



E Staff Tasking

December 2024 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: David Witherell, Diana Evans

- Action Required:
1. Review Committees, Plan Teams, and upcoming meetings
 2. Provide direction on tasking priorities, scheduling

BACKGROUND

Committees and Plan Teams Membership and Upcoming Meetings

Membership

Posted on the eAgenda is the updated Council committee list reflecting changes since October 2024.

As reflected in the ED report, the Council has received [nominations](#) for **2025 Advisory Panel and SSC members**. In addition, the Council has received nominations for 2025-2026 **PNCIAC** members, and has yet to appoint observer representatives to the **FMAC and PCFMAC**. The Council may decide whether to make these appointments during this agenda item.

Note that the **IFQ Committee** was scheduled to develop a draft Terms of Reference during their December meeting. The Committee report was presented during agenda item D5; if the Council did not address it under that agenda item, you may wish to consider here whether to approve the Terms of Reference.

Status of future advisory group meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings are currently anticipated:

Advisory Group	Dates and location	Draft agenda topics (<i>may change</i>)
BSAI Crab Plan Team Modeling Workshop	January 14-16, 2025 Anchorage, AK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for constructing model-based indices of survey data • GMACS coding updates, model developments, and simulations
Scallop Plan Team	March 4, 2025 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on fishery performance, research, assessment model development

Note also that there will be an [AFSC Pollock Workshop](#) on January 14-16, 2025, at the AFSC in Seattle. The scope of the workshop is to discuss walleye pollock of all life history stages, in all large marine ecosystems in Alaska with a particular focus on biology and ecology. The goals of the workshop are to synthesize ongoing research on pollock, build new collaborations and strengthen existing ones among participants, and highlight topics which need more attention or could be revisited with new data or tools.

Recreational Fisheries Roundtable

NMFS hosted a recreational fisheries roundtable at the beginning of this Council meeting. If you are interested to receive a short update on the discussions at the meeting, Council staff Sarah Marrinan can provide a summary.

TASKING AND SCHEDULING

Posted on the eAgenda is an updated version of the 3-meeting outlook. The eAgenda also includes updated versions of the Council staff responsibilities, and the groundfish workplan, as background.

February 2025 Special Meeting – Egan Center, Anchorage, AK

The Council will take up 2 issues in February at a special meeting: the chum salmon bycatch analysis, and harvest specifications for Cook Inlet Salmon (scheduled for the SSC and Council only, not the Advisory Panel). The draft agenda is posted to the eAgenda. Because this is designed to be an issue-specific rather than a normal Council meeting, the Council will not take up the full complement of B reports and staff tasking agenda items; those agenda items will be resumed in full at the April Council meeting. We are planning to get the chum bycatch analysis out by December 20th, in order to provide a lengthy time for the public to review the document in advance of the February meeting.

In October, members of the public highlighted that there will be an overlap between the discussion of chum salmon analysis at the AP during the February Council meeting, and the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB), meeting in midtown Anchorage. We have been speaking with the FSB staff, and it looks like the FSB will plan to take a break on Thursday morning, February 6th. We will ensure that the AP public testimony opportunity remains available on Thursday morning to accommodate those persons who are participating at the FSB but also want to testify to the AP. There should not be a FSB conflict with chum salmon testimony opportunities at the Council.

Update on planned chum salmon engagement activities

In addition to engagement efforts reported on during the Executive Director's report, staff are continuing to coordinate salmon bycatch and outreach engagement activities for next year. As a reminder, the Council expressed interest at its October meeting in committing Council members' and staff time to participating in the following Regional Subsistence Advisory Council (RACs) meetings in 2025:

- Eastern Interior RAC meeting on February 19 and 20, 2025 in Fairbanks
- Western Interior RAC meeting on February 25 and 26, 2025 in McGrath
- Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta RAC on March 4 and 5, 2025 in Bethel
- Kodiak-Aleutian RAC on March 6 and 7, 2025 (virtual)

Staff contacted the respective RAC coordinators. **The Eastern Interior, Western Interior, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and Kodiak/Aleutian RAC are interested in outreach and engagement at their Winter 2025 meetings.** The Bristol Bay and Seward Peninsula RACs also expressed interest in outreach and engagement but their dates are not feasible for staff and Council members to participate because the Bristol Bay RAC overlaps the Eastern Interior RAC, and the Seward Peninsula RAC is scheduled during the Council's April 2025 meeting.

The RAC Chairs and coordinators are working to schedule their meetings to provide ample time for the staff presentation and subsequent discussion, as well as scheduling the salmon bycatch item as time certain to facilitate greater public engagement. The Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon-Delta RAC Chairs may be interested in evening activities in the communities where the meeting is held, although the general format and nature of these activities are uncertain at this time. Recall the Council's October recommendation was for staff and Council members to be available virtually in the Kodiak/Aleutian RAC meeting and thus additional evening activities are not being considered.

Staff will continue to work with the RAC coordinators and begin coordinating Council members' participation and availability with the Chair and Executive Director in December, consistent with prior outreach and engagement activities.

Future meetings

April 2025 Council meeting – Egan Center, Anchorage, AK

A preliminary draft of the April 2025 meeting agenda is posted to the eAgenda. Due to meeting space restrictions¹, the Council's April meeting will end on Monday, April 7th. A discussion of the Council's expectations for the Programmatic Evaluation agenda item was included in the D1 agenda discussions. Note that normally, we would have scheduled the 3-year groundfish management policy review for early 2025, but this will be subsumed into the Programmatic Evaluation.

June 2025 Council meeting – Newport, OR

In June, the Council will meet in Newport, Oregon. Because the travel logistics for getting to Newport are a little more complicated than for other meetings, we will be sharing details for June planning in February, and asking our members to make their arrangements well in advance. Please note that we will likely have the AP meet from Monday through Thursday in June, rather than the usual Tuesday through Friday.

Public Comment

Written public comments that have been submitted to the Council are available on the eAgenda.

¹ The Anchorage Hilton Hotel, where the Council usually meets, is currently undergoing renovations, and the Egan Center space is not available on Tuesday, April 8th.