

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SSC/AP LEADERSHIP REPORT

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*March 14, 2022 Meeting
Discussion of Staff Paper from Feb 2022:
Reflections on the Council Process and
Ideas for Change*



STAFF PAPER: REFLECTIONS ON COUNCIL PROCESS AND IDEAS FOR CHANGE

- Reviewed by Council in February 2022
- Council tasked their Executive Committee and SSC and AP leadership to review the paper and provide recommendations
 - Held public meeting in March; report posted
- Intent is to review once more with SSC, AP, and Council at April meeting, and receive public input
- Council will then direct staff whether to initiate deeper dive on any of these ideas for a future meeting.



COMMITTEE PRIORITIZED 5 IDEAS

- Staff paper identifies 14 ideas for Council process change, (in no particular order), relating to:
 - Council meeting schedule/agenda timing, and
 - Council advisory bodies
- Ideas in staff paper are independent of accessibility and engagement changes already being implemented by Council, and would be considered in that framework
- **Recommendation: initially prioritize 5 ideas for further exploration**

Committee commented on all 14 ideas in their report



COMMITTEE PRIORITIES: IDEA 5

5. Reevaluate the timing of the crab and groundfish harvest specifications, in light of fishery needs and stock prioritization

- Difficulties with crab specs and opening fisheries on October 15
- SSC and AFSC author concerns with groundfish timing
- BUT timing factors very complex – need broad internal review

Committee:

- Hopeful that prioritizing this issue will also help address SSC workload (idea 13)
- Any changes should maintain robust quality of scientific info in the specifications process



COMMITTEE PRIORITIES: IDEAS 1 AND 2

- 1. Reduce the number of annual Council meetings from 5 to 4, and drop the February meeting**
 - Dec to Feb shortest time for work between meetings (holiday leave)

Committee:

- Consider impacts on recurring February issues (especially for SSC), overlapping meeting dates incl PFMC, and when to schedule a meeting in the Pacific Northwest
 - Consider tradeoffs of 4-meeting schedule with meeting length
- 2. Create a schedule that makes 1-2 meetings per year virtual, and the remaining meetings in person**
 - Cost savings for public and Council; equal access

Committee:

- Perhaps not scheduled if also do Idea 1; explore which agenda items lend themselves well to virtual vs in-person



COMMITTEE PRIORITIES: IDEAS 9 AND 12

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? Term length?

Committee:

- Benefits of more time for Council to consider candidates
- Examine tradeoffs of a 1-year vs 3-year initial appointment, mentorship

12. Changes to the nomination/reappointment process for the SSC – timing, recruitment, soliciting SSC input.

- Move SSC nomination process earlier (deadline mid October)?
- Consider SSC recruitment process, process for getting SSC input

Committee:

- Evaluate timing factors for when SSC members know about interest in reappointment and who will be Chair, as inputs to communicating on what expertise is needed
- Recruitment ideas from other Councils?



COUNCIL ACTION

- Looking for Council to provide input on which, if any, ideas merit a deeper exploration by staff
- SSC and AP received this presentation; may provide further comments in their minutes
 - Council may want to defer any action to Staff Tasking

