to implement a quota share (QS) program based on past participation, the Council appointed a stakeholder committee to examine other possible management options prior to any further action. The committee was tasked with reviewing proposed

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management options, and others that may be proposed through the committee process, to develop alternatives for an effort-based transferable seat program, and alternatives that would allocate a percentage of halibut harvests to the charter sector, but manage the fishery under more traditional management tools. This committee completed its task and last reported to the Council in 2007 with the recommendation to proceed with development of a catch share program and other measures. Since that time, the Council has relied on the Halibut Charter Implementation Committee to provide recommendations on keeping the catch within the allocations of the catch sharing plan, evaluating the CATCH proposal, and other management recommendations.

Non-Target Species Committee - In July 2003, the Council appointed a non-target species committee to examine management issues relative to all species not directly targeted, primarily to address concerns raised about the use of complexes for sharks and skates, but also discuss the incidental catches of rockfish, mackerel, and other species. The committee met several times with the non-target workgroup (of scientists) to scope the issue, and provided reports back to the Council as they developed alternatives for addressing the workgroups concerns. The Committee last met in March 2010 to make a final recommendation on an alternative for meeting the ACL requirements relative to stocks that were in the fishery, specifically concerning squids, skates, sculpins, sharks, octopuses, and forage fishes. Specifically, the preferred Alternative would 1) manage GOA squids, GOA and BSAI sculpins, GOA and BSAI sharks, and GOA and BSAI octopuses under group catch limits; 2) manage prohibited species and forage fishes (with no change to their regulations) under the EC category, and 3) moving non-specified species out of the FMP. This was adopted by the Council to amend the groundfish plans. The only other non-target issue that remained was grenadier management, which was subsequently addressed by the Council.