



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:ID 14-037

Agenda Date12/8/2014

Agenda Number:E1

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Committees and Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME:
4 hours

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review tasking and committees and provide direction.

BACKGROUND

Attached is the list of Council committees, the three meeting outlook, an updated work plan for implementing the programmatic groundfish management policy, an updated project and staff workload table, and an updated table of projects associated with the Observer Program. 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 October, the Council reviewed the committee list, and eliminated several that had completed their tasks. In addition, the Council discussed the appointment process for a new committee (Halibut Charter RQE workgroup), and the potential for a standing Protected Species Committee that would be able to advise the Council on protected species issues as they arise.

To date, when the Council has faced an issue concerning protected species that required the input of stakeholders or user-groups, the Council has created a single-issue specific committee (e.g., RPA committee, the SSL Mitigation committee, the Northern fur seal committee). These committees worked well for single issues, but are not formulated to deal with other issues, either specific or general. A Protected Species Committee could be a useful forum to provide advice to the Council for a range of issues such as the recent takes of short-tailed albatross, critical habitat designations (e.g., ringed seal, Steller sea lion, Pacific walrus), and petitions for listing (e.g., pinto abalone). When specific input is needed on a larger issue, such as the Steller sea lion protection measures, a working group of the committee could be formed to provide that review and input. Upcoming issues that could be addressed by a protected species committee include the status reviews of north Pacific humpback whales (Central Pacific and total north Pacific), and pinto abalone, and critical habitat designations for Steller sea lions and ringed seals.

Appointments to the AP, SSC, and Pacific Northwest Industry Advisory Group will be announced at the end of the Council meeting.