



E Staff Tasking

April 2023 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: David Witherell, Diana Evans

Action Required:

1. Review Committees and Plan Teams
2. Review revised Council SOPP
3. Review Council staff's revised approach and timing for program and allocation reviews
4. Provide clarification on the BSAI Crab C shares analysis for June
5. Provide direction on tasking priorities and scheduling

BACKGROUND

Committees and Plan Teams

Membership

Posted on the eAgenda is the updated Council committee list reflecting changes since February 2023. The Council called for nominations for new members for the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, and the Chair may announce appointments during this agenda item.

Meetings this week

While the **Ecosystem Committee** met during the April meeting, they are still in the process of developing their recommendations on the Programmatic EIS. The Committee's recommendations in full will be scheduled for the Council at a future meeting. Staff are available for questions as needed.

The **Finance/Executive Committee** also met during the April meeting, to discuss Council finances, updates to the Council's Standard Operating Policies and Procedures (SOPP), and internal administrative matters. A short report will be provided during staff tasking by the Council Chair, and the draft revised SOPP will be posted to the Council's eAgenda following the Committee's meeting. The Council may wish to formally adopt the revised SOPP at this meeting.

Status of future advisory group meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings are currently anticipated between April and June:

- **BSAI Crab Plan Team meeting** – May 15-19, 2023, hybrid/Juneau, AK
- **Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)** – May 10-11, 2023, hybrid/Anchorage, AK
- **Council Coordination Committee (CCC)** – May 23-25, 2023, Key West, FL

Tasking and Scheduling

Posted on the eAgenda are updated versions of tasking documents for background material: the 3-meeting outlook, Council staff responsibilities, and the groundfish workplan.

Council program reviews

In February, we noted our intent to report back with timing for completing several program reviews that are required under MSA. Please find attached a staff discussion paper clarifying our intent for allocation reviews in future, namely to combine program and allocation reviews where possible, and to present a short AKFIN report of approved dashboard metrics for the remainder. **Unless the Council indicates to the contrary, we will adopt this approach, and the timetable outlined in Table 2 of the discussion paper.**

For program reviews, please note that the Amendment 80 review is on track for October 2023. For the IFQ program review, we intend to present a workplan in June, and provide the complete review in early 2024. We may also schedule a workplan agenda item for the BSAI Crab program review later this year or early 2024, but we do not expect the review itself to be ready until late in 2024 at the earliest. AFA and CGOA rockfish are currently scheduled for 2024, and we will review staffing for those later this year.

Draft June 2023 agenda

A preliminary June 2023 agenda is posted to the eAgenda for your review. **We currently anticipate this meeting will be shorter than average.** Please note that this preliminary draft is for the purpose of discussion and feedback, and it will be revised after this meeting. We are providing some additional information on some of the items scheduled for June, to set expectations appropriately:

- **Crab C shares:** An initial review analysis to modify the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Rationalization Program (CR Program) active participation requirements for captains and crew holding crew quota (C shares) is scheduled for June 2023. In an attached memo, **staff are requesting clarification at the April meeting on the Council's focus for its purpose and need;** specifically, if the need continues to exist and if the need is still focused on years identified for COVID-19 challenges (i.e., 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22) or if the need has shifted to other factors (e.g., low catch limits). Secondly, this memo raises the issue that the proposed action cannot be implemented as expressed in the alternative set. More information is presented in the attached memo.
- **Small sablefish staff update:** In June 2023, the Council will receive a staff paper intended to assist the Council in evaluating how to prioritize preparation of a second initial review analysis of the Council's current alternatives for small sablefish release, given the required workload and changing conditions since the Council originally initiated this analysis. This update paper is expected to include a description of new information since the Council last reviewed the analysis in February 2021, including: the information from the Knuckey analysis, potential effects of the action on sablefish ABC and quota assessment, and considerations of different monitoring requirements. Additionally, this update will include a description of the workload and resources required to adequately address outstanding SSC recommendations and how this additional information may address the Council's stated purpose for the action.

Public Comment

Written public comments that have been submitted to the Council are available on the eAgenda.