

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) held a webinar on May 22, 2018 where, among other things, we discussed preparations for the September meeting. The proposed September Agenda (Agenda Item C.11.a, Attachment 2, 5/17/2018 7:27 AM version) has time scheduled for three Ecosystem items: E.1 West Coast EBFM Roadmap Implementation Plan; E.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) 5-Year Review—Scoping; and, E.3 Climate and Communities Initiative (“the Initiative”) Update.¹

In addition to providing ideas and analysis to the Council, the EWG's role involves helping frame and facilitate discussions from the Council advisory bodies (ABs) and public on ecosystem-related issues. Thinking of that role, we anticipate that the Council will be interested in having opportunity for all ABs to provide input in September because that meeting should be an important juncture for determining the Initiative's next steps. However, some ABs are not scheduled to be present at the September meeting, or may not convene their meetings in time to provide input useful for anticipated Council discussion.²

If the Council does wish to solicit input from all ABs, our recommendation would be to hold an EWG-led webinar in mid-August. This would allow us to convey the input we will present in September, emphasize areas of input to other ABs, and solicit comments on the EWG input. The purpose would be to prompt discussion among the other ABs. We do not anticipate needing the webinar for our own discussions. The ABs may also need separate opportunities to hold their individual discussions and draft statements.

Based on our May 22 discussion, we envision the EWG's major input for the Initiative Update as a discussion of possible next steps, with input on potential benefits and workload trade-offs that the Council could use to set priorities. We do not anticipate bringing forward substantial new information or analysis for the September Initiative discussion but would point people to the Initiative's January-February 2018 webinars and to the key background information in the March and April EWG reports.³

Likewise, the August webinar could serve a similar purpose for the FEP 5-Year Review Scoping. We presume the Council will also wish to hear from all ABs on this issue. The EWG anticipates bringing forward big picture ideas on what an FEP review might entail, including specific tasks related to the FEP that the EWG might take on after the September meeting and in preparation for March.

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¹ https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/C11_Att2_Sept_OR_JUNE2018BB.pdf

² We recognize that the schedule is preliminary and the Council or Executive Director may move the Ecosystem agenda items later in the week.

³ <https://www.pcouncil.org/ecosystem-based-management/fishery-ecosystem-plan-initiatives/climate-and-communities-initiative/climate-and-communities-initiative-2018-webinar-series/>;
<https://www.pcouncil.org/resources/archives/briefing-books/march-2018-briefing-book/#ecosystemMar2018>;
https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/IR8_Supp_EWG_TNCworkshopRecommendations_APR2018BB.pdf.