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May 28, 2024

Mr. Brad Pettinger, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

RE: Agenda Item B1: Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Dear Chair Pettinger and Council Members,

The Nature Conservancy wishes to express our appreciation for the continued time and attention that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is paying to ecosystem issues and preparing fisheries for climate change. This work is critical for ensuring sustainable fisheries and coastal communities for generations to come.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has continued to work with the Initiative 4: Ecosystem and Climate Information Workshop Steering Committee (Steering Committee) to identify workshop dates, location, facilitators, and develop an agenda. Based upon this feedback, TNC has decided to host one workshop on Climate Ready Fisheries. The event will offer participants an opportunity to learn about and reflect on the Council's work to develop risk tables for connecting ecosystem and climate science to the Council's harvest-setting process, explore opportunities to expand risk tables, and discuss other tools and approaches. The Steering Committee has identified October 16-17, 2024 as the best possible dates for hosting the workshop. These dates do not conflict with other known events occurring in September and October and will facilitate Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, and stakeholder participation.

The draft agenda attached provides an outline of the workshop objectives and projected outcomes. The draft agenda as described is subject to change, based on continued Steering Committee discussions and other input.

We welcome the Council's participation in this workshop and will share a more detailed agenda prior to the September Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Jena Carter
Oregon Coast and Marine Director
The Nature Conservancy

DRAFT AGENDA

CLIMATE RESILIENT FISHERY MANAGEMENT:

A RISK TABLE RETROSPECTIVE AND THE ROUTE FORWARD

Date: October 16-17, 2024

Location: Portland, OR

Hosted by The Nature Conservancy

Recognizing that increasing climate variability and changing ocean conditions will affect West Coast fisheries and communities, the Pacific Fishery Management Council began Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4. The primary objective of Initiative 4 is to build climate resilient fisheries by developing clear pathways for connecting ecosystem and climate science into the Council's harvest-setting and fisheries management process. At this Workshop, we will seek to bring together scientists, managers, and stakeholders to review the risk table classification approach adopted by the Pacific Council and make recommendations on next steps for connecting ecosystem and climate science into management.

The Workshop objectives are to:

1. Contrast and compare the risk table approach between the Pacific Council and other regions,
2. Identify other climate and ecosystem information that can be additive to the risk table approach,
3. Pinpoint opportunities for using on-the-water observations in risk tables and management,
4. Consider tools besides risk tables to incorporate climate and ecosystem information into Council decision-making, and
5. Examine which methods may better align with data-moderate or data-limited stocks, species and stocks with a given life-history, or stocks managed by complex.

Informed by knowledge sharing, engaging discussions, and constructive brainstorming, the Workshop will produce a report that provides the Council and NMFS with: 1) a comparison of risk table application in different regions, best practices and lessons learned, 2) a review of readily-available and valuable climate and ecosystem information, including on-the-water observations, which may inform risk tables or other tools, 3) a suite of recommendations concerning additional tools for incorporating climate and ecosystem science into management, including those used in other regions, and 4) a review of which methods align with data-moderate or data limited stocks, stocks with a given life-history, or stocks managed by complex.