

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA & WORKLOAD PLANNING

General Comments on Remote Meetings

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) understands that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) may need to consider remote sessions for the Groundfish advisory bodies at the September and November 2025 meetings due to budget constraints ([Agenda Item C.3, Supplemental Attachment 2](#)). If this is the case, the GMT:

- Generally, prefers to work during the weekdays (*i.e.*, not on weekends) during remote meetings, as not all Team members are allowed to go into the office over the weekend and may not be able to work from home. The team discussed that this preference may be on a case-by-case basis, depending on the Council's agenda and GMT report deadlines (as noted below for November 2025).
- Requests that we meet at least two full days in advance of the GMT's currently scheduled start time (*i.e.*, GMT start dates of September 17 and November 12).
- Asks the Council to consider temporally spacing agenda items where Council action has sequential impacts (*e.g.*, separate G.3 Adopt Stock Assessments and G.7 Preliminary Harvest Specifications and Management Measures 2027-28 by a full day - Sunday/Tuesday).
- Requests a webinar or series of webinars that are GMT-only, in addition to joint webinars with the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP). Remote Council work is difficult, and the team will need as much time as possible prior to our report deadlines to have team discussion and frontload work.

In the case of a series of webinars, the most beneficial arrangement may be sequential, with the first being an informational webinar (potentially joint with the GAP) and the second being a webinar where the team starts to form recommendations and begin report writing. While joint GMT/GAP webinars are a valuable aspect of coordination between advisory bodies, large (30+ participant) webinars often become unwieldy and are not conducive to efficient synthesis of complex agenda items (*e.g.* Phase 2 FPA). As the GMT has mentioned previously, remote meetings help the Council's budget but shift the resource burden to our respective agencies.

September 2025

Specific to September (assuming it is virtual), the GMT would like to meet Wednesday September 17 through Friday September 19, subsequently have Saturday and Sunday off, then resume meeting on Monday, with the final GMT day as Tuesday September 23. As noted above, remote meetings complicate sharing and reaching common understanding around complex topics. Many stock assessments will be discussed at the September Council meeting, and if advisory bodies are remote, as currently planned, there will be no in-person opportunities to better understand assessment results and assumptions. These opportunities are helpful for understanding the science by which management is informed. It would be worthwhile for Council staff to consider ways for advisory bodies and Council to have additional time to address questions they may have about assessments.

October 2025 GMT Meeting

Assuming the GMT is remote for the September 2025 meeting, the GMT requests to meet in person in Portland, Oregon, for the October 2025 meeting. This would allow the GMT to meet in-person at a much lower cost and would facilitate more effective and efficient frontloading of analysis for the 2027-28 harvest specifications and management measures action. However, if the Council can only allow in-person attendance at either the October 2025 GMT meeting or the November Council 2025 meeting, the GMT would prefer remaining in-person at the November 2025 Council meeting. If attending in-person at the October 2025 meeting is possible, the GMT also requests that Council staff explore opportunities for GAP participation (in-person, hybrid, or remote).

November 2025

The GMT feels strongly that November should remain an in-person meeting, especially if we are remote for both the September 2025 Council meeting and October 2025 GMT meeting. If the November meeting is remote, the team would prefer to start at least two days before the GMT meeting start date on Friday, November 14. Additionally, if the remote agenda stays as-is, the team would prefer to work over the weekend due to report deadlines. The GMT feels that the structure of the draft November agenda necessitates the GMT working over the full weekend to effectively meet report deadlines, recognizing that weekend work presents complications for some members due to agency policies.

January 2026 GMT Overwinter Meeting

During harvest specification years (i.e., January of even years), the GMT overwinter meeting is especially critical to meet in person and should be preserved as an in-person meeting.

Additional Meetings

Members of the GMT will also be participating in a number of ancillary meetings and work sessions outside of Council meetings over the next several months, both as members of the GMT and as part of their other duties. Many of those meetings are part of the 2025 stock assessment cycle. A non-comprehensive list is found in Table 1.

Table 1. Non-comprehensive meetings and workshops the GMT expects to participate in outside of Council meetings in 2025 in chronological order, along with expected GMT responsibilities.

| Host | Meeting Purpose | Date(s) | Location | GMT Responsibilities |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|----------------|--|
| SSC | Chilipepper Rockfish & California Quillback STAR Panel | June 23-27 | Santa Cruz, CA | Serve as management advisors |
| | Sablefish & Rougheye/Blackspotted STAR Panel | July 14-18 | Seattle, WA | Serve as management advisors |
| | Economic Subcommittee Meeting: Trawl Catch Share Program Review | August/Sept. 2025 | Virtual | Serve as management advisors |
| | Groundfish Subcommittee Meeting: Stock Assessment/Rebuilding Review and Prepare Harvest Specifications | Aug. 12-13 | Virtual or TBD | Provide catch assumptions and assist as needed; serve as management advisors |
| | Groundfish Subcommittee Meeting: Prepare Harvest Specifications | September 18 | Spokane, WA | Serve as management advisors |
| | Groundfish Supplemental Review (as needed) | Sept. 29 - Oct. 3 | TBD | Serve as management advisors |
| PSMFC ^{a/} | Fall FIN/Groundfish Workgroup Meeting | Fall | Virtual | Work with PacFIN on data user issues or improvements |
| | PacFIN Annual Meeting | Fall | TBD | Work with PacFIN on data user issues or improvements |
| | RecFIN Fall Meeting | Oct. 14-16 | Monterey, CA | Work with RecFIN on data user issues or improvements |
| IPHC ^{b/} | Interim Meeting | Nov. 24-25 | Virtual | Participate as part of other job duties |

^{a/} Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

^{b/} International Pacific Halibut Commission

PFMC
06/15/25