

## OMNIBUS WORKLOAD PLANNING PROCESS

In March 2013, the Council adopted a process to limit the management measures that would be considered during the development of biennial harvest specifications. New management measures<sup>1</sup> were to be considered outside of the biennial process. This was intended to control biennial process workload and increase the probability that harvest specifications will be implemented January 1. To address new management measures, [Council Operating Procedure 9](#) (excerpts provided here as Agenda Item I.9, Attachment 1) specifies that in June of the even-numbered years the Council will adopt a draft schedule and prioritized list of new measures to be analyzed outside of the biennial specifications process. In 2014, the June process start was delayed due to workload at the June meeting. This year, the start has been delayed to allow for an evaluation of the process.

The omnibus exercise has become one of considering and prioritizing all groundfish issues, to allow for a more holistic evaluation of groundfish priorities and workload. This approach has helped to manage the workload for those that have multiple responsibilities for groundfish management; and it has provided the Council with an opportunity to express its views on the relative importance of competing responsibilities and provide direction. Typically, the omnibus prioritization process has been carried out in a number of steps at a single meeting. First, Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff work together to provide for the advance briefing book a summary of

- items on which council action has been completed and implementation is in progress,
- immediate and long-term commitments already made, and
- candidate items for prioritization.

[Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 2](#) from the June 2016 meeting provides an example. At the Council meeting, there is a discussion of the available staff and Council time, and the Council identifies its top priority new measures for work in the coming biennium. After the initial agenda item is complete, Council and NMFS staff meet to identify the degree to which the Council priorities can be addressed and develop a work plan for moving forward, including identification of leads. These are provided in a joint NMFS/Council Staff report sometime toward the end of the meeting (for example [Agenda Item F.6, Supplemental Attachment 6](#) from the June 2016 meeting). Based on these priorities, a groundfish workload priorities document has been provided for each meeting that is intended to assist the Council in setting priorities when new possible management measures arise at subsequent meetings. The last such document was produced at the April 2018 meeting (provided here as Agenda Item I.9, Attachment 2). The placement of a possible measure on the “Unscheduled Project” list of that document is not an indication that there has been an evaluation of the idea and a determination that it is worth pursuing but rather that it is something to consider during the next prioritization. It may be that

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<sup>1</sup> New management measures are those for which the environmental impacts have not been previously analyzed and/or have not been previously implemented in regulations.

there are measures on the list which, with time for more careful consideration, the Council would decide not to advance for further development.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to discuss and evaluate the performance of the process. Taking into account already scheduled workload, the Council should decide how it would like to proceed with omnibus prioritization and provide guidance for future Council agendas.

**Council Action:**

**Discuss omnibus planning process in the context of existing groundfish workload commitments, and provide guidance on next steps.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.9, Attachment 1: Council Operating Procedure 9 (Excerpts).
2. Agenda Item I.9, Attachment 2: Groundfish Workload Plan (April 2018).

**Agenda Order:**

- I.9 Omnibus Workload Planning Process Jim Seger
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Discuss Omnibus Planning Process, Assess Existing Groundfish Workload, and Provide Guidance on Next Steps

PFMC  
08/13/18