

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
Dec 3-5, 2025

D2 EFH 5-Year Review

The AP appreciates the opportunity to review the 2028 EFH 5-Year Review Plan and recommends the Council endorse the following prioritized components.

Component 1: EFH descriptions and identification

Component 2: Fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH

Component 6: Conservation and enhancement of EFH

Component 7: Changes to the availability of major prey species for Council-managed species

Component 10: Review and revision of EFH components of FMPs

The AP recommends that the Council consider the SSC's review of the 2028 EFH 5-year Review Plan in February 2026 to include broad input on the scope of work beyond just Component 1 and 2.

Motion passes 19-0

Rationale in Support of Motion

- *The AP Recognizes and appreciates the experts efforts in determining prioritized components for the 2028 EFH Review.*
- *The scope is limited to 5 of 10 components and focuses on a subset of commercially important species; the reduced scope is understandable given current staffing and resource limitations.*
- *The scope and therefore workplan is pragmatic and robust in expected outputs, despite limitations.*
- *North Pacific ecosystem changes due to climate change make a strong EFH review critical.*
- *Cumulative impacts, non-MSA fishing effects, non-fishing effects, and research needs are not prioritized this cycle. Some aspects of these components will still be addressed through other processes and annual reports, though less comprehensively.*
- *SSC review will ensure scientific standards and robust methodology. The SSC is currently scheduled to review only Components 1 and 2 in February but for transparency it would be helpful to understand whether the SSC will review the remaining prioritized components and when.*
- *Component 8 (HAPC process initiation) was not included in the motion because the Council can initiate HAPC identification at any time.*
- *Expanding EFH Review scope, even the inclusion of Component 8, would require additional resources; other components should be included as a priority if resources increase.*