



E Staff Tasking

October 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: David Witherell, Diana Evans
Action Required: 1. Review Committees / Meetings
2. Provide direction on tasking and scheduling

BACKGROUND

Committees / Meetings

Attached is the updated Council committee list.

In the June 2019 newsletter, the Council issued a call for nominations for vacancies on three committees. Over the summer, the Council chair appointed Mike Simpson to replace Dale Schwarzmiller as a processing representative on its **Trawl EM Committee**, and appointed Georgeanna Heaverley to the **Cook Inlet Salmon Committee**. He also appointed Council member Karla Bush to co-Chair the Cook Inlet Salmon Committee. The Council also received nominations for the **IFQ Committee**, and the Council Chair will announce appointments at the end of the meeting, potentially along with other changes to committees resulting from the change in Council membership.

In June, the Council also called for membership nominations for two taskforces to work on two Action Modules, or projects, that implement the Council's Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The two initiated Action Modules are the following: the **Climate Change Action Module**, to evaluate short- and long-term effects of climate change on fish, fisheries, and the Bering Sea ecosystem, and develop management considerations; and the **LK/TK/Subsistence Action Module**, to develop protocols for using local knowledge (LK) and traditional knowledge (TK) in management, and understanding impacts of Council decisions on subsistence use. The Council has received several nominations for both taskforces, from which the Council Chair will announce appointments.

Finally, at this meeting the Council will consider a recommendation from its Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee that may also result in changes to that committee's structure, and the Chair may wish to appoint or call for nominations for that committee.

Committee and Plan Team meetings that are currently anticipated between October and December 2019 include:

- Charter Halibut Management Committee, October 29th, Anchorage, AK
- Social Science Planning Team, November 6th, teleconference
- Groundfish Plan Teams, November 12-15, AFSC, Seattle, WA

Reports from committees and events

The **Community Engagement Committee** (CEC) meets on October 1, 2019 in Homer. The purpose of the meeting is to receive an update on ways the Council has applied CEC recommendations to date, to receive a brief overview of NMFS tribal consultation policies and procedures, and to generate ideas and opportunities to continue to improve engagement. The Committee Report will be attached once available.

NMFS hosted a **recreational halibut roundtable** earlier this week to bring together local fishermen to talk about recreational fishing issues. Staff will provide the Council with a short report on the roundtable discussions.

The Council is also hosting a **Salmon Outreach** meeting on Monday, September 30th in Homer, and an **Introduction the Council Process** opportunity on Tuesday, October 1st, and staff will be available to answer any questions about those events.

Tasking and Scheduling

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
- Status of IFQ projects

Upcoming Council meetings

Looking ahead to the December meeting agenda, one of the items for initial review will be reauthorization of the Central GOA Rockfish Program. In beginning to prepare for the analysis, NMFS has identified some proposed regulatory changes to include in the initial review analysis. A short discussion of these items is attached on the agenda. Unless the Council has feedback to the contrary, staff will include these changes in the analysis for the Council's review in December.

Also, please note that time period for analysis between the December and February Council meetings, which is always tight, is exacerbated this year by the fact that the February meeting begins on January 27th. The Council Chair and Executive Director will be taking this into account when considering the schedule for the February meeting.

Public comment

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