



June 9, 2025

Budget Concerns and Effects on Future Council Meetings

The North Pacific Council will hold its October 2025 meeting by webinar, rather than in person, due to uncertainty regarding the funding of its federal grant. To date, the Council has received only 46% of its operating grant funding from NOAA for 2025, which is not typical. Although the Council anticipates receiving another installment of its grant in the coming weeks, that amount is uncertain and it may not be enough to fully fund Council operations through the end of 2025. Additionally, it is highly uncertain whether the Council will ultimately receive its full funding for 2025, necessitating that the Council be frugal with existing funds. The Council is taking the action to hold the October meeting virtually to prioritize the ability to hold the December meeting in person as scheduled.

Other Council activities are also affected by funding uncertainty. All travel continues to be limited to mission critical only. Thus, the September meetings of the Council's Joint Groundfish and Crab Plan Teams will be held by webinar, rather than in-person. A decision about the November Joint Groundfish Plan Teams will be made later this year.