
E STAFF TASKING

DIANA EVANS, FEBRUARY 2022



COMPONENTS OF PRESENTATION

1. Ecosystem Committee report
 - January 2022 meeting did not address topics on this agenda
2. Staff paper: reflections on the Council process and ideas for change
 - Requested by Council in December 2021
3. Staff tasking memo, looking ahead to April (normal)



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT (1/3)

- **Marine Debris** (pp.1-2)
 - Committee recommends that the Council lend its platform as a venue to facilitate increased awareness and understanding of the marine debris efforts throughout the State, and support NOAA's development of a Marine Debris Action Plan for Alaska
 - Committee also recommends that the science questions of marine debris be considered by the SSC in the Council's research prioritization process, to better understand the role and risks of plastics in ecosystem health and human health
- **Northern Fur Seals** (p.2)
 - Committee commends NMFS and St Paul on the improved co-management partnership that is demonstrated both in the joint presentation as well as their ongoing process for revising the Conservation Plan



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT (2/3)

- **EFH 5-year review model development** (pp.2-3)
 - Committee valued the presentations, acknowledges the hard work and volume of new information developed by NMFS and the advances in EFH modeling, and appreciates the opportunity to provide interim input
- **Forage species review** (pp.3-4)
 - Committee recommends that the Council support the Plan Team organizing a public forage species workshop
 - Committee recommends that the Plan Team expand participation by inviting the involvement of affected users, especially those reliant on the nearshore for subsistence and traditional harvest
 - Committee supports the SSC's intent for the Council to track squid catch levels and evaluate management as part of the ecosystem component, but recommends that this topic not be included as part of the workshop



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT (3/3)

- **Planning for second Council ecosystem workshop (p.4)**
 - Committee concurs with the subgroup's rationale to postpone holding a Council ecosystem workshop in 2022.
 - Subject to Council approval, the Committee tasks the subgroup to consider ideas for reframing the workshop and revised timing, and prepare a proposal for Committee review in May / Council discussion in June 2022
- **Role/objectives of Ecosystem Committee (pp.4-6)**
 - Committee agrees on two roles for the Committee:
 1. As with any Council committee, there are specific Council agenda items which the Council tasks to the Committee for intentional review or development
 2. Also a role for the Committee to provide a broad, ecosystem-focused perspective on issues on the horizon but which the Council is not actively engaged with



STAFF PAPER: REFLECTIONS ON COUNCIL PROCESS AND IDEAS FOR CHANGE (1/5)

- Requested by Council in December 2021
- Identifies 14 ideas for Council process change, relating to:
 - Council meeting schedule/agenda timing, and
 - Council advisory bodies
- These are NOT staff recommendations; just ideas that have surfaced. Looking for public input and discussion.
- Council will decide whether to initiate deeper dive for a future meeting.



FRAMEWORK FOR AP INPUT (2/5)

- Early stage; brainstorming ideas.
 - Are there other ideas that might be included as the Council considers potential changes to the process?
 - Are there things missing from the staff summary of these different ideas, if they go forward? Eg, some underlying assumptions that should be clarified, or additional perspectives included?
- Note that if the Council reviews and wants to explore ideas further, there will be future opportunities for the AP to weigh in once ideas are more fully explored. Iterative process.



IDEAS THAT PARTICULARLY AFFECT THE AP: MEETING SCHEDULE / AGENDA (3/5)

Changes to meeting cycle (ideas #1-3)

1. Reduce the number of annual Council meetings from 5 to 4, and drop the February meeting
2. Create a schedule that makes 1-2 meetings per year virtual, and the remaining meetings in person
3. Consider issue-specific meetings, whether as virtual or in-person

Reduce redundancy in virtual meetings

8. Consider ways to avoid duplicate staff presentations and public testimony, especially during virtual meetings
 - Particularly between the AP and Council



IDEAS THAT PARTICULARLY AFFECT THE AP: COUNCIL ADVISORY BODIES (4/5)

9. Changes to the nomination/reappointment process for the AP – timing, qualifications, term length

- Move AP nomination process earlier (deadline mid October)?
- Change AP membership criteria?
- Change term length? Initial appointment always single year?

10. Reconsider the size and/or composition of the AP

- Geographic representation fixed in Council SOPP



IDEAS THAT PARTICULARLY AFFECT THE AP: COUNCIL ADVISORY BODIES (5/5)

11. Clarify the purpose of the AP, and consider operational changes to agenda, voting

- Council SOPP language indicates primary function of AP is to provide operational input. Practice of AP is to also recommend policy choices.
- Suggestion for Council to clarify purpose and set expectations
- Based on purpose, ideas for changes to AP operations
 - Continue to review final actions?
 - Continue to review agenda items that have undergone specialist committee review?
 - Continue to use motions and voting?



STAFF TASKING MEMO: COMMITTEES / UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Meetings currently anticipated:
 - **Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC)** – March 2, 2022
 - **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – March 3, 2022
 - **Scallop Plan Team** – February 16, 2022
 - **Ecosystem Committee** – March 28th, 2022
 - **BSFEP Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF)** – March 15-17, 2022
 - **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – May 16-20, 2022
 - **Trawl EM Committee** – May 2022 (TBD)
 - **Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)** – May 2022 (TBD)
 - **Ecosystem Committee** – May 25, 2022 (T)



TASKING AND SCHEDULING

- Normal tasking documents posted
 - Action memo
 - 3 meeting-outlook
 - Council staff - who does what
 - *(no groundfish workplan because triennial review instead)*



APRIL 2022 DRAFT AGENDA

Preliminary April 2022 *IN-PERSON* agenda posted for your review

- AP scheduled April 5-8th (Tu-F), Council April 7-11th (Th-M)
- Fairly light for AP and Council (several additional SSC-only items)
 - **Recurring April items:** Scallop PT reports
 - **Final Actions:** IFQ omnibus amendments, RQE funding (T)
 - **Other:**
 - BBRKC boundaries discussion paper
 - BS FEP team and taskforce reports, ACLIM update, Ecosystem Committee
 - Council-only: Executive Session, cooperative reports, agency reports from NIOSH, EFH non-fishing consultations, seabird bycatch working group



APRIL 2022 MEETING EXPECTATIONS

- Council will make final decision on the in-person component end Feb/early March, and notify members re planning travel
 - *If virtual: AP will still be April 5-8, Council dates will be April 11-15*
- In-person Council meeting at Hilton in Anchorage, AK
 - **Remote accessibility options:** broadcast SSC/AP meetings, remote testimony, remote presenter capability. AP/Council members must attend in person to participate.
 - **COVID accommodations as needed:** larger meeting space; will follow local and CDC guidance for masking/vaccination requirements



PUBLIC COMMENT

- Seven written comments submitted, posted on eAgenda
 - Requests for several Council actions affecting different fisheries
 - Request for emergency action regarding IFQ transfer flexibility and vessel caps
 - *Note, there are specific criteria for an action to qualify for emergency regulations. The AP does not debate whether actions meet these “emergency” criteria.*



QUESTIONS?

Council analytical staff experts also available for questions

Feedback always appreciated. Email me or npfmc.admin@noaa.gov

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