



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Executive/Finance Committee Meeting Summary for Council

December 2025

The Council's Executive/Finance Committee met on December 3, 2025. The agenda included an update on the current status of the Council's finances, discussion of fiscal planning and actions to address budget uncertainty, contracting for future Council meetings, and other internal administrative matters.

The Committee provided direction to Council staff to remain consistent with conservative fiscal management and cost saving actions that have been outlined in previous Finance Committee recommendations in [April 2025](#) and [July 2025](#). While the Council was largely fully funded for 2025, the Committee continues to be cautious given unpredictability about receiving future funding installments. As requested previously, staff provided information at the meeting on the costs of stipends and per-member travel costs for the SSC and AP.

Additionally, the Committee made the following recommendations about meeting planning:

- To continue to prioritize in-person meetings as possible, **staff should contract with meeting venues for in-person meetings for 3 of the 4 meetings in the annual cycle** for the remainder of the grant period (2026-2028). Staff should signal that the fourth meeting in the annual cycle will be virtual, unless in-hand funding (and venue availability) allows for the meeting to be in-person.
- Based on staff's review of costs and conflicts, **the Committee recommends that the Council change the annual meeting cycle beginning in 2027** to the following: late-Feb (starting one week after President's Day), mid-May (starting 2 weeks before Memorial Day), first week of October, and first week of December.
- Staff should solicit bids for venue contracts with cost effectiveness as a primary consideration. However, to the extent possible, the Committee endorses scheduling one meeting per year outside of Anchorage, alternating between coastal Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, as encouraged in the Council Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPP).

For 2026-2028, the target meeting dates (depending on venue availability) would be:

2026	Feb 2-11	Jun 1-9	Oct 5-13*	Nov 30-Dec 8
2027	Feb 22-Mar 2	May 17-25	Oct 4-12*	Nov 29-Dec 7
2028	Feb 28-Mar 7	May 15-23	Oct 2-10	Dec 4-12

** Staff are exploring the feasibility of October dates with respect to accommodating opening of the crab fisheries.*

The next Finance Committee meeting is planned for June 2026.

Council Biennial Financial Audit Report

Not specific to the Executive/Finance Committee, but during Executive Session for the full Council, the Council reviewed the most recent report on the audit of Council expenditures for the two-year period ending December 31, 2024, as required under the terms and conditions for federal funding awards. McDonald Jacobs P.C. was selected as the independent accounting firm who performed and reported on the audit. The firm issued a clean report for the Council, which is publicly available on the [Federal Clearinghouse](#) (<https://www.fac.gov/>) website.