



E Staff Tasking

October 2025 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Diana Evans

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

BACKGROUND

Committees and Plan Teams Membership and Upcoming Meetings

Membership

Posted on the eAgenda is the updated Council committee list reflecting changes since June 2025. In April, the Council adopted a new [Terms of Reference](#) for a reconstituted **Ecosystem Committee**, and the Council's call for nominations ended over the summer, in July. The Council Chair may decide whether to make Ecosystem Committee appointments during this agenda item.

Note also that there is an open [call for nominations](#) for **2026 Advisory Panel members**, accepting nominations through October 31, 2024. The Council will discuss AP appointments at the December 2025 Council meeting.

Finally, the Council may wish to approve the Draft Terms of Reference for the **Executive/Finance Committee**, as identified in the B1 Executive Director's report.

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>)
Charter Halibut Management Committee	October 23, 2025 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive final 2024 harvest estimates / preliminary harvest estimates for 2025• Recommend charter management measures for analysis
BSAI Crab Plan Team	November 6, 2025 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSRKC specifications• AIGKC proposed model runs• Maturity data flow• Update on Council's Harvest Control Rule work
Joint BSAI/GOA Groundfish Plan Teams	Nov 10, 12-14, 2025 Seattle, WA and virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs)• Stock assessment review and final specifications for groundfish
Charter Halibut Management Committee	December 3, 2025 Anchorage, AK and virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend 2026 charter management measures

Tasking and Scheduling

Posted on the eAgenda is an updated version of the 3-meeting outlook. Note that the [NMFS regulatory review discussion paper](#), posted under B1, provides a status report on many of the items that are currently in the Council's 'items not yet scheduled' section of the 3-meeting outlook. Additionally, the eAgenda includes updated list of Council staff responsibilities, and the groundfish workplan, as background.

Upcoming Council meetings

The next three Council meetings are all currently scheduled to be held in-person, assuming funding allows: the December 2025 and February 2026 meetings at the Egan Center in Anchorage, AK, and the June 2026 meeting in Vancouver, WA (just outside Portland, OR). **There will not be an April 2026 meeting**, as that meeting was moved to instead occur in February. If budget constraints require us to hold one of our meetings virtually in 2026, it will likely be the October meeting once again. Recall that in April 2025, the Council agreed to alternating in-person and virtual Council meetings *if required* to meet budget reductions, as a cost-saving measure.

A **preliminary December 2025 agenda** is posted to the eAgenda for your review. Please note that this preliminary draft is for the purpose of discussion and feedback, and will be revised after this meeting. In order to set expectations appropriately for December, we would like to highlight that the scheduled GOA Tanner crab protection measures analysis will be a preliminary document rather than a full initial review draft; elements necessary to conduct an impact analysis of the spatial effects of potential closures on crab habitat and fisheries will not be ready for a December review. The December document will, however, provide information to help the Council further refine alternatives, including new maps of crab survey abundance, bathymetry, and the current proposed closures.

The Council's February 2026 meeting will be a regular not special meeting as in 2024, and so will include B reports and staff tasking agenda items. We anticipate that the primary agenda topic for the Council and AP, namely final action on the chum salmon bycatch measures analysis, will comprise the majority of the meeting, however there is potential to include some other topics on the agenda. Because of the limited work time between the December and February meetings, if there are any specific Council priorities to add to the February agenda, we would encourage those to be discussed at this meeting.

Planning for 2027 and beyond

The Council has now transitioned to a 4 meetings/year annual schedule, with the intention (not yet realized) of dropping the February meeting out of the regular cycle. Because of the increasingly high cost of holding June meetings in Alaska, the Council's Finance Committee asked that staff look into options for changing the timing of the annual schedule, to see whether it is more cost effective to meet, for example, in March and May vs April and June. This was initially [discussed in June 2023](#) as part of the Council's decision to move to a 4 meeting/year schedule. Staff are still exploring how to avoid conflicts with other fishery meetings, but if the Council were to move forward with this proposal, the most likely change to the schedule would be:

- Feb/Mar meeting: target the SSC/AP to begin the last week of February
- Mid-May meeting: schedule the SSC/AP to begin 2 weeks before the Memorial Day holiday
- October meeting: as current, generally target the first week of October
- December meeting: as current, generally target the first week of December

Staff intend to do a cost analysis for the Finance Committee when they next meet prior to the December meeting, and will bring any recommendations to the full Council for discussion.

Proposals and Public Comment

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