

E STAFF TASKING

DIANA EVANS, JUNE 2025



COMMITTEES/ADVISORY GROUPS

Committee appointments

Lists updated on website/eAgenda

- 2 **Plan Team** nominations for Council consideration, referenced in Exec Director's report
- **IFQ Committee** vacancy - Chair may wish to make appointment
- FYI - Ecosystem Committee call for nominations is still open through July 11th

Other committee issues

- Council typically issues **call for nominations for 2026 AP/SSC** members at this meeting
- **FMAC/PCFMAC** have proposed **Terms of Reference** for their committee, for Council approval



UPCOMING ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS (1/2)

Advisory Group	Dates and location	Draft agenda topics (may change)
BSAI Crab Plan Team	September 8-12, 2025 Seattle, WA or Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBRKC, Tanner crab, snow crab, SMBKC specifications • Finalize SAFE report • Review proposed models for other assessments
FMAC PCFMAC	September 2025 (T) Anchorage/Seattle co-venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review NFWF proposals (T) • Review draft 2026 ADP, recommendations as necessary
Joint Groundfish Plan Teams	September 16-19, 2025 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary survey results, ESR climate update • Proposed specifications for groundfish • New models for November assessments • Halibut DMRs, harvest projections • BSRE and subarea apportionment discussions
Charter Halibut Management Committee	October 2025 - Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive final 2025 / prelim 2026 harvest estimates • Recommend charter mgmt. measures for analysis

UPCOMING ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS (2/2)

Advisory Group	Dates and location	Draft agenda topics (may change)
BSAI Crab Plan Team	November 2025 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSRKC specifications
Joint Groundfish Plan Teams	November 10, 12-14, 2025 Seattle, WA (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review ESRs (Ecosystem Status Reports)• Stock assessment review• Final specifications for groundfish
Charter Halibut Management Committee	December 2025 Anchorage, AK (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend 2026 charter mgmt. measures



SOPP AND AP/SSC HANDBOOKS

- **SOPP** - last updated in 2023; revisions proposed (draft posted with track changes)
 - Primarily updates throughout to make the SOPP consistent with procedural changes that the Council has already instituted
 - NPFMC code of conduct for all participants and members, and pathways for follow through
 - remote participation clarifications for all members
 - description of public comment processes and use of eAgenda
 - new expectation of 4 meetings/year rather than 5, and virtual meetings if nec. based on budget
 - Council – interim appointments and change of residency, limits on questions, Council record
 - AP/SSC nomination process, removes AP minority report
 - Financial management and whistleblower language updates required under the Council grant
- **AP/SSC handbook** revisions – similar, reviewed with AP in June and SSC in April

FUTURE MEETINGS: CONTINGENT ON BUDGET

- **October 2025 – virtual**
 - virtual to prioritize December in-person meeting
 - reminder – April Finance Committee report discussed: 4 mtgs/year, 1-on/1-off virtual/in-person IF NEEDED for budget contingencies
- **December 2025 – currently overscheduled (2 issues), need to adjust**
 - Currently schedules “must do” time-sensitive items PLUS chum salmon final action
 - BSAI/GOA Groundfish final specifications for 2026/2027 – must approve by mid-December
 - Charter halibut 2026 management measures - due to IPHC by Dec. 26th
 - NSRKC harvest specifications – needed by Jan/Feb for State of Alaska to open NSRKC fishery
 - Cook Inlet salmon harvest specifications – needed by Feb to open June fishery
 - Chair and ED will continue to consider time management as well as staff capacity, Council funding, and new issues that may arise in determining the final Council schedule

ISSUE WITH COUNCIL SCHEDULE IN DECEMBER

Council Agenda

- Prudent scheduling of Chum action at Council is 5.5-6 days
- BSAI/GOA Groundfish specifications requires 1.5-2 days, plus .5-1 day for charter halibut, NSRKC, and Cook Inlet specs
- Council can't take up specs until after SSC deliberates, so chum must be first
- ~8-9 days just for Council, plus SSC in same room = **Dec footprint of 12 days**
 - hard to extend in-person venue
 - Current : 9 days (Mon 12/1-Tues 12/9)
 - Can't move meetings earlier because of Thanksgiving

Solutions?

1. Move chum bycatch final action from December 2025 to April 2026
 - Variation: move April meeting earlier, to February or March
 - Bring forward some 3 meeting outlook April agenda items to December
2. Move some/all items except chum to a virtual Council meeting during week of Dec 15-19
 - Variation: groundfish and charter halibut in December, NSRKC and Cook Inlet in Jan/Feb
 - AP may need to drop specifications items or convene virtually earlier on chum – eg before Thanksgiving

ADDITIONAL CHUM BYCATCH ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

- Council analysis of new management measures to minimize chum salmon bycatch, particularly that of western Alaska origin, in the Bering Sea pollock fishery
- Council reviewed [revised Initial Review Analysis](#) in February 2025
 - Modified alternatives
 - Approved the analysis for publication as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Directed staff to schedule **final action (tentatively December 2025)**
- Analysis of new alternative 5 and other changes taking time
 - Council staff working with agency to ensure timely publication of Draft EIS

COMPARISON OF TIMELINES

December 2025 Final Action

- **Aug 15, 2025 (T):** Draft EIS published
- **Oct 15, 2025 (T):** Public comment ends
- **Dec 2025:** Final Action
- **Feb 2027 (T):** Final EIS issued
- **Apr 2027 (T):** Record of Decision issued

April 2026 Final Action

- **Oct 15, 2025 (T):** Draft EIS published
- **Dec 15, 2025 (T):** Public comment ends
- **Apr 2026:** Final Action
- **Jun 2027 (T):** Final EIS issued
- **Aug 2027 (T):** Record of Decision issued

Implementation timing uncertainties:

- Response to comments, potentially complex rulemaking, NMFS review, administration priorities
- If Council adopts PSC limits, ideal to publish in the groundfish harvest specs Final Rule prior to B season

ISSUE WITH SSC SCHEDULE IN DECEMBER - SPECS

- SSC schedule to take up BSAI/GOA groundfish, NSRKC, Cook Inlet salmon specifications
- Agenda items require approx. 30hrs; time available is 20-24 hours
- SSC can't extend past 3 days
- **Viable solution** endorsed by SSC for 2025: move Cook Inlet salmon specs to a late Jan/early Feb full SSC meeting in lieu of April mtg
 - Maintains Council commitment to 4 meetings/year
- Longer term possibilities that may help: move NSRKC, Cook Inlet Tier 3 stocks to a bi/triennial cycle, changes to SSC's groundfish "update assessment" reviews



	DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK – 6/9/2025					
Topics	September 29-October 8, 2025 <i>Virtual OR Egan Center, Anchorage, AK</i>	Council staff contact	December 1-9, 2025: MAY CHANGE <i>Virtual OR Egan Center, Anchorage, AK</i>	Council staff contact	April 6-14, 2026 <i>TBD, Virtual or Anchorage, AK</i>	Council staff contact
EVENTS/ REPORTS*	Election of officers, new member oath AFSC, NPFC reports	DW	NOTE: DEC DATES AND/OR AGENDA MUST CHANGE		NMFS report: Annual cost recovery, EFH consultations AFSC, IPHC, NIOSH reports US Navy report on GOA training exercises (T) Cooperative reports Finance/Executive Committee	DW DW DE AH DW
GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECS	BSAI Groundfish: Proposed specs, PT reports GOA Groundfish: Proposed specs, PT reports BSAI BSRE accountability measures: Discussion paper	DS SC DS	Ecosystem Status Reports: Review BSAI Groundfish: PT report, Final Specifications GOA Groundfish: PT report, Final Specifications			
OTHER SPECS: CRAB, SALMON, SCALLOP	BSAI Crab stocks: ABC/OFL specs, Crab PT report	AK	NSRKC: ABC/OFL specs, Crab PT report Cook Inlet salmon: Preliminary harvest specifications		Scallop: Final specifications, Plan Team report Cook Inlet salmon: Final specifications	AK DS
REPORTING/ MONITORING	2025 Observer ADP: Review, PCFMAC report Economic Data Reports Removal: Initial review (T)	SC SM			Cost recovery program improvements: Initial review (T) Economic Data Reports Removal: Final action (T)	TH SM
BSAI/GOA GFISH MGMT	MRA adjustments: Final Action BSAI Pot Cod LAPP: Discussion Paper (T)	TH AH			Pelagic trawl bottom contact reseach: Workgroup report Crab and pelagic trawl footrope resarch: Update Pelagic trawl impacts and performance std.: Next steps (T)	AK AK AK
BSAI CRAB MGMT	Crab arbitration: Final Action (T) Crab C-shares: Initial Review	SM TH			Crab C-shares: Final Action (T)	TH
BYCATCH			Chum Salmon bycatch: Final action (T)		GOA Tanner crab protection measures: Initial Review Pollock IPA reports: Review Chinook/chum genetics reports for BS, GOA: Review	DS DS DS
HALIBUT: IFQ/CHARTER	IFQ/CQE transfer, beneficiary changes: Disc. paper (T)	AH	2026 Charter halibut mgmt measures: Final action			
OTHER	EFH 5-year review workplan: Review (T) Programmatic evaluation: Discuss next steps	AK KL			Groundfish FMP objectives: 3-year review	KL

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED:

AI GKC start date : *Discussion paper*
 Pot gear regulation consistency: *Discussion paper*
 Sablefish motion scales: *Discussion paper*

Cook Inlet Salmon tribal fishery feasibility: *Discussion paper*
 Charter Halibut Mgmt Measures Timing: *Discussion Paper*