



# E Staff Tasking

April 2024 Council Meeting

## Action Memo

- Council Staff: David Witherell, Diana Evans, Sara Cleaver (Programmatic Evaluation)
- Action Required:
1. Review Committees, Plan Teams, and upcoming meetings
  2. Feedback on pre-scoping and scoping activities for the programmatic evaluation
  3. Provide direction on tasking priorities, scheduling

## BACKGROUND

### Committees, Plan Teams: Membership and Upcoming Meetings

#### Membership

Posted on the eAgenda is the updated Council committee list reflecting changes since February 2024. As noted in the Executive Director’s report, the Council has received a nomination for the BSAI Crab Plan Team which may be considered during this agenda item.

Additionally, the Chair asked for an overview of all Council committees to see if they are still all relevant, and whether they need updated terms of reference or other direction, as well as committee structure, composition, and membership to ensure that the Council is getting the necessary and timely input on current topics. An overview document of Council committees is also posted on the eAgenda.

#### Status of future advisory group meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings are currently anticipated:

Advisory Group	Dates and location	Draft agenda topics
Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)	May 13-14, 2024 Anchorage, AK and virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review 2023 Observer Annual Report and NMFS recommendations for 2025 ADP</li> <li>• Review observer availability discussion paper (T)</li> <li>• Updates on data collection changes, legal cases affecting fishery monitoring, start-up issues with PCTC program</li> </ul>
BSAI Crab Plan Team	May 13-17, 2024 Anchorage, AK and virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIGKC specifications</li> <li>• Review proposed models for October specifications (BBRKC, Tanner crab, Snow crab, SMBKC)</li> <li>• BS Fisheries Research Foundation research update</li> </ul>

## Other meetings

**June 2024 Council [Climate Scenarios workshop](#):** The Council will hold a Climate Scenarios workshop during the June Council meeting, on Wednesday-Thursday (June 5-6) of the first week. The SSC, AP, and Council will all pause during those days to be able to attend the workshop. All attendees are asked to [register](#) by May 17th, to assist staff with planning.

In advance of the workshop, the Council will also host a series of virtual discussions:

- Session 1: **Climate change impacts in an uncertain future:** Weds, April 24, 2024 1-2 pm AK
- Session 2: **Defining climate readiness:** Tuesday, April 30 2024 1-2 pm AK
- Session 3: **Introduction to scenario planning:** Tuesday, May 14 2024 1-2 pm AK

**CIE review for GOA pollock:** A Center of Independent Experts (CIE) review for GOA pollock is scheduled for May 7-9th at the AFSC in Seattle, which is open for members of the public to attend in-person. The [agenda](#) will be published online in the coming days.

## **Engagement for the Programmatic Evaluation**

In February, the Council extended the timeline for pre-scoping for the Programmatic Evaluation of Council fishery management policies for its fisheries in light of environmental variability, and emphasized the goal of robust and meaningful public and Tribal engagement on the development of a Programmatic Evaluation. In a document on the eAgenda, staff have identified pre-scoping actions planned to date, and requested Council input on any additional activities that should be considered either during pre-scoping or formal NEPA scoping.

## **Tasking and Scheduling**

Posted on the eAgenda is an updated version of the 3-meeting outlook. Please note that the Council is currently hiring to replace forthcoming fishery analyst vacancies, and depending on the speed and outcome of those potential hires, we may need to adjust the timing of Council work as a result of staff capacity constraints.

The eAgenda also includes updated versions of the Council staff responsibilities, and the groundfish workplan, as background.

## Future meetings

A preliminary **June 2024** agenda is posted to the eAgenda for your review. Please note that these preliminary drafts are for the purpose of discussion and feedback, and will be revised after this meeting.

The June meeting will be in Kodiak, and if members of the public are planning to attend in person, we recommend booking accommodation soon. While hotel rooms may be somewhat limited, alternate options through VRBO and AirBnB are still available. The Kodiak [visitor's bureau](#) may also be helpful.

As discussed in February, we are not planning to hold an in-person February 2025 meeting. The Council can discuss in October whether a virtual meeting is required in February. Regardless, we intend to reserve dates for the April 2025 meeting to allow the Council to meet for 7 days if needed. The April 2025 dates will be March 31 – April 9, 2025.

## **Public Comment**

Written public comments that have been submitted to the Council are available on the eAgenda. As one of the submitted comments includes an emergency action request to the Council, staff have posted the guidelines for considering emergency action to the eAgenda for reference.