

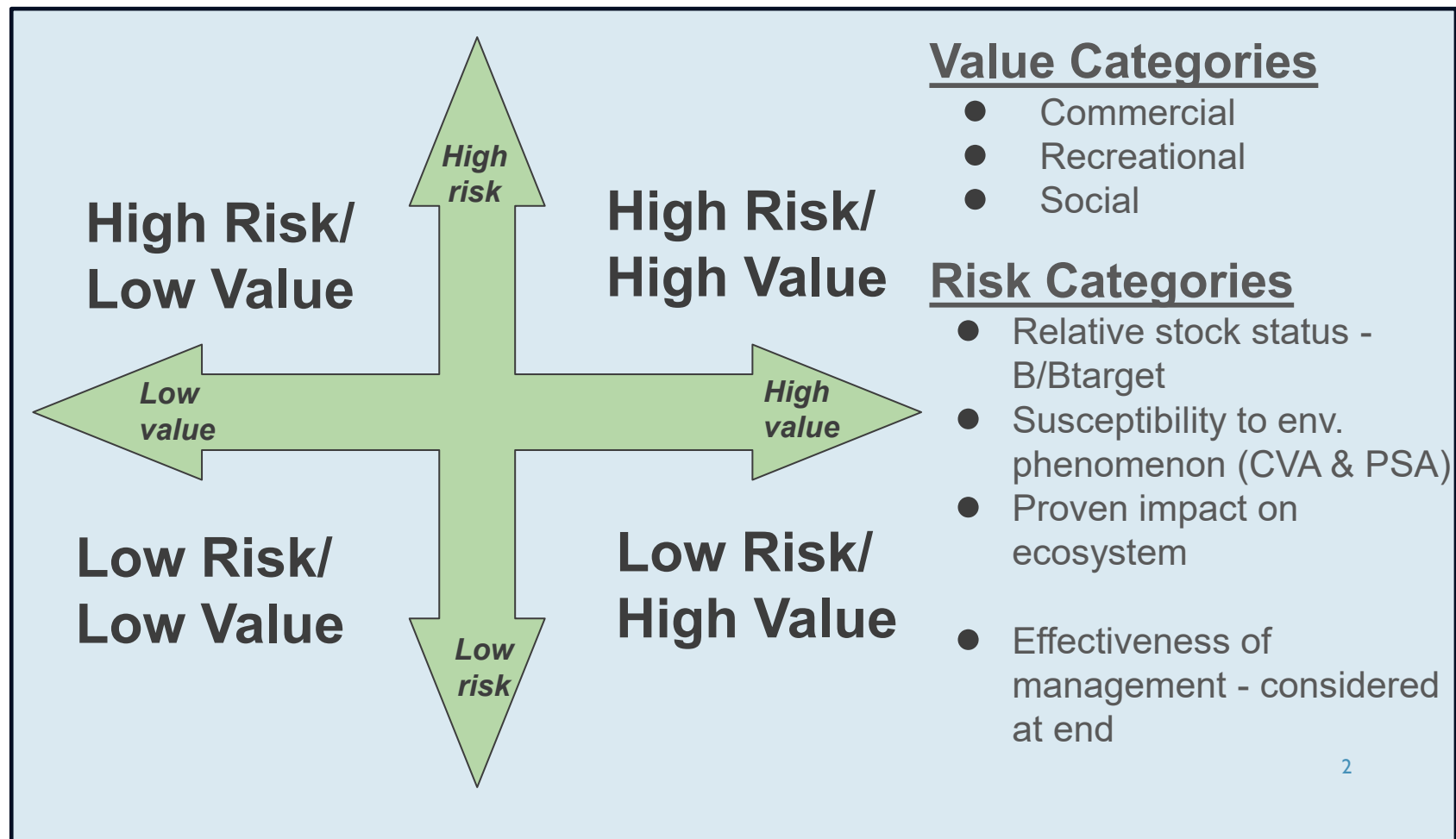
B1 Executive Director's Report NMFS Request to Council re Risk Value Matrix

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?



NPFMC 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
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 Shelikof 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-SAP 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



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

