

## October 2022 assessment of Council agenda projects and staffing requirements

NMFS priorities from B reports  
 1) keeping fishing operational and preventing overfishing (inseason mgmt, monitoring programs, specs, halibut mgmt measures), legal mandates (eg rebuilding, FOIA, litigation), emergency rules  
 2) work on FMP and reg amendments, with priority on conservation, legal considerations, Council priorities, and proximity to mandatory deadlines. Rulemaking for final actions higher priority than input on analyses making way through Council process.  
 If it's not a conservation issue and only affects a small number of participants, likely lower priority

**Staff guidance for Council staff tasking discussion**  
 1. For NMFS must do items, business as usual re setting priorities at staff tasking/ planning in 3 meeting outlook  
 2. For lower priority items:  
 - we can continue to be fairly transparent with timing for Council staff-only items  
 - caution needed re setting timing for new/batter's box actions that will require rulemaking. Don't want to have to redo analysis with new information if sits too long without rulemaking.  
 - unlikely to schedule actions where NMFS early input is critical (eg those with regulatory or implementation nuances)  
 3. At this meeting, looking for sense of Council priorities with respect to big picture themes as well as specific projects  
 4. Set expectation that 3-meeting outlook may be more variable than last few years, as we try to capitalize on windows to move projects

		Project	Date	Comments?
<b>NMFS higher priorities</b>	<b>Support for ongoing Council projects</b>	Specs - groundfish, crab, scallop, halibut	various	
		Snow crab rebuilding (legal mandate) Cook Inlet salmon (litigation-driven)	Dec-Feb	NOTE don't have Council motion on this yet, but signalled intent in B reports
		RKCSA emergency rule request	Dec	
	<b>Council has completed, NMFS is doing rulemaking</b>	EM Trawl monitoring rulemaking	final in Oct 2022	
		Halibut ABM	final in Dec 2021	
		BSAI Pcod trawl CV coop (PCTC)	final in Oct 2021	
		IFQ omnibus	final in June 2022	
		EDR adjustments	final in Feb 2022	
	<b>Other Council-related items taking NMFS time</b>	ongoing inseason management, monitoring programs support, tribal engagement and consultations FOIAs - ABM Rulemaking for NMFS monitoring/reporting adjustments		
<b>NMFS lower priorities - final actions</b>	<b>Council has completed, rulemaking not yet started</b>	CGOA rockfish adjustments	final in June 2022	
		Small boat cod RQE fee collection	final in Oct 2022 final in April 2022	
<b>NMFS lowest priorities - actions underway</b>  CAVEAT: always better to work w SF staff	<b>Analyses that don't require rulemaking</b>	BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce work	Oct - Feb - ?	continued AFSC involvement critical, but not AKR
		BS FEP LKTKS Taskforce work	April	continued AFSC involvement critical, but not AKR
		EFH amendments from 5 year review	Feb-Jun?-Oct?	Summary report in Feb will likely lead to FMP amendments (needs some AKR staff work but not as intensive as rulemaking)
		A80 program review	batter's box	likely can do inhouse if need be
		GOA Pcod sector allocation review	batter's box	likely can do inhouse if need be
		Crab ratz program review	batter's box	likely can do inhouse, but industry may be looking for some changes which would involve NMFS down the line
	IFQ program review	batter's box	likely can do inhouse if need be, however NMFS has a list of administrative issues they wanted to fold in which would be lost	
	PSEIS Supplemental Info Report	batter's box	likely can compile much information inhouse, review and decision needed subsequently by NMFS/ GC	

	Project	Date	Comments?
<b>Analyses that Council staff can complete but which will require rulemaking</b>	Greenland turbot in longline pots (possibly)	Oct-Feb? Apr?	Will move slower as some lead staff turnover, but already have M&E input
	Universal data collection	Oct-?	AKFIN, with Council staff support and consultation with RAM
	Chum salmon bycatch	Dec-?	Unknown if anything further will be tasked, but likely can go forward without AKR. May need AFSC genetics input.
	Area 4 vessel use cap (permanent)	batter's box	Likely can do inhouse if need be- will need RAM/OLE input
	Crab C shares recent participation	batter's box	Mostly needs RAM input, otherwise can largely do inhouse
<b>Analyses that need NMFS input before final action</b>	AIGKC start date and facility use caps	was Dec but suggest changing	Start date aspect requires collaborative thought w/ NMFS and ADF&G. Facility use cap a little more straightforward.
	CSP revised allocation	batter's box	Pending possible Congressional action, will require active AKR and ADF&G participation
	Small sablefish release	batter's box	Considerable effort to come up with DMRs for sablefish. However, staff may have other ideas how to address root problem
	Pot gear regulation consistency	batter's box	NMFS-led effort, does not involve Council staff