

# SSC ADMIN ISSUES

DIANA EVANS, JUNE 2025



1. Meeting protocols
2. Orientation to items of interest on Council agenda
3. Update on national discussions / SSC workshop
4. Brief AFSC update
5. Future meetings, including Dec 2025 overscheduling
6. Events this week



# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NPFMC MEETINGS

Participants in the Council process are expected to participate in a manner that is professional and respectful of Council members, staff, advisors, committee members, and the public. Harassment will not be tolerated. All Council participants are responsible for holding each other accountable to the following ground rules:

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Listen and seek to understand differing views or opinions.
- Represent information honestly and openly.
- Refrain from using offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language.
- Personal or organizational attacks or insults will not be tolerated.

Reports of inappropriate behavior will be taken seriously and followed through to resolution per the Council's [Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures](#), which also includes the NPFMC policy on addressing allegations of harassment.



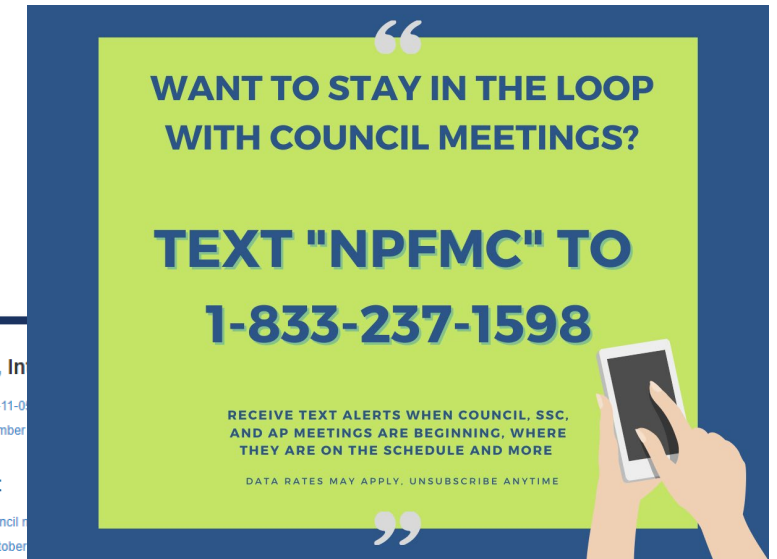
# PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY, TEXT ALERTS

- Testimony by topic, under each agenda item
- 5-minute timer for oral testimony

1. Sign up through the SSC eAgenda, next to the agenda item you want to testify on
2. Fill out the form with your personal details
3. Attach handouts or ppts if desired. (Contact staff if you want to project a handout.)
4. Identify whether remote or in-person.
  - If remote, please ensure a strong internet connection and be in a quiet area.
  - If calling from a phone, use that number on the signup form so we can unmute you

**Meeting is  
being  
recorded!**

The screenshot shows the SSC eAgenda interface. At the top, there's a 'Comment Now (9)' button and a 'Direct Link' button. Below that, there's a 'Sign-up for oral comment (0)' button. The 'Attachments' section shows a 'Tech set up, In' item with a 'JPC\_Agenda\_2020-11-0' attachment. Below that, there's a 'Staff Report' item with a 'Link to October Council' attachment. At the bottom, there's a 'Sign up for testimony' form. The form has fields for 'Agenda Item' (Economic SAFE), 'Name', 'Organization', 'Email Address', 'Phone', and 'Attachments'. The 'Attachments' section has a 'Choose Files' button and a note: 'At the Council meeting, public comment is limited to 5 minutes per group/organization.' A red arrow points from the 'Sign-up for oral comment (0)' button to the 'Sign up for testimony' form.



**Need help?** Use Q&A feature in zoom program, or email [npfmc.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov)



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM B REPORTS *more info on Council [eAgenda](#)*

## B1 Executive Director's Report

- \*\*Updates from the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting – forum for leadership of 8 regional fishery management councils and NMFS to discuss issues
- Alaina Plauche is providing a briefing on her Council oral history project
- Scott Goodman is giving a short presentation updating the Council on BSAI crab research

## B2 NMFS Management Report

- Discussion paper reviewing regulations
- Personnel changes

## B4 \*\*AFSC report

- Survey update

*\*\*more slides to follow on these topics*



# CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June *(1/10)*

## EO 14276: Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

### Section 3 Policy:

1. To promote the productive harvest of our seafood resources;
2. To unburden our commercial fishermen from costly and inefficient regulation;
3. To combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
4. To protect our seafood markets from the unfair trade practices of foreign nations.

### Section 4: other actions for Sec. of Commerce

- solicit direct public comments for ideas to improve fisheries mgmt./ science within requirements of MSA & other law, and directly support supply chain needs
- Use less expensive tech for stock assessments, expand EFPs, modernize data collection/ analysis
- Develop America First Seafood Strategy
- Assess seafood competitiveness issues / unfair trade practices, incl. IUU fishing and use of forced labor
- Improve the Seafood Import Monitoring Program
- Open marine national monuments to fishing

### RFMC-specific action:

- Section 4a: Secretary of Commerce (SoC) will identify the most heavily overregulated fisheries, and take appropriate action to reduce the regulatory burden on them, in cooperation with RFMCs.
- Request to the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs):
  - provide SoC with updated recommendations from those submitted in 2018 on EO 13921, with intent to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production.
  - identify actions that should: stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures.
  - commit to a work plan and a schedule for implementation to ensure these actions are prioritized.

# CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June (2/10)

## ■ Relevant discussion points at CCC from NMFS:

- EO 14276 recommendations are not just for reducing the burdens on domestic fishing, but also to increase production (different from 2018). Statistic quoted that average US landings were 9.5 billion pounds in the years before 2020, and are 8.5 billion since; administration is looking to increase landings.
  - Will likely need to look to Alaska to achieve that goal
- EO 14192 (unleashing prosperity through deregulation): the majority of fishery actions are considered deregulatory. This EO should not affect most routine fishery management actions, strictly deregulatory actions, or actions in response to statutory requirements. But if the Council pursues discretionary actions that create regulations, that will require higher level of NMFS HQ scrutiny, as the agency figures out how to “pay” for those actions under the 10:1 and annual net deregulatory accounting (which occurs at the DOC, not the NMFS level).
  - Council may want to consider implications for actions currently under consideration
- We may also be able to draw on other EOs in rationale supporting Council actions – eg, administration priority to reduce the cost of living for American citizens (eg actions that reduce cost of fish for consumer) or reduce anti-competitive regulatory barriers (eg actions supporting entrepreneurship)



# CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June *(3/10)*

## 1. Develop NPFMC recommendations in response to NMFS letter on EO 14276

- **Timing:** NMFS letter requests each RFMC provide recommendations by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline is extended to 9/30, but doesn't cover October meeting. Discussion at CCC indicated that we could augment preliminary recommendations close to the 9/30 final deadline if necessary.
- **Source of recommendations:** Original NPFMC 2018 recommendations prioritized then-ongoing actions, support for removing unnecessary recordkeeping and reporting requirements, and support for incentive-based non-regulatory tools. NMFS has prepared an updated discussion paper (attached under B2) that looks at in-progress Council actions that align with this EO, and other potential ideas. Public comment letters and testimony in June may highlight additional actions.
  - Note that while including actions on the list highlights Council priorities for NMFS, the Council will most likely still have to follow normal rule-making process to make changes (i.e., still require alts and analysis)
- **Proposed NPFMC process:** 1) Compile letter to send after June Council meeting; 2) encourage public also to comment directly to Secretary of Commerce; 3) if necessary, Council could have a follow-up discussion during B reports (Thurs 10/2) at the October Council meeting to add to letter.
  - NMFS FR notice soliciting direct public input will be published soon

## CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June (4/10)

### **2. CCC discussion between RFMCs and NMFS about aligning priorities in face of fewer resources / new administration's priorities**

- Messages:
  - Agency can't continue to do stock assessments for 500 species, needs to reorganize
  - Councils/SSCs need to get comfortable with more risk
  - Proposed evaluation rubric looking at value and risk for each stock
- See slides from NMFS presentations (excerpts follow):  
<https://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccc-meetings/may-2025>



## Alignment With Management

How will NOAA Fisheries Science align with Management to ensure support for statutory requirements (e.g., frequency of assessments, surveys, data collection and warehousing, socioeconomic impact analyses, etc.)?

- Cannot plan for a sustained current science and management of the numerous stocks/stock complexes we have (**need for change**) e.g., simpler approaches
- Changing how we manage our fisheries will have impacts (positive and negative) to our staff, fisheries and fishing communities
- We want to balance national consistency and interoperability with regional flexibility while maintaining accountability
- Science and Management engagement with Councils will be critical to success here
- Changing how we co-develop a new science and management framework will require a balance of requirements, resources, and risk
- Increased uncertainty should (can) not automatically equal decreases in harvest

# Assumptions

- We cannot continue to manage the 500+ stocks/stock complexes we have in FMPs
- There will be impacts to our staff, fisheries, and fishing communities to changing how we manage our fisheries
- We want to balance national consistency and interoperability with regional flexibility
- Engagement internally, with Councils and Commissions, and stakeholders will be critical to success
- We are likely going to need to take increased risk and strategically choose where we take that increased risk

# National Standard Guidelines (preamble)

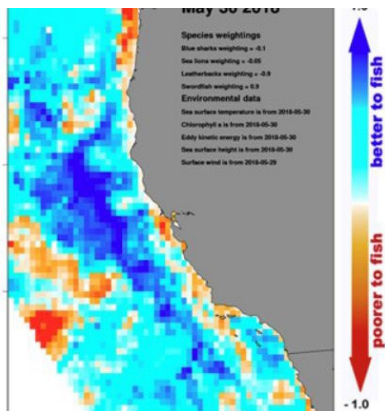
Based on this definition of conservation and management, and other relevant Magnuson provisions, a Council should consider the following non-exhaustive list of factors when deciding whether additional stocks require conservation and management:

- (i) The stock is an important component of the marine environment.
- (ii) The stock is caught by the fishery.
- (iii) Whether an FMP can improve or maintain the condition of the stock.
- (iv) The stock is a target of a fishery.
- (v) The stock is important to commercial, recreational, or subsistence users.
- (vi) The fishery is important to the Nation or to the regional economy.
- (vii) The need to resolve competing interests and conflicts among user groups and whether an FMP can further that resolution.
- (viii) The economic condition of a fishery and whether an FMP can produce more efficient utilization.
- (ix) The needs of a developing fishery, and whether an FMP can foster orderly growth.
- (x) The extent to which the fishery is already adequately managed by states, by state/Federal programs, or by Federal regulations pursuant to other FMPs or international commissions, or by industry self-regulation, consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law.

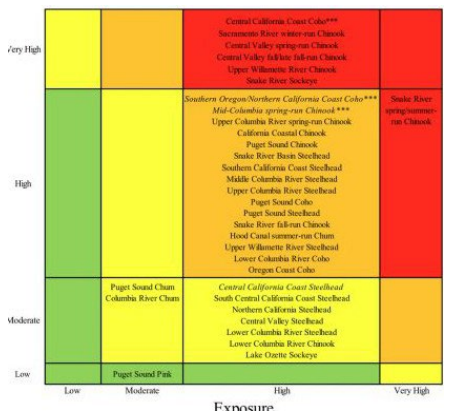


# Potential Factors to Consider

Biomass/  
healthy  
age  
structure

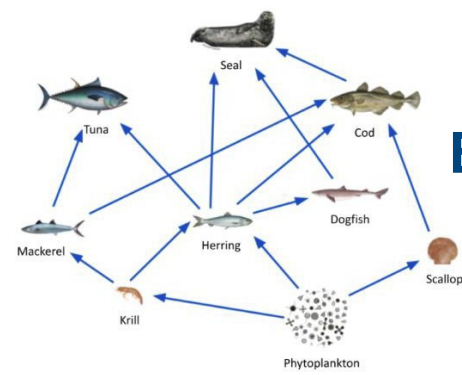


Current/  
Forecast  
Ecosystem &  
Socio-  
economic  
conditions



Climate  
vulnerability

Top  
commercial/  
recreational  
species at  
national/  
regional level

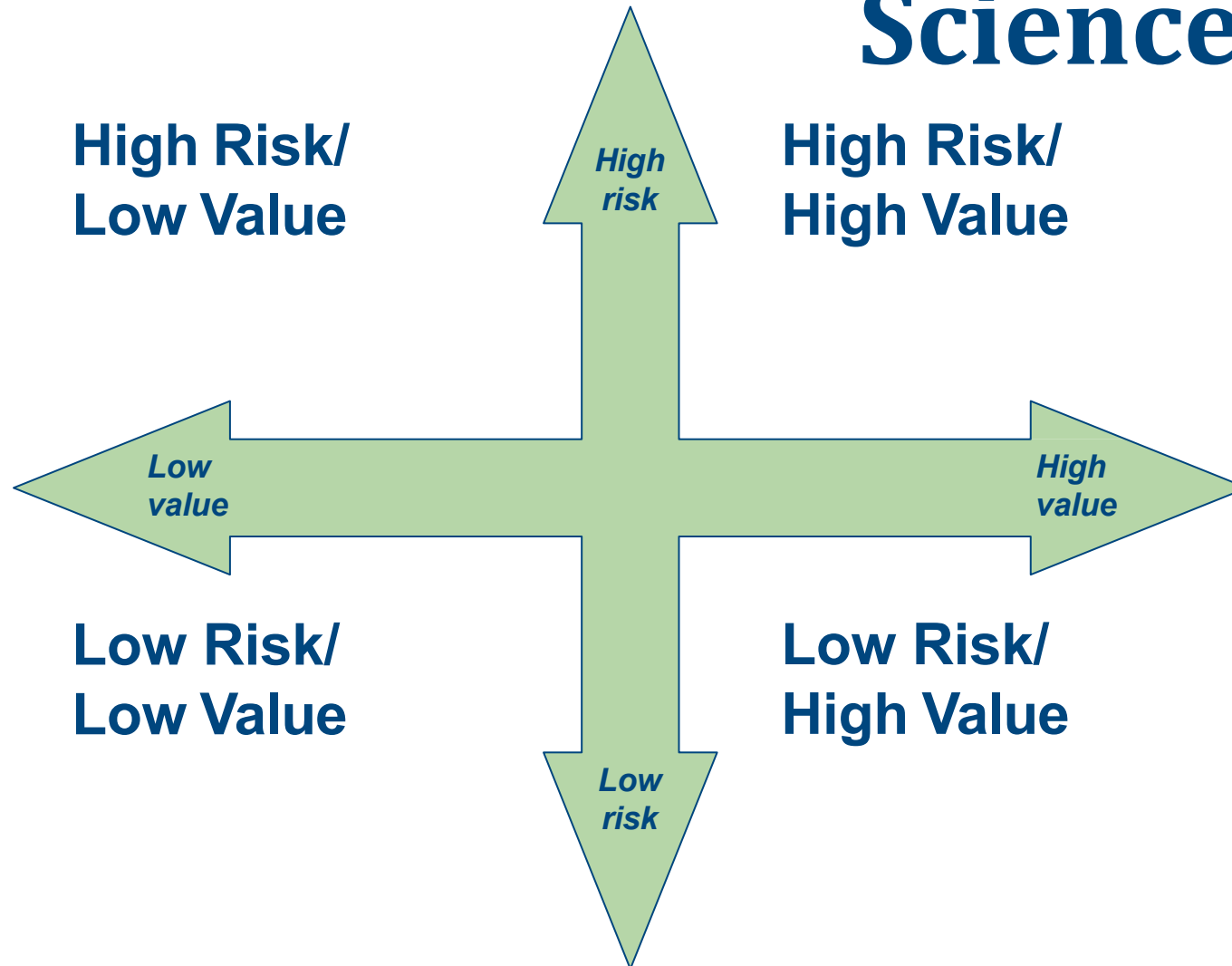


Ecosystem  
Role



Social/  
culturally  
important  
stocks

# Prioritization of Stocks/Complexes for Science and Management



## Value Categories

- Commercial
- Recreational
- Social

## Risk Categories

- Ratio of Catch:ACL
- Biomass/ Rebuilding Status
- Ecosystem Role
- Current / Forecast Ecosystem & Socio-economic conditions

\*These proposed categories are revised from SAIP importance factors and may need to be refined.



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

## CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June *(10/10)*

### 2. RFMCs and NMFS need to align priorities in face of fewer resources / new administration priorities

- CCC action: RFMCs created a workgroup of executive directors to come up with RFMC core priorities to discuss with NMFS at the October CCC meeting
- **How does the NPFMC want to engage in this process?** Ideas:
  - Wait and see what transpires through RFMC workgroup, and what is NMFS' direction specifically to NPFMC/fisheries off Alaska
  - Proactively initiate a discussion paper to evaluate and communicate what are NPFMC core functions and priorities; and/or to evaluate our assessed stocks to see where they rate on proposed rubric (AFSC stock prioritization analysis may have much of this info?)
  - RELEVANCE IN JUNE: SSC is holding an HCR workshop to come up with recommendations for future work to respond to environmental change – this context may help to shape the Council's next steps resulting from that workshop



# COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

Meeting materials available on [Council eAgenda](#)

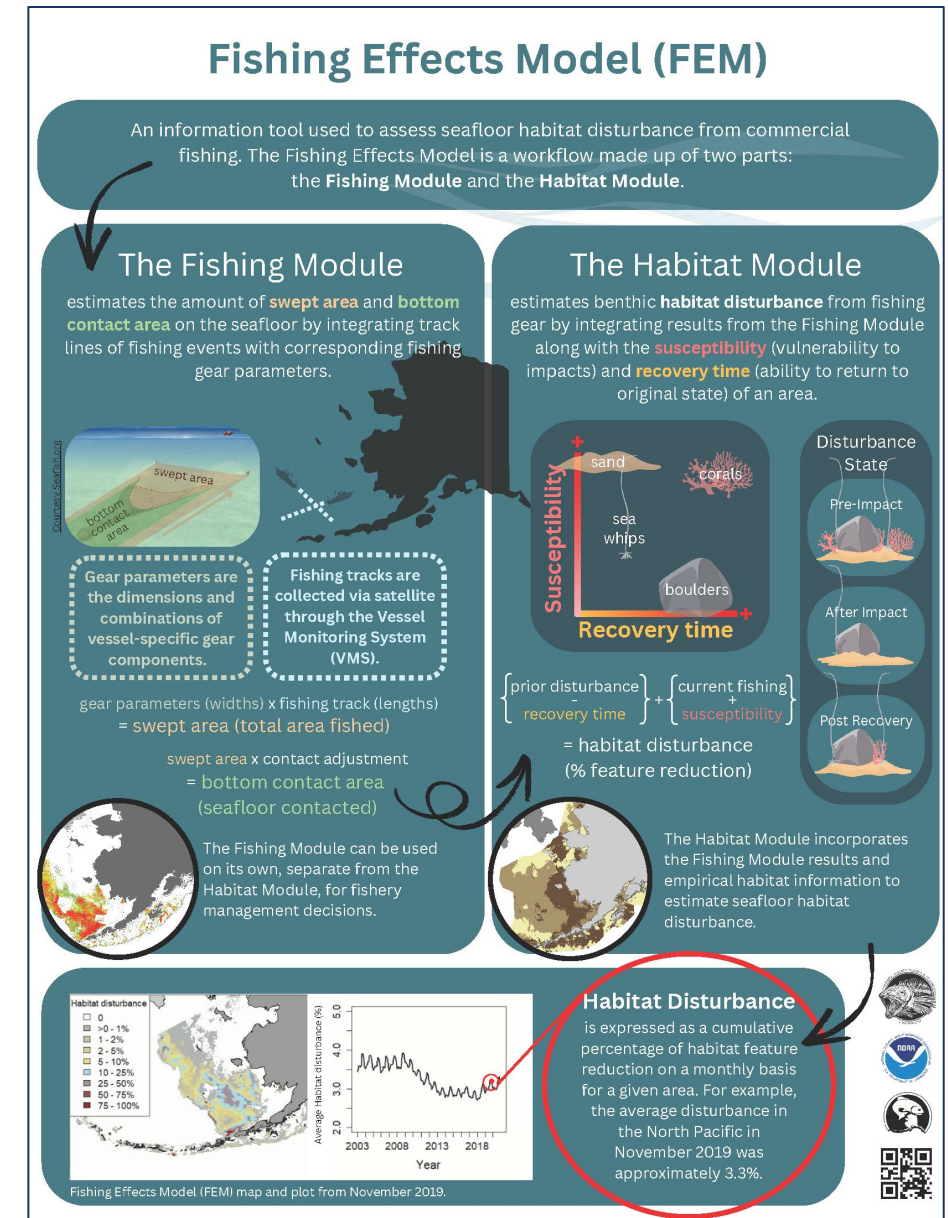
- **C3 Pelagic trawl gear**
  - Final action on updating the pelagic trawl gear definition, and pelagic trawl gear innovations work industry research update and discussion paper
- **D1 AFA Program Review report**
- **D2 CGOA Rockfish Program Review report**
- **D4 Blackspotted/rougeye rockfish accountability measure options**
  - Council is considering options to develop new accountability measures, given ABC exceedance in 3 of last 4 years. More information will come to the SSC through Plan Team report in October.



# DRAFT FISHING EFFECTS MODEL

## HANDOUT *UNDER C3 ON COUNCIL EAGENDA*

- **Format:** four-page glossy, 8.5 x 11" handout. Front two pages can also be stand-alone. Will also anchor a Council (interactive) webpage with additional information, glossary, and related resources.
- **Target audience:** general participant in the Council process; high-level overview of model elements and uses
- **Content:** Currently trawl-focused, to support ongoing pelagic trawl gear analyses. Looking at ways to incorporate more information on other gear types. Will also help support future EFH work.
- **Timeline to finalize:** end of summer for glossy and first draft of webpage. On longer timeline, staff will work to expand webpage and make interactive.
- **Feedback:** Please provide any feedback to Anita Kroska (NPFMC staff) by the end of June.



# SSC HCR WORKSHOP FORMAT

- Scheduled for 4 hours: 8am – 12pm; Dr. Franz Mueter as workshop Chair
- 3 sessions each followed by questions and panel discussion (panelists include SSC members, presenters, and Plan Team chairs)
  1. Overview of Council HCRs and flexibility, and ongoing work on HCR considerations and simulations to date – *Dr. Diana Stram, Dr. Kirstin Holsman, Dr. Anne Hollowed*
  2. Issue-specific “lightning talks” on MOM6 projections and various HCR topics related to snow crab, pollock, Pacific sardines – *Dr. Kelly Kearney, Dr. Cody Szuwalski, Dr. Paul Spencer, Dr. Jim Ianelli, Dr. Chris Free*
  3. Short presentations on OY cap modeling tools and methodologies – *Dr. Carey McGilliard, Dr. Alberto Rovellini, Dr. Jim Ianelli*
- Public testimony, then SSC-only discussion of workplan recommendations and next steps



# AFSC REPORT (Council agenda B4)

- Dr. Bob Foy is providing an AFSC report to the Council, with updates on data collection and surveys
- See agenda item B4 for presentation



# FUTURE MEETINGS

- **October and Dec 2025** – at present planned for Anchorage, Egan Center, in-person
  - Budget contingent; either may switch all/in-part to virtual if funding is cut.
- **December 2025 SSC Schedule** – too full; adjustment needed. Acute issue for December 2025, but also longer term Dec issue. Discussion in Council's E staff tasking action memo.
  - Items currently on the agenda: BSAI and GOA final specifications (including ESRs), NSRKC specifications, Cook Inlet salmon specifications (approx. 30hrs; time available is 20-24 hours)
  - Meeting for an extra day in December is not an option
  - Viable solution: move Cook Inlet salmon specs to a special meeting in late Jan/early Feb. Could make it a full SSC meeting in lieu of the April meeting, to keep within the 4 meetings/year footprint?
  - Other possibilities: consider moving NSRKC, Cook Inlet Tier 3 stocks off of an annual cycle; strictly implement groundfish 'update assessments' to ONLY rerun model with new data



## EVENTS THIS WEEK

- **SSC members have catered lunch scheduled** for Monday and Tuesday only
  - Wednesday you are on your own
- Tuesday, 6/3: **SSC group picture** during morning break
- Wednesday, 6/4: **SSC Workshop** on Harvest Control Rule Adjustments, 8am-12pm
  - *NOTE: separate workshop [eAgenda and zoom login](#)*
- Wednesday, 6/4: **Newport OR fleet fishing [gear demonstration](#)**, anytime 4-7pm, Newport Intl Terminal
- Thursday, 6/5: **[Council reception](#)**, 5.30pm-8.30pm, Yacht Club



# REMAINING TOPICS UNDER ADMIN ISSUES

- Revised SSC handbook posted with additional edits resulting from SSC's review in April; Council will review and approve in Executive Session on Friday
  - New paragraph added to 3.6 regarding award nominations
  - New reference added re [groundfish stock assessment definitions](#)
- Chair/Members
  - Members will acknowledge any direct associations with SSC agenda items and/or financial conflicts of interest.
- Chair/Vice Chair
  - Discuss deadlines for SSC report development

- *Contact*  
[npfmc.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov)  
*with any problems or questions*

