



## E Staff Tasking

June 2021 Council Meeting

### Action Memo

Council Staff: David Witherell, Diana Evans

Action Required:

1. Review Committees and Plan Teams
2. Provide direction on tasking priorities and scheduling

## BACKGROUND

### Committees and Plan Teams

#### Membership

Attached is the updated Council committee list reflecting changes since April 2021. In the April 2021 newsletter, the Council issued a call for nominations for a vacancy for a pollock trawl CP representative on the Council's **Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)**. The Council Chair has appointed Paul Wilkins to that committee. The Council also issued a call for nominations for the reconstituted **Community Engagement Committee (CEC)**, for which the Chair will announce appointments during this meeting.

The Chair of the Council's **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** has advised that there is an opening for a partial coverage observer representative on the PCFMAC. The PCFMAC provides the Council with stakeholder advice and recommendations related to the partial observer program and electronic monitoring. The **Trawl EM Committee** chair has also advised of a resignation on that committee, and interest in soliciting for a vacancy for an additional EM service provider.

#### Meeting status

Committee and Plan Team meetings that are currently anticipated over the summer, all occurring virtually, include:

- **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – September 13-17, 2021
- **BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams** – September 20-24, 2021
- **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – TBD (Sep 2021)
- **Ecosystem Committee** – TBD (September 2021)

### Tasking and Scheduling

Posted on the eAgenda are updated versions of tasking documents that are normally included as background material for staff tasking: the 3-meeting outlook, Council staff responsibilities, groundfish workplan update, and status of Observer Program and IFQ projects.

BSAI Halibut ABM timeline

Analysts are currently working to revise the DEIS per recommendations of the SSC and modifications by the Council in April. Given the NEPA requirements for iterative reviews and other timing requirements the following provides information on approximate internal and NEPA deadlines for the DEIS. This timeline is subject to revision.

Action	Approximate Timing
Council staff revise DEIS	4/19-7/16
NMFS and GCAK review and revisions	7/19-9/2
NMFS submit DEIS to EPA	9/3
DEIS publishes	9/10
45 day public comment period	9/13-10/27
NMFS and Council staff prepare Comment Analysis Report	10/28-11/19
Comment Analysis Report posted	11/22
Council Final Action	12/6-12/14, 2021
Final EIS prepared	TBD depending on Council PA
Final Rule published	October/November 2022
Implementation	January 2023

Ecosystem Committee report

The Ecosystem Committee met on 20 April, 2021 and 27 May, 2021, via AdobeConnect, to receive updates on EFH, discuss the Council’s motion on other effective areas-based conservation measures, discuss the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team and the Climate Change Task Force reports (reported separately under agenda item D3), receive an update from the State of the Ecosystem workshop planning team, and to prioritize proposed ecosystem committee agenda topics and agenda schedules. The two Committee reports are posted.

Planning for October 2021 meeting

A separate attachment discussing considerations for the October 2021 meeting is posted to the eAgenda for your review. As previously reported, we have been planning for returning to in-person Council meetings, and have been evaluating all the factors that form part of that decision, including opportunities for remote participation (for example, testimony), and potential accommodations for COVID protocols. We are looking for discussion and feedback to inform our planning. Dates of the October meeting will vary depend on whether each meeting is held in person.

**Public Comment**

The Council has received several written public comments, including a number of letters from stakeholders associated with the Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) fishery. The letters ask for the removal of the EAG facility use cap in order to provide a live crab market opportunity for independent processing quota holders through custom processing arrangement as well as for more crab harvesters. Council staff will be including some background context on the history of the facility use cap as a supplement to this staff tasking action memo.