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# NPFMC MEETING CYCLE ADJUSTMENT OPTIONS

JUNE 2023



# BACKGROUND

- Significant changes in recent years re remote accessibility of C meetings (broadcasting AP/SSC, remote testimony at all)
- 2022 Council effort to consider whether there are other opportunities to improve Council operations
- **Remaining prioritized issue:** reduce number of meetings from 5 to 4 (drop February), or make one meeting/year virtual
- Impetus?
  - Workload: insufficient time between Dec and Feb for staff to produce analytical work for a full Feb agenda
  - Budget: faced with increasing operational and meeting costs, Council can save \$ by dropping (\$140,000) or making virtual (\$80,000) one mtg/yr



# PRIMARY ISSUE FOR COUNCIL

- Time-sensitive: staff needs to secure an Oregon venue for 2025 (February or other)
  
- Options discussed in paper:
  1. Drop the February meeting entirely
  2. Convert the Feb meeting to a virtual meeting
    - V1: SSC meets in person in Feb, AP/Council meet virtually
    - V2: Limit Dec meeting to specs only, with SSC in person and AP/C virtual; keep the Feb meeting as a full meeting



# DECEMBER/FEBRUARY OPTIONS

- **Drop Feb meeting**
  - Re standard Feb agenda items, would need to prioritize earlier timing of NSRKC assessment, and reschedule SSC workshop
  - Concern re longer remaining meetings. Address through Council prioritization?
- **Make Feb virtual for SSC/AP/C**
  - Provides cost savings but doesn't address staff workload
  - Will need to plan agenda items that best lend themselves to virtual (but already doing that re which items Council can take up in Pacific Northwest)
- **Possible to implement as pilot, or alternating years**
  - Note ~2-year lead time for hotel/meeting venue contracts if in-person



# DECEMBER/FEBRUARY OPTIONS

## Variations with SSC in-person and AP/C virtual (and vice-versa):

- Note, SSC and AP have preference for all groups in person or all virtual
- **V1: Make Feb in person for SSC and virtual for AP/C**
  - Additional flex re meeting location/workshop planning for SSC
  - **Also make another meeting virtual for SSC and in person for AP/C?**
  - Provides full cost savings to Council of going virtual; parity for SSC members re number of in-person meetings
- **V2: Limit Dec to gfish specs and charter halibut only; in person for SSC and virtual for AP/C**
  - Limits SSC workload in Dec to specs only; Feb is a full meeting
  - Doesn't address all workload concerns, but mitigates for non-specs staff



# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: SHIFT TIMING OF OTHER MEETINGS?

- If we drop February, should we also consider changing the timing of the April and June meetings?
  - Move April back to last week of February
  - Move June back to start 2 weeks before Memorial Day
  - Adjustment may be needed to regularly scheduled Council agenda items
    - April: salmon genetics, scallop; June: AIGKC specs, Observer Annual Report



# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: PACIFIC NORTHWEST MEETING

- Council has held the Feb meeting in Pacific Northwest for many years; any change to Feb requires us to reschedule when we meet in PNW
- **Are there factors in addition to cost and accessibility that we should take into account re when, where, and how often to hold a meeting in the Pacific Northwest?**
  - Any pros/cons of April, June, October, or December in PNW?
  - Meeting locations downtown (Portland, Seattle) vs elsewhere
    - Closer to fishing community (eg Newport) vs closer to airport?
  - Is Council still committed to meeting every year in PNW (vs e.g. 2 out of 3)?
    - Council sometimes chooses not to schedule agenda items in PNW if of significant interest to Alaska stakeholders



# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: ALASKA COASTAL COMMUNITIES

- Council generally holds June meeting in coastal AK community with sufficient internet bandwidth for hybrid meetings/remote participation, hotel accommodation, and meeting space
- Increasing difficulty with availability of hotel accommodations for June meeting, largely due to AK tourism
- **How weigh June in AK coastal communities vs cost and accessibility concerns**
  - Kodiak still appears accessible
  - Can consider other meetings for AK coastal venues (Apr, Oct)
  - Look for additional venues for June (PNW?)
- **Variation: should we consider occasionally having only Council meet in-person, and SSC/AP virtual, to allow Council to meet in smaller communities?**





# RECAP - COUNCIL ACTION

- Are you interested in either dropping the February meeting or converting it to a virtual meeting?
  - We need to book an Oregon venue for 2025 asap
- Other input for staff regarding the importance of factors that we consider in selecting the timing and location of meeting venues
  - If drop Feb, also consider changing April/June timing?
  - When/where/how often should we hold the Pacific Northwest meeting?
  - Tradeoffs re cost/accessibility of meeting in busy Alaska communities in June
  - Any interest in occasionally having only Council meet in-person in smaller communities that may not be able to support all SSC/AP/C meetings

