



E Staff Tasking

April 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: David Witherell, Diana Evans

Action Required:

1. Review Committees
2. Receive reports on the meetings of the a) Enforcement Committee, b) Ecosystem Committee, c) Community Engagement Committee, and d) sablefish depredation workshop.
3. Consider schedule changes
4. Provide direction on tasking and scheduling

BACKGROUND

Committees

Attached is the updated Council committee list reflecting Council changes in February 2019.

In the February 2019 newsletter, the Council issued a call for nominations for two vacant seats on its of its **Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee**. The Council issued a call for nominations for a pot CV representative, and also for an active observer. Given the difficulty that active observers sometimes have attending committee meetings, the Chair may choose to nominate two observers to share the active observer seat on the Committee. The Council has also received a Crab Plan Team nomination from ADFG, as described in the Executive Director's report. The Council Chair will announce appointments at the end of the meeting.

Committee and Plan Team meetings that are currently anticipated between April and June 2019 include:

- Salmon bycatch genetics workshop, April 15-16, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- Crab Plan Team, April 29-May 3, Anchorage, AK
- Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team, May 6-7, AFSC, Seattle, WA
- Social Science Plan Team, May 7-9, Anchorage, AK
- Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, May 20-21, AFSC, Seattle, WA

Please note that we have also changed the dates for the September Groundfish Plan Team meetings. The meeting is scheduled to occur during the week of September 16th, at the AFSC in Seattle, coincident with the Crab Plan Team meeting.

Reports from committees and workshops

The **Community Engagement Committee** held its first meeting on March 20, 2019 in Anchorage. The purpose of the meeting was to review the draft Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures, review the purpose and charter of the committee, and develop tentative plans for the committee to meet its objectives as provided by the Council. The Committee Report is attached.

The **Ecosystem Committee** met on April 1, to receive updates on the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network and northern fur seals (from both the AFSC and co-management partners), to discuss habitat issues and Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan implementation plans, and to develop a 3-year workplan for the Ecosystem Committee.

The **Enforcement Committee** met on April 2 to review the CQE fishup and sablefish discards analyses that have already been addressed on the Council agenda, and to receive a progress report on the Trawl EM Committee's Cooperative Research Plan.

The Council also hosted a **sablefish depredation workshop** earlier this week to bring together fishermen, stock assessment authors, and SSC members to discuss opportunities for cooperative research to investigate the impacts of sablefish depredation by killer whales and sperm whales from fishing gear in the GOA and BSAI. Staff can provide a brief summary of that workshop if desired.

Schedule change confirmations

As described in the Executive Director's report, when the Council considered and approved its timeline for program and allocation reviews (June 2017) it was stated that the BSAI crab program review cycle was once every 7 years and therefore the next comprehensive review would be expected in 2023. However, the BSAI crab FMP explicitly requires a 5-year review. If the Council wishes to affirm the 7-year review cycle determined in June 2017, a housekeeping amendment to the Crab FMP would be required.

In February 2019, the SSC recommended moving to a 3-year cycle for thoroughly reviewing the Council's research priorities and "top ten" list. The Council did not object to this recommendation during the SSC Chair's report, but also did not affirmatively concur with it. Unless the Council provides direction otherwise, we will proceed with scheduling the next research priorities review for February 2020, and every three years after that.

Finally, also unless the Council directs otherwise, we intend to change the timing of the Protected Resources B report from every meeting to occur instead on an annual basis, during the February meeting. This will coincide with the SSC's annual update on marine mammal conservation status. If there are pressing protected species issues that come up in the interim, we will either address them in the Executive Director's report or the NMFS management report, or with sufficient advance notice, will schedule a Protected Species B report out of cycle.

Tasking and Scheduling

Also attached are various tasking documents. The Council may wish to discuss priorities for completing ongoing projects, as well as any new tasks assigned during the course of this meeting.

- Three-meeting outlook
- Council staff responsibilities
- Groundfish workplan
- Status of Observer Program projects

The status of IFQ projects is not attached to the staff tasking agenda item, as the Council has already reviewed that document under agenda item D7.

Public comment

The public comment letters submitted for your review and consideration are linked to the agenda.