

ADVISORY PANEL - E STAFF TASKING

DIANA EVANS, APRIL 2025



ITEMS FROM B REPORTS – on [eAgenda](#) and [YouTube](#)

B1 – Executive Director’s Report

- Staff co-authored papers
 - Witherell - [Marine Policy](#) paper on RFMC conservation areas in EEZ
 - Stram – [Fisheries Research](#) paper on BSAI Crab fisheries EBFM
- Infographics on marine mammal interactions with Alaska fisheries
 - UAF student Emma Luck interning at Council; please contact with her with any suggestions
- Fishery reports available
 - LAPP Review for [Amendment 80](#) finalized on website
 - [BSAI Allocation review](#) for yellowfin, Atka, and POP
 - [IFQ Report to the Fleet](#)



B2 NMFS Management Report

- Personnel changes
- Chum salmon excluder EFP application
- Annual EFH/Habitat division report
- Protected Resources division report on status of protected species, GOA FMP BiOp
- Proposal on Cook Inlet tribal salmon fishery

B4 AFSC Report

- Discussion of 2025 survey planning and prioritization given capacity reductions



COMMITTEES/ADVISORY GROUPS

Committee membership

- Lists updated on website/eAgenda
- Vacancies / Chair may make appointments
 - Charter Halibut Management Committee, IFQ Committee, PC/FMAC
- Terms of Reference for approval
 - IFQ, Enforcement - posted
- Reconstituted Ecosystem Cmte – memo for Council consideration



Related information

- Scallop Plan Team report posted
 - No Council action required as have moved to biennial harvest specifications and this is an offyear
- Finance Committee report posted



ECOSYSTEM AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC) PROPOSAL

- Council announced interest in reconstituting the standing Ecosystem Committee
- Broader focus: Ecosystem and Climate
- Purpose: Review, discuss, and advise on ecosystem and climate-related issues as directed by the Council.
 - Responsive to CCTF recommendation: review body with policy-based perspective on climate-related information in the Council process
- Potential tasking:
 - IRA climate readiness planning and projects
 - Ongoing implementation of Council's Climate Resilience Workplan
 - Development of Programmatic Evaluation
 - Emerging issues as needed (eg, EFH reviews, Arctic FMP/related, NMFS EBFM policy guidance)
- Operations: meet max 1-2x/year
- Membership: balanced representation of 7-10 persons, including agency staff



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Met March 27th to discuss status of Council finances – report posted
- Discussed contingency planning scenarios should there be a reduction in funding
- Recommendations:
 - Remove February dates from all future scheduling
 - Proposal for 1-on/1-off cycle of in-person/virtual meetings IF NEEDED
 - Commit to holding all in-person meetings not yet contracted in least expensive venue, likely Anchorage (*noting several June contracts in Pacific Northwest already obligated*)
 - Explore options to control costs during in-person meetings, with tighter scheduling and perhaps no room blocks for public
 - Explore options for cheaper venue for hosting CCC meeting in 2026



UPCOMING ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

Advisory Group	Dates and location	Draft agenda topics (may change)
BSAI Crab Plan Team	May 14-16, 2025 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AI golden king crab SAFE chapter• ESP and risk table discussions• proposed model runs for fall assessments, and other modeling updates• survey and BSFRF updates
FMAC	May 12, 2025 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• review of the 2024 Observer Annual report• NMFS updates, including budget
Enforcement Committee	end May, 2025 (T) Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations on pelagic gear definition analysis



TASKING AND SCHEDULING: GROUNDFISH WORKPLAN STATUS UPDATE

- Groundfish FMP requires that the Council regularly review the groundfish management policy
- Council practice is to receive a 2-meeting snapshot each meeting in staff tasking, and conduct a triennial comprehensive review
- Snapshot maps Council actions at each meeting to groundfish policy objectives
- Last comprehensive review was in [February 2022](#); 2025 review was deferred in favor of the Programmatic evaluation

Goal	Management Objective	Council actions	
		December 2024	April 2025
1. Prevent Overfishing <i>Maintain Sustainable Harvest</i>	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate workplan discussion Groundfish harvest final specifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmatic evaluation discussion
	2. Continue to use the optimum yield caps for the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries.		
	3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range.		
	4. Provide for periodic reviews of the adequacy of F40 and adopt improvements, as appropriate.		
	5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories.		
3. Preserve Food Web <i>Ecosystem-based Fishery Management</i>	10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate workplan discussion ESRs, ESPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmatic evaluation discussion
	11. Improve the procedure to adjust acceptable biological catch levels as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors.		
	12. Continue to protect the integrity of the food web through limits on harvest of forage species.		
	13. Incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions, as appropriate.		
4. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSC limits as part of harvest specifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRA adjustments analysis GOA Tanner crab protections Small sablefish release analysis Chum salmon excluder EFP
	15. Develop incentive programs for bycatch reduction including the development of mechanisms to facilitate the formation of bycatch pools, vessel bycatch allowances, or other bycatch incentive systems.		
	16. Encourage research programs to evaluate current population estimates for non-target species with a view to setting appropriate bycatch limits, as information becomes available.		
	17. Continue program to reduce discards by developing management measures that encourage the use of gear and fishing techniques that reduce bycatch which includes economic discards.		
	18. Continue to manage incidental catch and bycatch through seasonal distribution of total allowable catch and geographical gear restrictions.		
	19. Continue to account for bycatch mortality in total allowable catch accounting and improve the accuracy of mortality assessments for target, prohibited species catch, and noncommercial species.		
	20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.		
	21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.		

FUTURE MEETINGS IN 2025

June 2025 – Newport, OR

- Preliminary agenda posted; AP will meet M-Th*
- Observer program annual report
 - Crab: AIGKC specs, arbitration initial review
 - LAPPs: Pcod pot LAPP paper, AFA program review
 - Pelagic trawl gear: innovations process paper, gear definition analysis initial/final action
 - Guidance to groundfish Plan Teams for fall, SSC discussion of soc/econ info in TAC-setting (T)
 - EFH workplan for next 5-year review (T)
 - SSC only: (small) workshop on harvest specs process adjustments

October and December 2025

- Tentatively planning for in-person in Anchorage, AK, at Egan Center
- If budget contingencies arise, October would become virtual
- December schedule potentially challenging. Stay tuned for further discussion in June.
 - Chum final action
 - Groundfish final harvest specifications
 - Norton Sound RKC harvest specifications
 - Cook Inlet salmon preliminary harvest specs
 - Charter halibut annual management measures



	DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK – 3/25/2025					
	March 31-April 7, 2025		June 2-10, 2025		September 29-October 8, 2025	
Topics	VIRTUAL		Agate Beach Best Western, Newport, OR		Egan Center, Anchorage, AK	
	Council staff contact		Council staff contact		Council staff contact	
EVENTS/REPORTS*	ED report: BSAI allocation review - Yellowfin, Atka, POP NMFS report: EFH, Protected spp AFSC report Cooperative Reports Finance/Executive Committee Chum salmon excluder EFP	DW DW DW AH DW DS	ED report: CCC update NOAA Enforcement report	DW	Election of officers, new member oath ED report: CCC update AFSC, NPFC reports	DW
GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECS			Subarea apportionments: Report BSAI BSRE accountability measures: Report BSAI Crab: AIGKC specs, Plan Team report	SC DS AK	BSAI Groundfish: Proposed specs, PT reports GOA Groundfish: Proposed specs, PT reports BSAI BSRE accountability measures: Discussion paper BSAI Crab stocks: ABC/OFL specs, Crab PT report	DS SC DS AK
OTHER SPECS: CRAB, SALMON, SCALLOP						
REPORTING/MONITORING			Observer Annual Report for 2024: Review, FMAC report	SC	2025 Observer ADP: Review, PCFMAC report	SC
BSAI/GOA GFISH MGMT	MRA adjustments: Initial Review, Enforcement Cmte CGOA Rockfish Program Review: Review report	TH AH	Pelagic trawl gear definition: Initial / Final Action Pelagic trawl gear innovation: Discussion paper BSAI Pot Cod LAPP: Discussion Paper AFA Program Review: Review report (T)	TH AK AH KH	MRA adjustments: Final Action (T)	TH
BSAI CRAB MGMT			Crab arbitration: Initial Review	SM	Crab arbitration: Final Action (T) Crab C-shares: Initial Review	SM TH
BYCATCH	GOA Tanner Crab Protections: Extended Disc. Paper	DS				
HALIBUT: IFQ/CHARTER	Area 4 vessel use caps: Final Action Small sablefish release: Final Action	AH SC				
OTHER	Programmatic Evaluation: Refine alternatives Cost recovery process evaluation: Discussion paper Survey modernization: Report, SSC recommendations Ecosystem Committee Terms of Reference: Review	SC SM DS DE	Use of social/econ info in TAC-setting: Review (T) EFH 5-year review workplan: Review (T) Harvest control rule changes: SSC workshop/discuss	AH AK DS	Programmatic Eval: Review scoping, action as nec. (T)	KL

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED:		GOA POP MRA: <i>Initial review</i> AI GKC start date : <i>Discussion paper</i> IFQ transfer and beneficiary changes: <i>Discussion paper</i> Chum salmon bycatch: <i>Final Action (Dec 2025)</i>	Pot gear regulation consistency: <i>Discussion paper</i> Sablefish motion scales: <i>Discussion paper</i> Charter Halibut Mgmt Measures Timing: <i>Discussion Paper</i>
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