

Council Committees Overview

[Membership for each committee listed here.](#)

Advisory Group	Purpose?	Intended duration of advisory group	Terms of Reference (TOR)?	Meets how often?	NOTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES					
Executive/ Finance Committee	Review and provide direction on finance and internal administrative matters for the Council, including but not limited to annual budgets, grant proposals, SOPPs, etc. The Executive Committee also conducts the Executive Director's performance review.	Indefinite	None; some functions described in the SOPP	1-2x/ year	
Legislative Committee	Review proposed national legislation affecting fishery management and develop NPFMC comments with respect to proposed bills or topic areas	Indefinite	None	Variable depending on Congressional interests	
Council Coordination Committee	Provide opportunity for Council Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Executive Directors to meet with NMFS leadership on issues of mutual interest, and provide formal recommendations to NMFS as a Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)-exempt committee.	Indefinite	No Council TOR, but a national TOR has now been established	2x/year	REMOVE? No longer needs to be a NPFMC Committee (was set up that way to comply with FACA prior to 2007 MSA reauthorization)
Joint Protocol Committee w/ Board of Fish	Review analyses, proposals, and any other matters of mutual concern with respect to the annual management cycle for groundfish and shellfish, in order to provide recommendations to the joint NPFMC and Board of Fish with goal of achieving coordinated, compatible, and sustainable management of fisheries off Alaska.	Indefinite	Joint Protocol with the State of Alaska, revised 12/09	~1x/year, when needed	Required under the Joint Protocol agreement
Crab Interim Action Committee	Provide oversight of the FMP and provide for consultation to the Secretary of Commerce preseason or inseason management decision appeals, and other preseason and inseason decisions that fall outside of the Council's normal schedule for reviewing the FMP.	Indefinite	BSAI Crab FMP , chapter 2	Hardly ever since 1995	Required under the BSAI Crab FMP

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STATUTORY ADVISORY BODIES					
Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)	Assist in the development, collection, evaluation, and peer review of such statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information as is relevant to the Council's development and amendment of any of its fishery management plans. The SSC will provide the peer review process for scientific information used to advise the Council about the conservation and management of the fisheries.	Indefinite	SSC handbook	Concurrent with Council	Required under MSA
Advisory Panel (AP)	Provide information and recommendations on, and assist in the development of, fishery management plans and amendments to such plans. Provide comprehensive advice on how various fishery management alternatives will affect the industry and local economies, on potential conflicts between user groups of a given fishery resource or area, and on the extent to which the US will utilize resources managed by the Council's fishery management plans.	Indefinite	AP handbook	Concurrent with Council	Required under MSA
OTHER COMMITTEES					
Charter Halibut Management Committee	Provide annual advice on management measures (e.g., bag limits and size restrictions) that are expected to keep the charter halibut sector within its catch limit, and other actions related to the sector	Indefinite	TOR – last revised 10/23	2x/ year	
Community Engagement Committee	Identify and recommend strategies for the Council to provide effective community engagement with rural and Alaska Native communities, including tools and processes to facilitate improved communication.	Indefinite	TOR – last revised 12/18	Inactive since 2019	Council may want to discuss whether Committee is still needed
Ecosystem Committee	Regularly provides review on Fishery Ecosystem Plans, EFH/habitat/coral issues, Northern fur seals, programmatic evaluation; sometimes receives reports on status of ecosystem science, the groundfish workplan, Arctic issues, pollutants, marine debris.	Indefinite	3-year workplan in 4/19 report	2-3x/ year	Create TOR? Or at least, Council may want to consider updating statement of purpose
Enforcement Committee	Review proposed plans, regulations, or other management actions for enforceability, compliance, and measures that could affect safety at sea, as early as possible in the development process.	Indefinite	TOR – last revised 6/16	~3x/ year	Committee leadership wants to update TOR to allow public comment during the meeting

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Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)	Provide Council with recommendations about fishery monitoring in all Council- managed groundfish and halibut fisheries. Provide a balanced perspective so that changes seemingly affecting only one sector will not have unintended consequences to other aspects of the program.	Indefinite	Strategic doc prepared for Council in 10/19	1x/ year	No TOR, but purpose and membership described
IFQ Committee	The Committee brings together members who represent the diverse characteristics of QS holders in the IFQ fisheries, including new and historical participants, regulatory areas, and the processing sector. The purpose has varied with different Chairs, but has included review and prioritization of new IFQ proposals, topics to address in IFQ Program Reviews, and review of IFQ analyses as directed by the Council.	Indefinite	No TOR	~1x/ year	Create TOR? Note, IFQ committee discussion in 9/23 concluded a TOR is unnecessary
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC)	Established by BSAI Crab FMP as a special means of access for nonresidents of Alaska to the BS/AI king and Tanner crab regulatory process (Alaska Board of Fisheries (BoF)). Provides advice on preseason and in-season management measures for BSAI King and Tanner crab fisheries, and advice to the Council on other areas of crab fishery management.	Indefinite	TOR – last revised 9/03	1x/ year	TOR may benefit from review? Required under the BSAI Crab FMP for input to BoF
Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)	Subset of FMAC, provides Council with recommendations specific to partial coverage fees and deployment, including allocating funds between EM and observer days. Provide recommendations on partial coverage program design changes. Once initiated and initially analyzed, ensure that these get some vetting with full FMAC.	Indefinite	Strategic doc prepared for Council in 10/19	1-2x/ year	No TOR, but purpose and membership described in relation to FMAC
Salmon Bycatch Committee	Address Council-related issues on salmon bycatch and research, specifically to review 1) Nov 2022 staff discussion paper, 2) findings of the State of Alaska's Bycatch Task Force, 3) current information and research on cause of declines.	Limited duration to achieve specific tasks	TOR approved by Council 12/22 (begins p.4)	unknown	REMOVE? Tasks assigned by Council are complete
Trawl Electronic Monitoring (EM) Committee	Develop a workable design for trawl EM as an alternative to an observer onboard, which distinguishes data flow and timeliness, relative responsibilities of vessels, providers, reviewers, and agency, to allow implementation.	Limited duration to achieve specific tasks	Strategic doc prepared for Council in 10/19	1 more meeting	Will be dissolved once Trawl EM regulations are final (should be by end of 2024)

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PLAN TEAMS and TASKFORCES					
BSAI and GOA Groundfish, BSAI Crab, Scallop Plan Teams <i>(stock assessment review Plan Teams)</i>	Review stock assessment information and assist in the preparation of the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) documents including recommendations on annual Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) levels for groundfish, crab, and scallop species under jurisdiction of the Council.	Indefinite	Plan Team handbook – last revised 12/23	1-3x/ year, depending on team	
Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (BS FEP) Team	Provide strategic support for the Council's goals and objectives for EBFM, as described in the BS FEP, including monitoring ecosystem status, managing FEP action modules, and science-management communications	Indefinite	TOR – last revised 6/19	Paused until Council provides new direction	Awaiting Council direction, esp. regarding priority for developing new BS action modules now climate, LKTKS modules are completing.
BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF)	Facilitate Council's work toward climate-ready fisheries management outlined in BS FEP action module, by coordinating review of existing climate information, assessing key climate change impacts, and summarizing potential risks and adaptation actions.	Limited duration (3-5 years) to achieve specific tasks	Climate Action Module Workplan	2-3x/year	REMOVE AT END OF 2024 after June workshop and final CCTF wrapup report in Dec, as tasks assigned by Council will be complete?
BS FEP Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Information (LKTKS) Taskforce	As outlined in BS FEP action module, develop protocols for using LK and TK in management and to understand the impacts of Council decisions on subsistence resources, users, and practices, and a roadmap for operationalizing LK and TK	Limited duration (2-3 years) to achieve specific tasks	LKTKS Workplan	2-3x/year	REMOVE? Tasks assigned by Council complete
Social Science Planning Team (SSPT)	Improve the quality and application of social science data that informs management decision-making and program evaluation (including LAPP review requirements) by identifying data needs, research priorities, and analytical tools.	Indefinite	TOR – last revised 12/18	No upcoming meetings scheduled	Team has identified tasks, but staff capacity is limited to help coordinate their development. Council direction could help prioritize.