



1976
2026

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Angel Drobica, Chair | Diana Evans, Executive Director
1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

F Staff Tasking

June 2026 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Diana Evans and Anna Henry

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

BACKGROUND

Committee and Plan Team Membership and Upcoming Meetings

Membership

Posted on the eAgenda is the updated Council committee list reflecting changes since February 2026. At this meeting, the Council is also scheduled to decide whether to call for nominations for 2027 Advisory Panel and SSC members. All 18 members of the SSC are up for reappointment, as well as 8 potential seats on the Advisory Panel. Should the Council put out a call for nominations, staff will set up a portal through the Council eAgenda to accept nominations through October 31, 2026. The Council will discuss AP and SSC appointments in December 2026.

March Ecosystem Committee Report

The reconstituted Ecosystem Committee convened for the first time for half day virtual meeting on March 6, 2026 to provide an initial introduction to topics the Council has tasked the Ecosystem Committee with tracking. Topics included the next EFH 5 Year Review, the Groundfish Management Policy Review, and the Council's consideration of alternative harvest control rules to support climate resilience. The Ecosystem Committee did not make any recommendations. NMFS and Council staff will work together to determine when committee input on the ongoing EFH 5-Year Review effort is most helpful, likely in 2027. The March 2026 EC Meeting [Report](#) is posted under F: Staff Tasking, and Committee staff Katie Latanich is available should the Council have questions. The Ecosystem Committee also convened May 8, 2006 on issues directly on the Council's June agenda, and the Council will receive the [report](#) from that meeting under agenda items E1 and E2.

Executive/Finance Committee

The Council's Executive/Finance Committee is meeting in Executive Session on Wednesday, June 3rd. The Council may have a brief report to provide on this meeting during staff tasking.

Center for Independent Experts (CIE) Reviews

The following reviews by the Center for Independent Experts (CIE) are scheduled in June. Each review includes a portion of the meeting that is open to the public.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab stock assessment on June 9-11. The review will take place in room 2079 at the Alaska Fishery Science Center, Sand Point Way, N.E., Building 4, Seattle, WA

98115. Materials will be posted at: https://github.com/noaa-afsc/TannerCrab_2026CIEReview. For further information contact: Cody Szuwalski, cody.szuwalski@noaa.gov.

Alaska sablefish stock assessment on June 16-18. The review will take place in room 131 (Royce Room) at the Ted Stevens Marine Institute, 17109 Pt Lena Loop Rd. Juneau, AK 99801. Materials will be posted at: https://github.com/dgoethel-noaa/2026_Sablefish_CIE/tree/main. For further information contact: Dan Goethel, daniel.goethel@noaa.gov.

Annual Deployment Plan for Observers and Electronic Monitoring in the Groundfish and Halibut Fisheries off Alaska on June 16-18, 2026. The review will take place in the Traynor Room at the Alaska Fishery Science Center, Sand Point Way, N.E., Building 4, Seattle, WA 98115. For further information contact: Jason Jannot, jason.jannot@noaa.gov.

Joint Protocol Committee meeting in October

Since the last Council meeting, we were contacted by the Board of Fish to coordinate a Joint Protocol Committee meeting to discuss information relevant to recent trawl gear proposals from the March 2026 Board of Fish Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues meeting. While we have not yet drafted an agenda, or confirmed a venue, **the meeting will occur in-person in Anchorage on Friday, October 16th.**

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>)
Joint Groundfish Plan Teams	September 8-11, 2026 Seattle, WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preliminary survey results ● Halibut DMRs, ESR climate update ● Final stock assessment review for select stocks (see separate posting on fall groundfish assessment cycle plan) ● New models for November assessments ● Proposed specifications for groundfish
BSAI Crab Plan Team	September 14-18, 2026 Seattle, WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BBRKC, Tanner crab, Snow crab, SMBKC specifications ● Finalize SAFE report ● Review proposed models for other assessments
Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee	September 2026 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review draft 2027 ADP
Joint Protocol Committee	October 16, 2026 Anchorage, AK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information relevant to trawl gear proposals from March 2026 Board of Fish
Charter Halibut Management Committee	October 2026 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receive final 2025 harvest estimates / preliminary harvest estimates for 2026 ● Recommend charter management measures for analysis
BSAI Crab Plan Team	November 5, 2026 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NSRKC specifications ● Review AIGKC proposed models

Advisory Group	Dates and location	Draft agenda topics (<i>may change</i>)
Joint BSAI/GOA Groundfish Plan Teams	Nov 16-20, 2026 Seattle, WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs) ● Stock assessment review and final specifications for groundfish
Charter Halibut Management Committee	December 2026 Anchorage, AK and virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recommend 2027 charter management measures

Zoom Registration Requirements

Due to recent security breaches, or “zoombombing” incidents, we have instituted a registration requirement for participation in Committee and Plan Team meetings via Zoom. This will require participants to enter an email address to enter the meeting and should help ensure meetings are not disrupted by automated participants.

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 well as an update on the SSC fall groundfish stock assessment review plan. The Council did not take up staff tasking at the February meeting due to time constraints, but the action memo is linked [here](#) and the written testimony received prior to the meeting is linked on the eAgenda.

Research priorities

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires that regional fishery management councils, in conjunction with their SSC, develop 5-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes. Since 2018, the Council has reviewed and approved 5-year research priorities for North Pacific fisheries on a triennial cycle. Because the SSC and Council consider extensive input from the public and the Plan Teams, the development process takes approximately a year from initiation to a final Council recommendation. The last research priority development began with the Council issuing a public request for information July 1 – October 31, 2023, with final SSC recommendations and Council adoption of research priorities for 2024-2028 occurring in June 2024. Therefore, if following a similar process, a triennial cycle would require initiating a request for information after this June meeting. However, due to staff capacity and SSC agenda time constraints, **we propose to delay this one year and anticipate beginning the next consideration of research priorities in June 2027**, with Council final action intended for June 2028. This postponement will still keep us in compliance with our MSA obligations.

Upcoming Council meetings

As we have now switched to a new 4 meeting/year schedule, the 2026-2028 meeting dates, and locations that have been confirmed thus far, are listed in the table below. We have received our full FY26 funding that allows us to confirm that our October 2026 Council meeting will now be in-person at the Egan Center in Anchorage. Note that the Council component of the December 2026 meeting will begin a day late (Friday instead of the usual Thursday) and extend into Wednesday December 9th, to accommodate a 4-day SSC meeting.

2027 is the first year we will depart from the traditional first-half-of-the-year timing of Council meetings, with meetings scheduled in late February and mid May. The December 2027 meeting will begin on the 6th, a week later than previously reported, to accommodate groundfish Plan Team scheduling and

November holidays. As per the Finance Committee’s recommendation, we are continuing to schedule one meeting per year (October) as potentially virtual, until in-hand funding allows for the meeting to be switched to occur in person.

Year	February/March	May	October	December
2026			Oct 5-13, Egan Center, Anchorage, AK	Nov 30-Dec 9, Egan Center, Anchorage, AK
2027	Feb 22-Mar 2, Marriott Hotel, Anchorage, AK	May 17-25, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle, WA	Oct 4-12, Virtual/TBD	Dec 6-14, Anchorage, AK
2028	Feb 28-Mar 7 TBD	May 15-23 TBD	Oct 2-10 Virtual/TBD	Dec 4-12 Anchorage, AK

Proposals and Public Comment

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