Why is Fisheries management so hard?
An industry perspective on the challenges before us?

Brad Pettinger, Pacific Fisheries Management Council
An industry perspective on West Coast Groundfish or How I stopped worrying and learned to love Stock Synthesis!

Brad Pettinger
Commercial Fisherman
COMMERCER SECRETARY DALEY ANNOUNCES WEST COAST GROUNDFISH FISHERY FAILURE

West Coast groundfish fishermen, who face a steep drop in their harvest this year, are a step closer to getting federal relief with Commerce Secretary determination today of a commercial fishery failure for their industry.

The official determination comes after a sharp decline in catches of groundfish—principally a wide variety of rockfishes—from California to Washington.

"Our challenge now is to minimize economic and social impacts on fishing communities while protecting and rebuilding groundfish stocks," Secretary Daley said. "This determination is the first step in the process ............"
Further down in the press release, there was this:

"A major underlying cause for the current situation is the lack of basic scientific data about these fish," said Penny Dalton, NOAA Fisheries director.

"If money is made available, we would like to work with fishermen to gather more data and improve our understanding of this valuable fishery."
2023 West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl Survey
Cornerstone, long-term time series for 90+ species and California Current Ecosystem.

- 24th year in time series

Full-four vessel Survey:
- Two passes, two chartered vessels each, from Cape Flattery to US-Mexico border.
2023 Southern California Rockfish Hook and Line Survey

- Southern CA Bight
- 19th year in time series
- Ongoing partnership: NWFSC, PSMFC, and sportfishing industry
- 3 chartered sportfishing vessels
- Sept. 17 - Oct. 6, 2023
Rebuilding Plans in Place
Fleet Reduction (Buyback)
Improved Science
Spatial Closures (RCA/EFH)
Rationalization of Trawl Fishery Began
Innovation on Gear Selectivity
1999 Year Class Recruitment
The West Coast groundfish fishery has received its “sustainable” certification from the international Marine Stewardship Council.

Summer 2014

The West Coast groundfish fishery has received its “sustainable” certification from the International Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The MSC credited NOAA Fisheries 2011 shift to catch share management for reducing bycatch and rebuilding critical stocks as a primary reason in the certification.

The MSC, which promotes and certifies sustainable fisheries, called the West Coast groundfish fishery “the most diverse, complex fishery ever to enter assessment against the MSC standard anywhere in the world.” The sustainable designation is expected to open important new markets for the roughly $560 million West Coast groundfish fishery that spans the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts.

“The catch share program got us over many of the hurdles on our way toward gaining MSC certification,” said Brad Pettinger, director of the Oregon Trawl Commission, which sought the certification. “We have renewed our social contract with America’s seafood consumers by demonstrating conclusively that we can manage and harvest these species in a sustainable fashion.”
Future is Bright
• GF Stocks are in great shape
• Biology of GF is advantageous
• Catch shares are inherently precautionary
• Long time series in trawl survey
• Technology advancing rapidly
• The relationship between science and industry is good, but can even be better
Storm clouds in the distance

• Our fisheries depend on sound science
• Danger of Complacency
• Funding won’t get easier
• Agencies need to count the cost
PFMC, 1 of 8 regional management Councils

Comprised of NMFS, 4 States and the Tribes

14 Voting Members, 5 Non-Voting members

5 Fishery Management Plans

5 APs, 4 MTs, SSC, EC, HC & 12 additional Committees (over 170 unique individuals)
5 weeklong meetings a year
March & April are Salmon heavy
GF Assessments/Specs alternate each year
Respectful venue, public’s input encouraged
Most open and Transparent Public Process
# Proposed Pacific Council Meeting Agenda, March 5-11, 2024 Fresno, California

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronyms</th>
<th>Wed, March 6</th>
<th>Thu, March 7</th>
<th>Fri, March 8</th>
<th>Sat, March 9</th>
<th>Sun, March 10</th>
<th>Mon, March 11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EAS/GMT: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel/Work Group</td>
<td>Discuss Litigation &amp; Personnel Matters (1 hr)</td>
<td>1-4. Opening Remarks, Roll Call, Approve Agenda, Executive Director’s Report (30 min)</td>
<td>2. Marine Planning (2 hr)</td>
<td>D. SALMON 7. Further Direction for 2024 Mgmt Alternatives (30 min)</td>
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<td>10. Appoint Salmon Hearings Officers (15 min)</td>
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<td>EC: Enforcement Consultants</td>
<td>B. OPEN COMMENT</td>
<td>5. Identification of 2024 Management Alternatives</td>
<td>C. ADMINISTRATIVE</td>
<td>G. ECOSYSTEM</td>
<td>F. GROUNDFISH</td>
<td>D. ADMINISTRATIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPA: Final Preferred Alternative</td>
<td>1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items (30 min)</td>
<td>6. Salmon 2024 Mgt. Alternative Analysis Recommendations (1 hr)</td>
<td>2. ONMS Coral Restoration &amp; Research - ROA, PPA (2 hr)</td>
<td>1. California Current Annual Ecosystem Status Report (1 hr)</td>
<td>6. Stock Definitions for Species w/ up coming Assessments - ROA, PPA (2 hr)</td>
<td>4. Legislative Matters (30 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAP/GMT: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel</td>
<td>C. ADMINISTRATIVE</td>
<td>3. Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4 - Progress Review (1 hr)</td>
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<td>2. Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4 - Progress Review (1 hr)</td>
<td>7. Trawl Cost Recovery Annual Report (1 hr 30 min)</td>
<td>5. Approve Mtg. Record (15 min)</td>
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<td>HMC: Habitat Committee</td>
<td>4. Climate and Communities Initiative (2 hr)</td>
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<td>8. 2025-26 Fisheries Update (1 hr 30 min)</td>
<td>6. Membership Appointments &amp; Council Operating Procedures (30 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMA: Highly Migratory Species</td>
<td>4. Initial stock Assessment Plan and TOR (1 hr 30 min)</td>
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<td>5. Initial stock Assessment Plan and TOR (1 hr 30 min)</td>
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<td>9. Workshop and New Management Measure Priorities (1 hr 30 min)</td>
<td>7. Future Council Meeting Agenda &amp; Workload Planning (2 hr)</td>
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<td>HMAS/GMT: HMC Advisory Subpanel/Technical Team</td>
<td>5. Consideration of Additional Quibble Back Analyses (1 hr 30 min)</td>
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<td>8. Salmon-Sablefish Gear Switching - PPA (5 hr) (Continued on Sun)</td>
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<td>SSC: Scientific and Statistical Committee</td>
<td>E. HABITAT</td>
<td>F. GROUNDFISH</td>
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<td>TDR: Terms of Reference</td>
<td>1. Habitat Issues (1 hr)</td>
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<td>3. Habitat Issues (1 hr)</td>
<td>4. Habitat Issues (1 hr)</td>
<td>5. Habitat Issues (1 hr)</td>
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<td><strong>AB Meetings in Advance</strong></td>
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<td>2 pm EC</td>
<td>6 pm Chair’s Reception</td>
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Time estimates are approximate & agenda items may be cancelled or rescheduled. Council and Advisory Body schedules are tentative and are not reliable for planning at this stage. All listed in bold are proposed as in-person sessions. See the Council website for more details.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 6-11, 2024</td>
<td>Fresno, CA</td>
<td>PFMC Report: Final Approval for 2024-2025, Mgmt. Measures 2024-2025 - Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15-17, 2024</td>
<td>Costa Mesa, CA</td>
<td>PFMC Report: Final Stock Assessment Plan &amp; Terms of Reference Stock Definitions for Species Assessed in 2022 &amp; 2023, RPA, LE FSG Follow On - FPA</td>
</tr>
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**CPS**

- Groundfish: Inseason Management Workload & New Mgmt. Measures Priorities Final Cost Recovery Reg
- Workload & New Mgmt. Measures Priorities Final Cost Recovery Reg
- Initial Stock Assessment Plan & Terms of Reference
- Final Stock Assessment Plan & Terms of Reference
- FG Marking & Entanglement Risk Reduction - FPA
- Rabbitfish Gear Switching - FPA

**HMS**

- Roadmap Workshop - Check in
- HMS Roadmap Workshop - Update
- EIOPs - PreLims - Preliminary Recommendations
- HMS Roadmap Workshop - Report
- EIOPs - Full Meeting

**Salmon**

- Approve Salmon Review (SAFEE), Forecast, SCC, & ACLs
- Appoint Salmon Hearings Officers 2023 Season Setting (8)
- SRFG Workgroup Progress Rpt.
- Gear Dem Removal Update
- 2024 Method Rev - Identify Topics
- Season Setting (4)
- Queues Rebuilding Plan - Progress Rpt
- Queues Rebuilding Plan - Progress Rpt
- Queues Rebuilding Plan - ROA/PPA

**Ecosystem**

- 2019-2024 California Current Ecosystem Status Report & Science Review
- FEP Initiative 4 - Progress Review
- GEC - Review and Priorities Taskforce
- GEC - Review and Priorities Taskforce

**Pacific Walrus**

- IPHC Meeting Report
- Preliminary Salmon Trawl Final Salmon incidental Regulations
- Final Salmon Trawl Final Salmon Incidental Regulations
- 2025 Catch Sharing Plan & Regs - Prelim.

**Other**

- Routine Admin (10)
- Habitat Issues
- NMS - Coral Restoration & Research Plan - ROA/PPA
- Habitat Issues
- Coral Restoration Discussion Report of the ONMS
- Coral Restoration Discussion Report of the ONMS
- Report of the ONMS
- USCG Annual Report Regional Resilience Determination Procedure Handbook
- Regional Resilience Determination Procedure Handbook

**Approximate Floor Time**

- 5.6 days
- 5.6 days
- 8.6 days
- 4.6 days
- 4 days
Turnover
Staff Turnover - Council
Staff Turnover
-Council
-State & NMFS
Staff Turnover
-Council
-State & NMFS
-Fishing Industry
Stock Assessments
-Copper Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Copper Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Quillback Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Copper Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Quillback Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Canary Rockfish Assessment 2023
- Copper Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Quillback Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Canary Rockfish Assessment 2023
- Black Rockfish Assessment 2023
- Copper Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Quillback Rockfish Assessment 2021
- Canary Rockfish Assessment 2023
- Black Rockfish Assessment 2023
- Shortspine Thornyhead 2023
All models are wrong; Some are useful - G.E.P Box

Models are abstractions of reality
NOAA Fisheries announces overfished determination for quillback rockfish (Sebastes maliger) off California

NOAA Fisheries has determined that quillback rockfish off California is overfished. This determination is based on the 2021 stock assessment of California quillback rockfish that was prioritized by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and conducted using the best scientific data available. The agency is notifying the Council of this status so the Council and NOAA Fisheries can develop a rebuilding plan to return the stock to a healthy population size. This is the first time in over 10 years that a Pacific Coast groundfish stock has been declared overfished.

Under the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA), when a stock is determined to be overfished, the Council, with NOAA Fisheries, is required to prepare and implement a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment, also referred to as a rebuilding plan. The rebuilding plan guides the rebuilding of the stock to a healthy and sustainable level in as short a time as possible, and has proven to be an effective strategy to achieve long-term sustainable fishing. According to the MSA the Council has 15 months to prepare and submit the rebuilding plan to NOAA Fisheries, who must ensure it can be implemented within 2 years of the determination of the overfished condition of the stock. The rebuilding plan may require a reduction in fishing, but the Council and NOAA Fisheries are considering ways to offset those reductions such as opening areas that are currently closed to fishing for certain low-impact gear types.

We will work closely with the fishing industry to reduce mortality of quillback rockfish and help collect information that will improve the management response and future stock assessments.
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Thank You!