



# D4 AFA Program Review Workplan

February 2024 Council Meeting

## Action Memo

Council Staff: Kate Haapala  
Other Presenters: Jon McCracken (McCracken & Associates; lead)  
Action Required: 1. Review workplan  
2. Provide any feedback to the proposed scope and content

## BACKGROUND

The American Fisheries Act (AFA) was signed into law in October 1998, and it created the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) AFA Program. The AFA Program is a Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) designed to 1) tighten U.S. ownership standards for fishing vessels that had been exploited under the Anti-reflagging Act, 2) significantly decapitalize the BSAI pollock fishery, and 3) provide the BSAI pollock fleet the opportunity to conduct their fishery in a more rational manner while protecting non-AFA participants in other fisheries.

Section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Council and NMFS to review LAPPs, including those programs approved prior to the reauthorized MSA in 2007. Reviews are intended to objectively evaluate the program's performance in meeting its goals and objectives as outlined in the MSA, including the impact on harvesting and processing sectors, and fishery dependent communities. The MSA also specifies that reviews of these LAPPs should occur no less frequently than once every seven years. The last AFA Program review was finalized in 2017 and the Council is scheduled to begin another review of this program in 2024.

At this stage, a program review workplan has been prepared by staff (see figure below). **The purpose of a program review workplan is to detail the legal requirements and guidance for the review, outline the proposed scope and content, and perhaps most importantly, provide an opportunity for the SSC, AP, Council, and public to weigh in on this proposed scope and content.** This feedback will inform the development of the review. The completed AFA Program review will be considered at the June 2024 Council meeting. At that point, the SSC, AP, Council, and public may provide feedback on the review's evaluation of the AFA Program's objectives, impacts, and any changes recommended before the document is finalized. A program review is not an "action document;" any changes to the AFA Program that may be warranted and are highlighted during the review will be considered for action separately from the review. This could occur through the initiation of a discussion paper or an analysis.

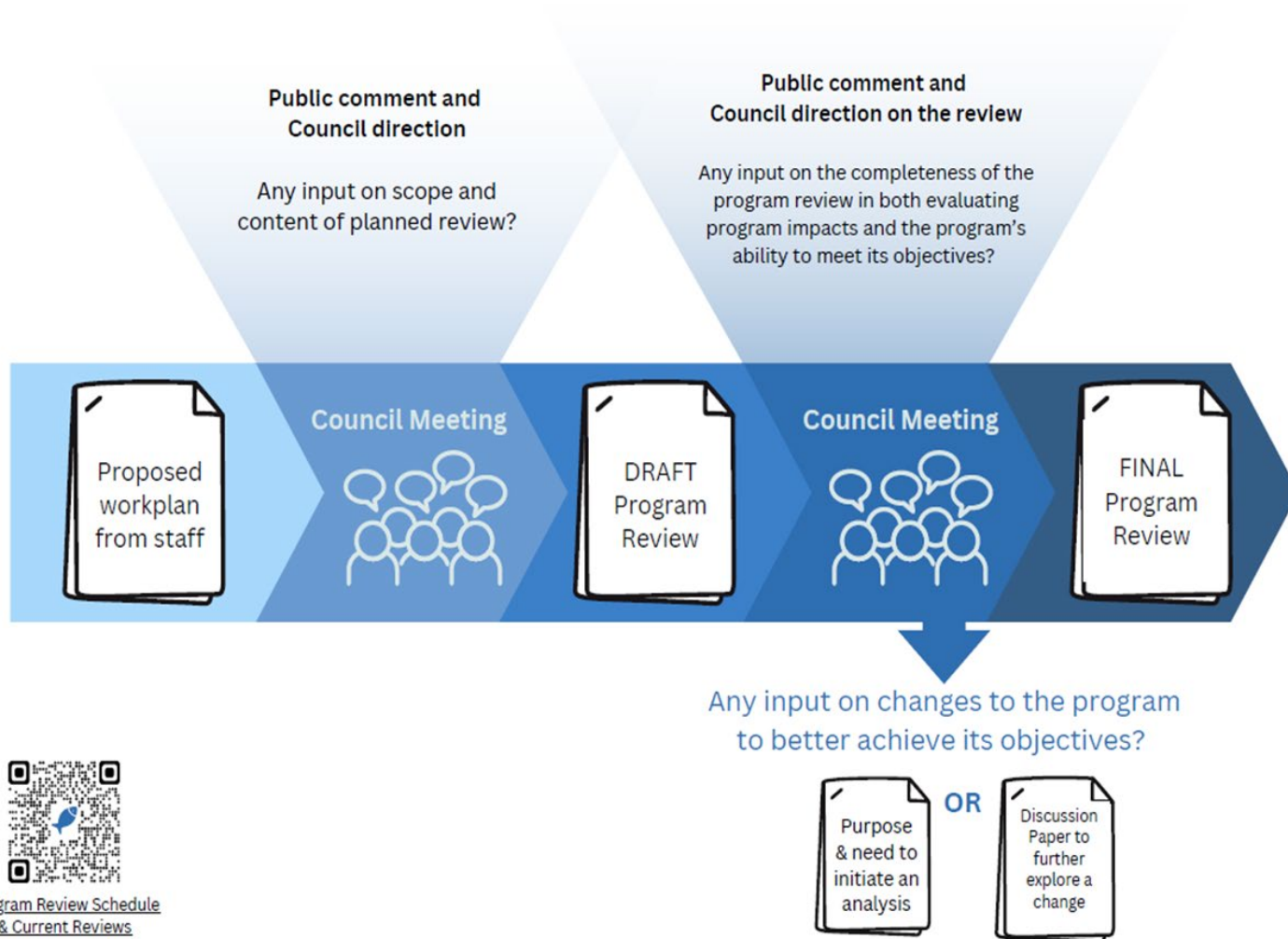
Based on the approach detailed in the Program and Allocation Review Workplan<sup>1</sup> and approved by the Council in April 2023, this AFA Program review will also satisfy the requirements for reviewing Bering Sea pollock allocations that are required by NOAA allocation policy directive 01-119.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=56436ad5-c8d8-4383-b42d7646f3811912.pdf&fileName=E%20Program%20and%20Allocation%20Review.pdf>

# NPFMC Program Reviews

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act requires program reviews initially after the first 5 years and then every 7 years for all Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs).



[Program Review Schedule & Current Reviews](#)