
E STAFF TASKING

DAVID WITHERELL, FEBRUARY 2022



COMPONENTS OF PRESENTATION

1. Ecosystem Committee report
 - January 2022 meeting
2. Staff paper: reflections on the Council process and ideas for change
 - Requested by Council in December 2021
3. Staff tasking memo, looking ahead to April (normal)



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT (1/3)

- **Marine Debris** (pp.1-2)
 - Committee recommends that the Council lend its platform as a venue to facilitate increased awareness and understanding of the marine debris efforts throughout the State, and support NOAA's development of a Marine Debris Action Plan for Alaska
 - Committee also recommends that the science questions of marine debris be considered by the SSC in the Council's research prioritization process, to better understand the role and risks of plastics in ecosystem health and human health
- **Northern Fur Seals** (p.2)
 - Committee commends NMFS and St Paul on the improved co-management partnership that is demonstrated both in the joint presentation as well as their ongoing process for revising the Conservation Plan



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT (2/3)

- **EFH 5-year review model development** (pp.2-3)
 - Committee valued the presentations, acknowledges the hard work and volume of new information developed by NMFS and the advances in EFH modeling, and appreciates the opportunity to provide interim input
- **Forage species review** (pp.3-4)
 - Committee recommends that the Council support the Plan Team organizing a public forage species workshop
 - Committee recommends that the Plan Team expand participation by inviting the involvement of affected users, especially those reliant on the nearshore for subsistence and traditional harvest
 - Committee supports the SSC's intent for the Council to track squid catch levels and evaluate management as part of the ecosystem component, but recommends that this topic not be included as part of the workshop



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT (3/3)

- **Planning for second Council ecosystem workshop (p.4)**
 - Committee concurs with the subgroup's rationale to postpone holding a Council ecosystem workshop in 2022.
 - Subject to Council approval, the Committee tasks the subgroup to consider ideas for reframing the workshop and revised timing, and prepare a proposal for Committee review in May / Council discussion in June 2022
- **Role/objectives of Ecosystem Committee (pp.4-6)**
 - Committee agrees on two roles for the Committee:
 1. As with any Council committee, there are specific Council agenda items which the Council tasks to the Committee for intentional review or development
 2. Also a role for the Committee to provide a broad, ecosystem-focused perspective on issues on the horizon but which the Council is not actively engaged with



STAFF PAPER: REFLECTIONS ON COUNCIL PROCESS AND IDEAS FOR CHANGE (1/8)

- Requested by Council in December 2021
- Identifies 14 ideas for Council process change, relating to:
 - Council meeting schedule/agenda timing, and
 - Council advisory bodies
- These are NOT staff recommendations; just ideas that have surfaced. Looking for public input and discussion.
- Council will direct staff whether to initiate deeper dive for a future meeting.



MEETING SCHEDULE (2/8)

- 1. Reduce the number of annual Council meetings from 5 to 4, and drop the February meeting**
 - Dec to Feb shortest time for work between meetings (holiday leave)
 - Options: move April and perhaps June earlier; hold different meeting in Pacific northwest
- 2. Create a schedule that makes 1-2 meetings per year virtual, and the remaining meetings in person**
 - Cost savings for public and Council; equal access
 - Explore which meeting(s) make sense
- 3. Consider issue-specific meetings, whether as virtual or in-person**
 - e.g. in December, only do specs and end of year reports?
 - Or issue-specific meeting for major final actions



MEETING SCHEDULE / SPECIFICATIONS (3/8)

- 4. Change the timing of the October meeting to avoid government shutdowns**
 - Move at least SSC meeting earlier by a week, or later in Oct
 - Implications for specifications cycles
- 5. Reevaluate the timing of the crab and groundfish harvest specifications, in light of fishery needs and stock prioritization**
 - Difficulties with crab specs and opening fisheries on October 15
 - SSC and AFSC author concerns with groundfish timing
 - BUT timing factors very complex – need broad internal review



AGENDA AND COUNCIL OPERATIONS (4/8)

6. Reconsider frequency of agency reports

- Keep written agency reports with annual oral report?

7. Consider order of agenda, and how to make time for longer-term planning

- Sometimes moving non-final actions earlier in agenda?
- Or theme meetings by subject? Dedicated workshop for long-term planning?

8. Consider ways to avoid duplicate staff presentations and public testimony, especially during virtual meetings

- Esp in virtual when AP/Council do not overlap, is it redundant or beneficial for Council/public to hear same staff report / testimony twice?



COUNCIL ADVISORY BODIES: ADVISORY PANEL (5/8)

- 9. Changes to the nomination/reappointment process for the AP – timing, qualifications, term length**
 - Move AP nomination process earlier (deadline mid October)?
 - Change AP membership criteria?
 - Change term length? Initial appointment always single year?

- 10. Reconsider the size and/or composition of the AP**
 - Geographic representation fixed in Council SOPP; other diversity is not



COUNCIL ADVISORY BODIES: ADVISORY PANEL (6/8)

11. Clarify the purpose of the AP, and consider operational changes to agenda, voting

- Council SOPP language indicates primary function of AP is to provide operational input. Practice of AP is to also recommend policy choices.
- Suggestion for Council to clarify purpose and set expectations
- Based on purpose, ideas for changes to AP operations
 - Continue to review final actions?
 - Continue to review agenda items that have undergone specialist committee review?
 - Continue to use motions and voting?



COUNCIL ADVISORY BODIES: SSC (7/8)

12. Changes to the nomination/reappointment process for the SSC – timing, recruitment, soliciting SSC input.

- Move SSC nomination process earlier (deadline mid October)?
- Consider SSC recruitment process
- Formalize process for getting SSC input on expertise needed

13. Consider how to reduce SSC workload.

- Consider which agenda items the SSC reviews, other review bodies, timing of materials
- Initial discussion from SSC about pros/cons of reducing non-action items and more limited peer review role



COUNCIL ADVISORY BODIES: OTHER (8/8)

14. Evaluate the purpose and usefulness of all Council advisory bodies, and consider ways to improve.

- Suggestion: request close look at advisory bodies and their original and current purpose, and evaluate
- Are expectations clear both to group and Council
- Is leadership and membership appropriate to meet those expectations
- Is there iterative communication between group and Council?
- Do recommendations get used / save Council time?



STAFF TASKING MEMO: COMMITTEES / UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Meetings currently anticipated:
 - **Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC)** – March 2, 2022
 - **Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)** – March 3, 2022
 - **Scallop Plan Team** – February 16, 2022
 - **Ecosystem Committee** – March 29-30, 2022
 - **BSFEP Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF)** – March 15-17, 2022
 - **Enforcement Committee** – March/April 2022 (T)
 - **BSAI Crab Plan Team** – May 16-20, 2022
 - **Trawl EM Committee** – May 2022 (TBD)
 - **Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)** – May 2022 (TBD)
 - **Ecosystem Committee** – May 25, 2022 (T)



TASKING AND SCHEDULING

- Normal tasking documents posted
 - Action memo
 - 3 meeting-outlook
 - Council staff - who does what
 - *(no groundfish workplan because triennial review instead)*



APRIL 2022 DRAFT AGENDA

Preliminary April 2022 *IN-PERSON* agenda posted for your review

- Council scheduled to start April 6th or 7th (W/Th) to 11th or 12th (M/Tu)
- *If items are added to SSC agenda, Council will start on 7th. In April, SSC and Council will not overlap, to allow pilot broadcasting of SSC.*
- Fairly light for Council
 - **Recurring April items:** Scallop PT reports
 - **Final Actions:** IFQ omnibus amendments, RQE funding (T)
 - **Other:**
 - BBRKC boundaries discussion paper
 - BS FEP team and taskforce reports, ACLIM update, Ecosystem Committee
 - Council-only: Executive Session, cooperative reports, agency reports from NIOSH, EFH non-fishing consultations, seabird bycatch working group



APRIL 2022 MEETING EXPECTATIONS

- Council will make final decision on the in-person component end Feb/early March, and notify members re planning travel
 - *If virtual: Council dates will be April 11-15, M-F*
- In-person Council meeting at Hilton in Anchorage, AK
 - **Remote accessibility options:** broadcast SSC/AP meetings, remote testimony, remote presenter capability. AP/Council members must attend in person to participate.
 - **COVID accommodations as needed:** larger meeting space; will follow local and CDC guidance for masking/vaccination requirements



DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK – 2/9/2022

	April 4-12, 2022 (T) Anchorage, AK (T)	Council staff contact	June 6-14, 2022 (T) Sitka, AK (T)	Council staff contact	October 3-11, 2022 (T) Anchorage, AK (T)	Council staff contact
Topics	<i>IF VIRTUAL: April 4-15</i>		<i>IF VIRTUAL: June 6-17</i>		<i>IF VIRTUAL: September 28-October 12</i>	
EVENTS/ REPORTS*	NMFS report: EFH consultation, BSIA process NIOSH report Seabird bycatch report Executive/Finance Committee Council Executive Session Cooperative reports	<i>DE</i> <i>JMC</i> <i>DE</i> <i>DW</i> <i>DW</i> <i>JMC</i>	CCC update NOAA Enforcement	<i>DW</i> <i>DW</i>	Election of officers EFP applications (T) NMFS: EDR adjustments update (T)	<i>DW</i> <i>DE</i> <i>SM</i>
SHELLFISH SPECS	Scallop: <i>SAFE report, ABC/OFL Specs, PT report</i>	<i>DE</i>	BSAI Crab stocks: <i>ABC/OFL specs, Crab PT report</i> Snow crab rebuilding: <i>Adopt alternatives</i>	<i>DS</i> <i>JMC</i>	BSAI Crab stocks: <i>ABC/OFL specs, Crab PT report</i> Snow crab rebuilding: <i>Initial Review</i>	<i>DS</i> <i>JMC</i>
GFISH SPECS					BSAI/GOA Groundfish: <i>Proposed specs, PT report</i> BSAI BS/RE rockfish spatial mgmt: <i>Disc. paper</i> GOADSR spatial management step 2: <i>Disc. paper</i>	<i>DS</i> <i>DS</i> <i>SClv</i>
REPORTING/ MONITORING			Trawl EM analysis: <i>Initial Rev., Trawl EM Cmte report</i> Observer Annual Report: <i>Review, FMAC report</i> Observer partial coverage cost efficiencies: <i>Report</i>	<i>AH</i> <i>SClv</i> <i>SClv</i>	Trawl EM analysis: <i>Final Action (T)</i> Obs. Annual Deployment Plan: <i>Review, PCFMAC report</i>	<i>AH</i> <i>SClv</i>
GOA GFISH MGMT						
BSAI GFISH MGMT			BSAI Pacific cod small boat access: <i>Initial Review</i>	<i>KH</i>	BSAI Pacific cod small boat access: <i>Final Action (T)</i>	<i>KH</i>
BSAI CRAB MGMT						
BYCATCH	BBRKC boundaries: <i>Discussion paper</i>	<i>SCu</i>	Chinook/chum genetics reports for BS, GOA: <i>Review</i> Chinook AEQ update, ADFG stock status: <i>Review</i> AFSC salmon research: <i>Report</i> Salmon excluder EFP: <i>Final Report</i> Pollock IPA reports: <i>Review</i>	<i>DS</i> <i>DS</i> <i>DW</i> <i>DW</i> <i>DS</i>		
HALIBUT: IFQ/CHARTER	RQE fee collection program: <i>Final Action</i> IFQ/CQE omnibus analysis: <i>Final Action</i>	<i>SM</i> <i>SClv</i>				
OTHER	BS Fishery Ecosystem Plan: <i>PT Report</i> BS FEP LKTKS Taskforce: <i>Report</i> BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce: <i>Report</i> Ecosystem Committee: <i>Report</i> ACLIM update: <i>Report</i>	<i>DE</i> <i>KH</i> <i>DS</i> <i>DE</i> <i>DS</i>	EFH fishing effects, Arctic EFH: <i>Review (SSC only)</i> Ecosystem Committee: <i>Report</i>	<i>SR</i> <i>DE</i>	EFH 5-year review: <i>Review, action as necessary (T)</i> Ecosystem Committee: <i>Report</i>	<i>SR</i> <i>DE</i>

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED:	Small sablefish release: <i>Initial Review</i>	CDQ allocations: <i>State Decennial Review (2022)</i>
	AI GKC start date and facility use caps: <i>Discussion paper</i>	Amendment 80 allocation: <i>Workplan (2022)</i>
	OECM review: <i>Discussion paper</i>	GOA Pacific cod sector allocation: <i>Review</i>
	Crab FMP housekeeping amndt: <i>Initial/Final Action</i>	MRSAM models: <i>Review (SSC only)</i>
	CSP revised allocations: <i>Initial Review</i>	

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Seven written comments submitted, posted on eAgenda
 - Requests for several Council actions affecting different fisheries
 - Request for emergency action regarding IFQ transfer flexibility and vessel caps
 - *Note, there are specific criteria for an action to qualify for emergency regulations.*

