

B1 Executive Director's Report

NMFS Request to Council re Risk Value Matrix

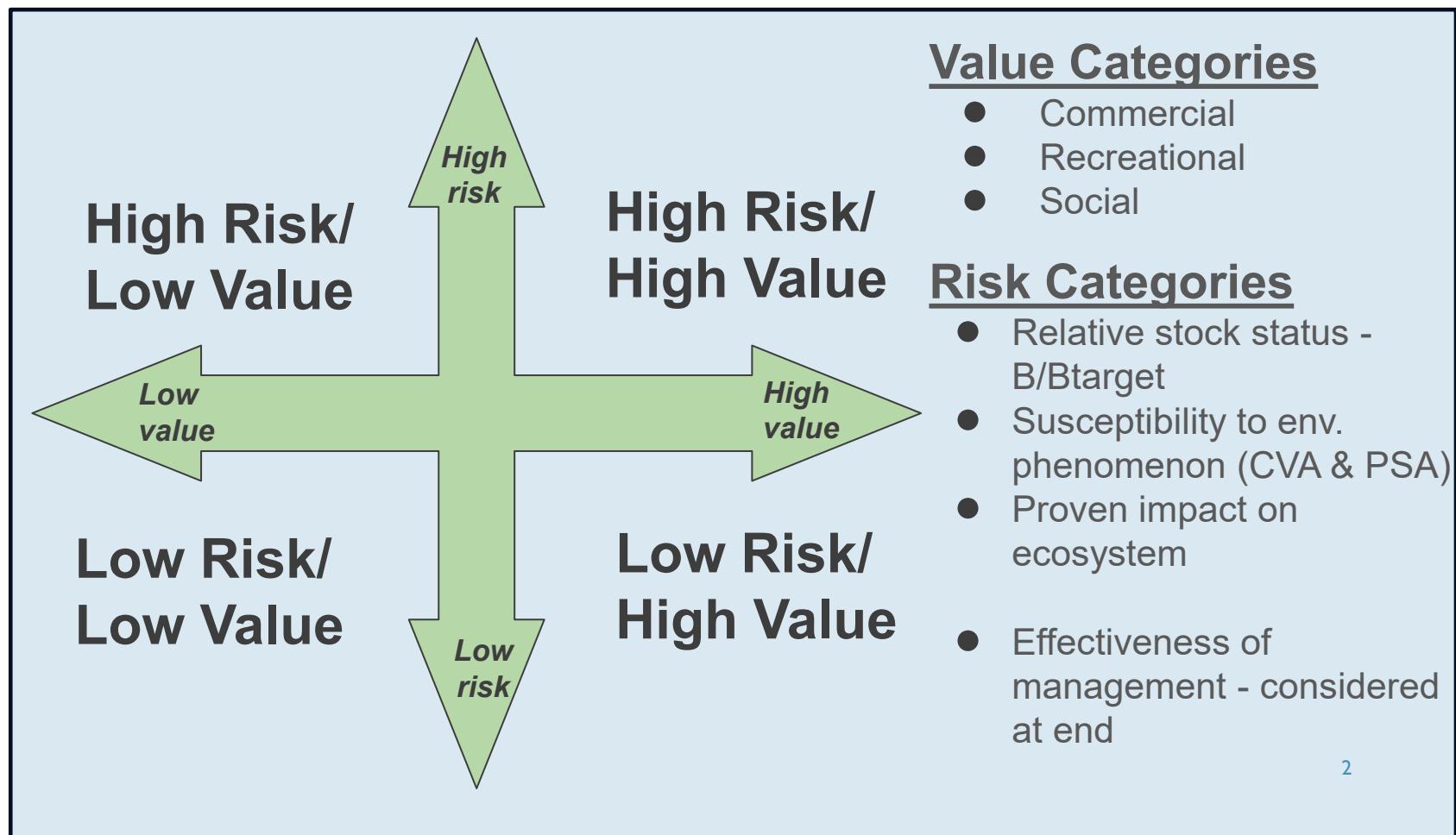


DIANA EVANS, FEBRUARY 2026



BACKGROUND: Risk/Value Matrix as a proposed national tool to prioritize stocks/complexes for management

- Proposed by NMFS in May 2025, presented to Council in June 2025
- Assumption: NMFS cannot continue to manage the 500+ stocks/complexes currently in FMPs
- NMFS wants to balance national consistency and interoperability with regional flexibility while maintaining accountability



Since May 2025: NMFS has finalized a process

- Acknowledgement that creation and application of regional matrix must be co-developed with Science Center, Regional Office, and Councils
- NMFS finalized the process for applying risk/value matrix
 - based on a West Coast pilot
- Process framed as 9 steps: primarily tasking for a RO / FSC / Council staff regional workgroup
- NMFS HQ will consolidate regional information into a national matrix to reassess resource priorities and inform FY27 planning

Tasking for regional RO-FSC-Council staff workgroup

- Place stocks in the matrix using quantitative or qualitative data
- Adjust position of stocks based on additional factors, including:
 - subsistence or cultural value
 - intl management
 - management effectiveness
- Run stock assessment prioritization, calculate data requirements, run data collection prioritization process
- Councils and ROs identify FMP/database/etc. changes needed to meet suggested mgmt. changes

Timeline

- Jan 2026: NMFS HQ asked Councils to participate in regional workgroups
- Deadline for submitting a regional matrix: **June 30th** (extended from April 3rd)
- CCC letter expressed concerns and asked for clarifications
 - Support for constructive dialogue re capacity constraints and opportunities, but concern about endorsement of a predetermined R/V methodology with embedded assumptions
 - What decisions will the matrix support?
 - What type of alternative mgmt. approaches could be applied to the quadrants?
 - How will Councils' statutory role in fisheries management and science prioritization be preserved? Defacto prioritization through the matrix undermines Councils' transparent, public process grounded in regional context.
 - Will decisions influenced by the matrix proceed without Council concurrence?



NPFC already actively engaged in prioritization efforts

- Active management of crab and groundfish FMP stocks (have moved stocks primarily caught in State waters out of FMP, many species are in complexes, have moved stocks to Ecosystem Component)
- 2018 and 2023 stock prioritization efforts reduced frequency of groundfish assessments
- Ongoing engagement with AFSC on survey prioritization and modernization efforts

| Priority | LME | Platform | Survey | 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------|---|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| 1 | Bering Sea | Charter | GAP-SAP Eastern Bering Sea Bottom Trawl Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Gulf of Alaska | Charter | GAP Gulf of Alaska Bottom Trawl Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Aleutian Islands | Charter | GAP Aleutian Islands Bottom Trawl Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Gulf of Alaska | NOAA Ship | MACE Shallow Strait Pollock Acoustic Trawl Winter | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Bering Sea | NOAA Ship | MACE Eastern Bering Sea Pollock Acoustic Trawl Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Gulf of Alaska | Charter | MESA Gulf of Alaska & Eastern Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Longline Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Bering Sea | Charter | MESA Gulf of Alaska & Eastern Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Longline Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Aleutian Islands | Charter | MESA Gulf of Alaska & Eastern Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands Longline Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Bering Sea | Charter | GAP Northern Bering Sea Bottom Trawl Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Bering Sea | Charter | EMA Northern Bering Sea Ecosystem Surface Trawl Fall | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Gulf of Alaska | NOAA Ship | MACE Shumagin-Sanak Pollock Acoustic-Trawl Winter | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

GREEN=planned/completed | YELLOW=Partial | RED=Not Completed | White=Not Started | note | Drone | x



| Year | 1-year cycle | | 2-year cycle | | | 4-year cycle | | |
|------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Tiers 1-3 | Tiers 4-6 | Tiers 1-3 | Tiers 4-5 | Tier 6 | Tiers 1-3 | Tiers 4-5 | Tier 6 |
| 1 | full/update | full/update | full/update | full/update | full/update | full/update | full/update | full/update |
| 2 | full/update | full/update | catch rep | catch rep | catch rep | catch rep | catch rep | catch rep |
| 3 | full/update | full/update | full/update | full/update | full/update | harv proj | RE model | catch rep |
| 4 | full/update | full/update | catch rep | catch rep | catch rep | catch rep | catch rep | catch rep |

*full/update (full or update operational assessment); harv proj (harvest projection); catch rep (catch report).



Potential NPFMC responses

- Await response to CCC concerns, continue with ongoing North Pacific prioritization discussions
 - note SSC comments on D1 AFSC report at this meeting
- Staff can respond with characterization of North Pacific efforts to date
- Staff can participate in the regional workgroup and matrix development effort
- Schedule a review at June 2026 SSC/Council meeting

