

E Staff Tasking

DIANA EVANS, OCTOBER 2026



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2026

E1 Prioritization Discussion (*recap from B reports*)

E2 Review Committees, New Business, and Tasking



E1 Prioritization Discussion

Possible Council action at Staff Tasking

1. **Highlight 3-4 priorities** among the Council's discretionary actions.
2. Review the "Items not yet started" list on the 3-meeting outlook to see whether any **items should be removed** for the present.
3. Affirm and/or provide **input on NMFS' implementation priorities**.
4. Consider changing approach to staff tasking at future meetings, to constrain **Council tasking of new actions to designated meetings** once or twice a year.
5. Commit to an **annual strategic planning discussion** in October, to develop priorities for the upcoming year.



Scope of Council-tasked actions for prioritization: 3 meeting outlook

Described in more detail in B1 prioritization framework discussion paper

- **Required** items: harvest specifications and EFH 5-year review
- **Routine** items: B reports, monitoring reports, staff tasking
- 21 other **discretionary** actions currently on 3 meeting outlook
 - More information in Table 2 in paper (p.7)
 - Note 22 items listed, but EFH required in next two years
 - Staff recommendation for 3 potential items to remove: pot gear regulation consistency, NMFS-approved motions scales for sablefish, charter halibut management measures timing



From B2 report - NMFS Rulemaking Priorities for FY 27

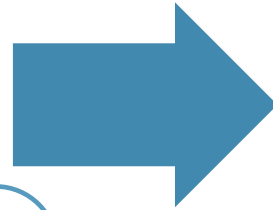
Based on the following must do actions, EO 14276 actions in the Council workplan, and actions in the NMFS Assistant Administrator Eugenio Piñeiro Soler's July 2 letter to the Council:

- Proposed and final BSAI and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish harvest specifications
- Halibut Annual Management Measures
- Proposed and final Cook Inlet salmon harvest specifications
- Mandatory notices in the *Federal Register*, including inseason actions, fee notices, EFP notices, etc.
- Small sablefish voluntary release (*significant*)
- Modify Maximum Retainable Amount (MRA) Calculations (*significant*)
- Final rule to modify the Area 4 halibut vessel use caps (*not significant*)
- Three proposed rules under review (*significant*: EDR removal, pelagic trawl gear; *not sig.*: season timing)
- Measures to minimize chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery (*significant*)
- Crab Rationalization Program modifications to the arbitration system, crew quota share transfer eligibility requirements, and information submissions (*significant*)
- Omnibus recordkeeping, reporting, and monitoring rulemaking recc. by Council in EO 14276 workplan

Staff recommendation for Council process changes to staff tasking

Current process

- New actions can be initiated at any meeting during staff tasking
- Most accessible for public, but may not appropriately set realistic expectations about timing



Potential changes

- New actions initiated only once or twice a year (Oct only, or Oct and Feb)
- At other meetings, ED / Chair wrap-up only; no public testimony or Council action
- Annual October strategic planning / prioritization

Emergency actions could still be considered when applicable.



NMFS regional EO 14276 priorities – response letter to agency

Identifies 4 action items for Council consideration

- Review SSL closure boundaries – *would be new task to initiate*
- Eliminate 2% IFQ deduction for bled sablefish – *already tasked, but not yet scheduled for review*
- Systematically assess current FMPs and consider removing species – *would be new but small task to complete report and formalize Council response*
- Collaborate with NMFS on expanded use of EFPs – *NMFS working on action to remove Alaska-specific regulations, with Council support*



E2 Committee and Plan Team membership

- Call for nominations open for 2027 SSC and Advisory Panel members (including the AP tribal member seat)
 - Closes October 31, 2026
- Request from Charter Halibut Management Committee for solicitation for Area 2C vacancy
- Four Plan Team nominations



Upcoming Committee and Plan Team meetings

Advisory Group	Dates and location	Draft agenda topics (<i>may change</i>)
Joint Protocol Committee	October 16, 2026 Anchorage, AK	Overview of NPFMC measures to protect habitat and mitigate adverse impacts of trawl fisheries.
Charter Halibut Management Committee	October 21, 2026 Virtual	- Receive final 2025 harvest estimates / preliminary harvest estimates for 2026 - Recommend charter management measures for analysis
Crab and Scallop Plan Team	November 5, 2026 Virtual	- NSRKC specifications - AIGKC proposed model runs - SAFE Guidelines
Joint BSAI/GOA Groundfish Plan Teams	Nov 16-20, 2026 Seattle, WA and virtual	- Review Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs) - Stock assessment review and final specifications for groundfish
Charter Halibut Management Committee	TBD December, 2026 Anchorage, AK and virtual	Recommend 2027 charter management measures

Terms of Reference (TOR) for Council Committees

- Staff intend to revisit all for consistency/specificity
 - Minor clarifications to description of meeting record, public access
- Council reviewed and approved revised Executive/Finance Committee and Legislative Committee TORs in Executive Session
 - Approved versions posted to the eAgenda
- Tasked staff to consider opportunities for more public input at Enforcement Committee



E2 Tasking and Scheduling

December 2026 – Egan Ctr, Anchorage

- Check dates - SSC-AP-Council timing is different than normal
 - Council Reception on Thurs Dec 3rd
- Preliminary draft December schedule posted
- Added Cook Inlet salmon proposed specifications agenda item for Council only

February 2027 – Marriott, Anchorage

- GOA Tanner crab initial review on track for Feb
- SSC is overscheduled, cannot take up all 4 planned reviews:
 - Cook Inlet salmon specifications
 - Methodology updates for EFH fishing effects model
 - GOA Tanner crab protections initial review
 - BSAI herring PSC limits initial review

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK – 10/2/2026

	October 5-13, 2026 <i>Egan Center, Anchorage, AK</i>	Council staff contact	November 30-December 9, 2026 <i>Egan Center, Anchorage, AK</i>	Council staff contact	February 22-March 2, 2027 <i>Marriott Hotel, Anchorage, AK</i>	Council staff contact
EVENTS/ REPORTS*	Election of officers, new member oath NMFS report AFSC report	DE AH DE	NMFS report: Final ADP NOAA Enforcement IPHC halibut assessment presentation (T) Executive Session PSMFC Report	AH AH SM DE AH	ED report: IFQ report, bycatch report NMFS report AFSC report NPRB report IPHC report (T)	DE AH DE AH AH
GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECS	BSAI Groundfish: <i>Proposed specs, PT reports</i> GOA Groundfish: <i>Proposed specs, PT reports</i> BSAI/GOA Groundfish: <i>ABC/OFLs (SSC only)</i>	DS SC DS/SC	Contextual info for TACs (ESRs, inseason mgmt): <i>Review</i> BSAI Groundfish: <i>PT report, Final Specifications</i> GOA Groundfish: <i>PT report, Final Specifications</i>	AH DS SC		
OTHER SPECS: CRAB, SALMON, SCALLOP	BSAI Crab: <i>ABC/OFL, Crab PT report</i>	AK	NSRKC: <i>ABC/OFL specs, Crab PT report</i> Cook Inlet salmon: <i>Proposed specs (Council only)</i>	AK DS	Cook Inlet salmon: <i>Final specifications</i>	DS
REPORTING/ MONITORING	2027 Observer ADP: <i>Review, PCFMAC report</i>	SC	A80 replacement vessel: <i>Initial Review</i> PSC disposition: <i>Discussion paper (T)</i>	AH TH	Lead level 2 endorsement criteria: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	SC
BSAI/GOA GFISH MGMT						
BSAI CRAB MGMT						
BYCATCH					BS Herring PSC limit adjustment: <i>Initial Review (T)</i> GOA Tanner crab protection measures: <i>Initial Review (T)</i>	KH AK
HALIBUT: IFQ/CHARTER	Charter Halibut Permits data request: <i>Discussion paper</i> CQE/IFQ adjustments: <i>Expanded discussion paper</i>	SM SM	2027 Charter halibut annual measures: <i>Final action</i>	SM		
OTHER			Omnibus FMP record. & reporting: <i>Initial Review (T)</i> Groundfish FMP policy modernization: <i>Ecosystem Report</i>	TH KL	EFH 5-year review: <i>Progress updates (T)</i>	AK

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED:

Charter Halibut Mgmt Meas. Timing: *Discussion paper*
Eliminate bled sablefish IFQ deduction: *Initial Review*
Pot gear regulation consistency: *Discussion paper*
Sablefish motion scales: *Discussion paper*
AFA catch accounting: *Discussion paper*
Inseason auth. to prevent ACL overages: *Initial Review (May (T))*

Cook Inlet Salmon tribal fishery feasibility: *Discussion paper*
NSRKC participation recency: *Expanded discussion paper*
Pelagic Trawl Gear Perf Std: *Discussion paper (May (T))*
Harvest control rule adjustments: *Progress update*
IFQ cost recovery program improvements: *Final action (May (T))*

