



E Staff Tasking

February 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Diana Evans
Action Required: 1. Review Committees
2. Provide direction on tasking and scheduling

BACKGROUND

Committees

Attached is the updated Council committee list reflecting Council changes in December 2018.

In the December 2018 newsletter, the Council issued a call for nominations for two of its committees. The Council issued a call for nominations for a processor representative to the **Cook Inlet Salmon Committee**, which is tasked primarily with review of issues related to management of the commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery. The Council also announced a call for an additional representative from Area 2C to join the **Charter Halibut Management Committee**, which was established to develop recommended management alternatives for the charter halibut fishery in Areas 2C and 3A. The Council Chair will announce appointments at the end of the meeting.

Committee and Plan Team meetings that are currently anticipated between February and April 2019 include:

- Scallop Plan Team, February 20, Kodiak, AK
- ~~Salmon bycatch genetics workshop, February 28-March 1, AFSC, Seattle, WA~~ (postponed)
- Trawl EM Committee meeting, March 4-5, Seattle, WA (tentative) and teleconference
- (2) Cook Inlet Salmon Committee meetings – March 6 and April 1st or 2nd, Anchorage, AK
- Community Engagement Committee – March 20, Anchorage, AK
- Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, April 1st or 2nd, Anchorage, AK
- IFQ Committee meeting, April 1st or 2nd, Anchorage, AK
- Ecosystem Committee meeting, April 1st or 2nd, Anchorage, AK
- Enforcement Committee meeting, April 2, Anchorage, AK

The salmon bycatch genetics workshop has been postponed to April or May (further discussion below). The Trawl EM Committee meeting is listed as tentatively occurring in Seattle, as the meeting will be held by teleconference only if NMFS staff are unable to attend. One purpose of the meeting is to help industry stakeholders develop EFP applications for cooperative research to occur in the summer of 2019. These EFP applications cannot be processed unless NMFS regional office and AFSC staff are at work.

Tasking and Scheduling

Also attached are various tasking documents. The Council may wish to discuss priorities for completing ongoing projects, as well as any new tasks assigned during the course of this meeting.

- Three-meeting outlook (**reflects changes resulting from partial government shutdown**)
- Council staff responsibilities
- Status of Observer Program projects
- Status of IFQ projects – note, this table has not changed since the December Council meeting

The Groundfish Workplan is also not attached to the staff tasking agenda item, as the Council has already reviewed that document under agenda item D5.

Scheduling changes resulting from the partial government shutdown

The Council's scheduling for the next several meetings has been affected by the government shutdown, as described in the Executive Director's report. The attached three meeting outlook provides a preliminary indication of how we have adjusted the Council's schedule; there may be further changes resulting from ongoing discussions.

Items moved from February to April

First, we have rescheduled several agenda items for April that were postponed from February. These include: 1) the Observer Fee Adjustment initial review analysis, including review of the analysis by the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, 2) the Economic Data Report discussion paper, 3) SSC review of marine mammal conservation status and the Economic SAFE reports, 4) various agency reports, including a report from the AFSC on survey deployment, and an annual report from NMFS on cost recovery, and 5) the Ecosystem Committee.

We have also added agenda items to allow the Council to finalize their preliminary final determinations on fixed gear rockfish retention, the IFQ transfer provisions, and if we have not yet addressed it by teleconference, harvest specifications for the Norton Sound red king crab fishery.

We have published the Federal Register notice for the April meeting, out of concern for a new potential government shutdown beginning in mid-February that could interfere with our ability to properly notice the meeting and thus take final action on agenda items during the April Council meeting.

Items moved from April to June

Given that the April agenda was already quite full, we have decided to move some items off the April agenda, both to accommodate the Council's scheduled meeting time and also due to concern about receiving sufficient input from Federal staff on analytical products.

We have decided to postpone the salmon bycatch workshop that was scheduled to occur at the end of February, and be reported on in April. Given this highly sensitive topic, we want to ensure that AFSC staff who are critical to the success of the workshop are prepared to participate effectively. The meeting will be rescheduled for April or May, and we will plan to provide the workshop report in June. That being the case, it makes sense to move all of the salmon bycatch agenda items to be heard together in June. This includes the salmon genetics reports provided by the AFSC, and the presentation on the pollock IPA reports (noting that the reports themselves are still due on April 1st).

We are also considering postponing the Bering Sea FEP report from April to June. The FEP team was originally targeting March for a Team meeting, but Team members are largely Federal employees returning from furlough, and we have not yet determined whether we can hold a meeting date in March as originally anticipated.

Finally, we have moved the non-guided halibut rental boat registration initial review analysis to June. It had been tentatively scheduled for review in April, but requires considerable analytical input from NMFS to determine the viability of a Federal registration mechanism.

Other changes to the April and June agendas may be required pending assessment of the impacts of the government shutdown.

Public comment

The public comment letters submitted for your review and consideration are linked to the agenda.