



## E Staff Tasking

December 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 October 2021. In the October 2021 newsletter, the Council issued a call for nominations for **Advisory Panel** and **SSC** members, as well as an Area 3A representative for the **Charter Halibut Management Committee**. At the end of the meeting the Council Chair will also announce appointments.

#### Meeting status

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings that are currently anticipated for the rest of the year and early next.

- **Charter Halibut Management Committee** – December 6, 2021 – virtual
- **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – January 10-14, 2022 – in person with remote accessibility
- **Ecosystem Committee** – January 25-26, 2022 – virtual
- **BSFEP Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF)** – January 18-20, 2022
- **BSFEP Local Knowledge/Traditional Knowledge/Subsistence (LKTKS) Taskforce** – January 2021 (TBD)
- **PCFMAC** – January 2022 (TBD)
- **Scallop Plan Team** – February 2022 (TBD)
- **Ecosystem Committee** – March 2022 (TBD)
- **Trawl EM Committee** – March or April 2022 (TBD)

### 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, and the groundfish workplan update.

#### Analytical staff capacity

As we discussed in October, the Council's analytical staff is operating at reduced capacity for the immediate future, and the Council should be aware that our existing capacity is fully subscribed or oversubscribed with ongoing analytical projects and committee/Plan Team responsibilities. As such, any

new tasking will necessitate clear discussions about priority, and as staff adjust to the Council's priorities, the timeline for some existing issues may be delayed.

#### Draft February 2022 agenda

A preliminary February 2022 agenda is posted to the eAgenda for your review. Please note that this draft is for the purpose of discussion and feedback, and it will be revised after this meeting. As announced, the meeting will be held virtually. The AP and Council will consider Norton Sound red king crab specifications and snow crab rebuilding plan alternatives, final action on RQE and EDR amendments, and some smaller agenda items; the SSC is busy with early reviews of trawl EM sampling issues and EFH models for use in the EFH 5-year review, among other things. The SSC and AP are both scheduled to meet January 31 – February 4, and the Council is scheduled for February 7-11.

#### Planning for upcoming meetings

As discussed in the [announcement](#) about the February 2022 meeting, we are still planning for return to in-person Council meetings, hopefully beginning in April 2022 in Anchorage, AK. The Council has directed us to develop options for remote accessibility, including broadcasting all meetings and remote testimony, as far as we are able (noting that this may be more difficult when the Council meets in Alaska coastal communities). We intend to have these options available for the April 2022 Council meeting assuming the Council is able to meet in person. We will also consider hosting committee and Plan Team meetings in person, with remote accessibility, in 2022.

### **Public Comment**

Three written public comments have been submitted to the Council, and are available on the eAgenda.