

NPFMC Ecosystem Committee Terms of Reference
and Standard Operating Procedures

April 2025

1. **Establishment and Statement of Purpose:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) may establish and maintain an Ecosystem Committee (committee) to advise the Council on matters related to ecosystem-based fisheries management and climate resilience planning related to the federal fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction.
2. **Membership:** Committee members will be appointed by the Council chair from members of the public who participate in fisheries within the Council's jurisdiction, and/or are knowledgeable about the ecosystem regions within the Council's jurisdiction, the impacts of climate change on Alaska's federal fisheries and communities, and environmental issues of importance to industry, Tribes, and communities. A public call for the nominations process will be utilized for consideration of most committee appointments, however under special circumstances, the Council chair is authorized to make committee appointments without going through a nomination process. Interested members of the public should submit a letter of interest and brief resume to the Council chair and Executive Director or designated staff. Council staff for the committee will be designated by the Council Executive Director.
3. **Operations**
 - a. Chair: The committee chair will be a sitting member of the Council.
 - b. Rules of order: In general, rules of order will be informal. Committee advice will be reached by consensus, whenever possible. Committee reports will reflect the recommendations of the committee as well as the range of perspectives of all members.
 - c. Agenda: A draft agenda will be prepared in advance of each meeting by the Council staff in consultation with the committee chair. To the extent possible, the agenda topics will be reviewed and approved by the Council during staff tasking at a Council meeting preceding the committee.
 - d. Meeting format: Meetings will be facilitated in a hybrid or online format to allow for remote participation when possible. Compensation and travel expenses for non-Council participants on the committee will not be provided by the Council.
 - e. Meeting record and distribution: A report of each committee meeting will be prepared by Council staff and drafts will be reviewed by the committee chair. The committee chair will maintain final approval of the committee report.
4. **Role and responsibility of members**
 - a. Committee members are highly encouraged to attend all committee meetings and to communicate with staff regarding availability. Repeated absences from committee meetings are cause for dismissal and replacement.

- b. Committee members are expected to read and review all meeting materials prior to the committee meeting.
- c. Committee members are encouraged to solicit feedback from other members of the public and bring this feedback to the committee meeting.
- d. Members are expected to be collaborative and respectful of each other and public participants during committee discussions.
- e. If a committee member cannot attend a meeting, substitute or proxy participation is not allowed.

5. **Public comment:** Written public comment can be submitted to the meeting agenda prior to the meeting. Opportunity for oral public comment during the meeting will be provided as time allows. The committee chair will announce, oversee, and maintain control over oral public comment opportunities.