

December 2022 assessment of Council agenda projects and staffing requirements

In October 2022, NMFS alerted the Council about staffing constraints that would affect regional office staff involvement in the development and implementation of some Council projects. The following table provides an assessment of Council projects with respect to NMFS' priorities, and evaluates to what degree Council staff are reliant on NMFS expertise to respond to Council tasking.

<p>NMFS priorities from October 2022 B reports</p>	<p>1) keeping fishing operational and preventing overfishing (inseason mgmt, monitoring programs, specs, halibut mgmt measures), legal mandates (eg rebuilding, FOIA, litigation), emergency rules</p> <p>2) work on FMP and reg amendments, with priority on conservation, legal considerations, Council priorities, and proximity to mandatory deadlines. Rulemaking for final actions <u>higher</u> priority than input on analyses making way through Council process.</p> <p>If it's not a conservation issue and only affects a small number of participants, likely lower priority</p>					
<p>Staff guidance for Council staff tasking discussion</p>	<p>1. For NMFS must do items, business as usual re setting priorities at staff tasking/ planning in 3 meeting outlook</p> <p>2. For lower priority items: - we can continue to be fairly transparent with timing for Council staff-only items - caution needed re setting timing for new/batter's box actions that will require rulemaking. Don't want to have to redo analysis with new information if sits too long without rulemaking. - unlikely to schedule actions where NMFS early input is critical (eg those with regulatory or implementation nuances)</p> <p>3. Staff continue to look for sense of Council priorities with respect to big picture themes as well as specific projects</p> <p>4. Continued expectation that 3-meeting outlook may be more variable than last few years, as we try to capitalize on windows to move projects forward</p>					
		<p>Project</p>	<p>Date</p>	<p>Comments?</p>		
<p>NMFS higher priorities</p>	<p>Support for ongoing Council projects</p>	<p>Specs - groundfish, crab, scallop, halibut</p>	<p>various</p>			
		<p>Snow crab rebuilding (legal mandate)</p>	<p>Dec-Feb</p>			
		<p>Cook Inlet salmon (litigation-driven)</p>	<p>Dec-Apr</p>			
		<p>RKCSA emergency rule request</p>	<p>Dec</p>			
		<p>FMP BiOps on ongoing groundfish fisheries</p>	<p>2023</p>			
	<p>Council has completed, NMFS is doing rulemaking</p>	<p>EM Trawl monitoring rulemaking</p>	<p>final in Oct 2022</p>			
		<p>Halibut ABM</p>	<p>final in Dec 2021</p>			
		<p>BSAI Pcod trawl CV coop (PCTC)</p>	<p>final in Oct 2021</p>			
		<p>IFQ omnibus</p>	<p>final in June 2022</p>			
		<p>EDR adjustments</p>	<p>final in Feb 2022</p>			
<p>Other Council-related items taking NMFS time</p>	<p>ongoing inseason management, monitoring programs support, tribal engagement and consultations FOIAs - ABM</p>					
				<p>Rulemaking for NMFS monitoring/reporting adjustments</p>		
				<p>NMFS lower priorities - final actions</p>	<p>Council has taken action, rulemaking not yet started</p>	<p>CGOA rockfish adjustments</p>
<p>Small boat cod</p>	<p>final in Oct 2022</p>					
<p>RQE fee collection</p>	<p>final in April 2022</p>					
<p>NMFS lowest priorities - actions underway</p>	<p>Analyses that don't require rulemaking</p>	<p>BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce work</p>	<p>Oct - Feb - ?</p>	<p>continued AFSC involvement critical, but not AKR</p>		
		<p>EFH FMP amendments from 5 year review</p>	<p>Feb-Jun?-Oct?</p>	<p>Summary report in Feb will likely lead to FMP amendments (needs some AKR staff work but not as intensive as rulemaking)</p>		
		<p>PSEIS scoping discussion paper</p>	<p>Feb - ?</p>	<p>can compile much initial information inhouse, subsequent review and involvement needed from NMFS AKR/ NOAA GC</p>		
		<p>BS FEP LKTKS Taskforce work</p>	<p>April</p>	<p>continued AFSC involvement critical, but not AKR</p>		
		<p>A80 program and allocation review</p>	<p>April</p>	<p>can prepare with limited NMFS involvement</p>		
		<p>OECM review</p>	<p>batter's box</p>	<p>workload primarily Council staff</p>		
		<p>GOA Pcod sector allocation review</p>	<p>batter's box</p>	<p>likely can do inhouse if need be</p>		
		<p>BSAI Crab program review</p>	<p>batter's box</p>	<p>likely can do inhouse or in working with AFSC, but industry may be looking for some changes which would involve NMFS down the line</p>		
		<p>IFQ program review</p>	<p>batter's box</p>	<p>likely can do inhouse if need be, however NMFS has a list of administrative issues they wanted to fold in which would be lost</p>		

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Analyses that Council staff can complete but which will require rulemaking	Chum salmon bycatch discussion paper	Dec - Apr?	Unknown what will be tasked next but initial steps likely can go forward without AKR. Needs AFSC genetics input.
	Universal data collection discussion paper	Feb	AKFIN, with Council staff support and consultation with RAM
	AIGKC facility use caps	Feb-Jun	Much work can be done inhouse
	Greenland turbot in longline pots	April final action	Will move slower as some lead staff turnover, but already have M&E input
	Crab C shares recent participation	batter's box	Mostly needs RAM input, otherwise can largely do inhouse
	Area 4 vessel use cap (permanent)	batter's box	Likely can do inhouse if need be- will need RAM/OLE input. Less urgency as temporary action will last through 2027.
Analyses that need NMFS input before final action	AIGKC start date discussion paper	batter's box	Start date aspect requires collaborative thought w/ NMFS and ADF&G.
	CSP revised allocation	batter's box	Pending possible Congressional action, will require active AKR and ADF&G participation
	Small sablefish release	batter's box	Considerable effort to come up with DMRs for sablefish. However, staff may have other ideas how to address root problem
	Pot gear regulation consistency	batter's box	NMFS-led effort, does not involve Council staff