

## FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING ISSUES FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There are two areas for Council discussion under this agenda item:

- 1) Setting the agenda for September and other future Council meetings
- 2) Addressing workload assignments

For the September meeting:

- Plan only for a webinar format or have a contingency for either webinar or in-person.
  - A hybrid of in-person meeting in Spokane with a webinar option is not a viable alternative for Council staff.
  - Staff will have to decide by no later than early August.
- If by webinar, consider maintaining a full Council September agenda that includes more than essential items.
- If by webinar, discuss the merits and drawbacks of modifying meeting dates and times: earlier advisory body (AB) meetings, no meetings on weekends, additional Council meeting dates, etc.
  - As a maximal example, ABs begin Sept. 8-9, Council meets Sept. 10-11, 14-18.

For future Council meetings:

- A number of important but not essential agenda items have been postponed from April and June (Supplemental Attachment 6), and there is a need to discuss if and how to address them in the future. Some near-term solutions have been discussed, including:
  - Expanding the format of the September meeting if held by webinar (see above).
  - Expanding the September meeting to 6 full days if held in person.
  - Holding an additional webinar-based Council meeting in late July (or some other time) to deal only with some of those issues, and not routine management issues.
  - Reprioritizing agendas for future meetings.
  - Shelving/dropping some agenda items.
- Some of the postponed items have budgetary implications in that they were expected to utilize our 1-Year No-Cost Extension (NCE) funds.
  - Combined with travel and hotel savings from April and June webinar meetings, we will be challenged to expend available funds by December 2020.
  - We will be requesting an extension of the NCE into 2021, but probably won't know if that is approved until after the November Council meeting.
- Some postponed items were intended to meet other scheduling constraints
  - Groundfish Workload planning and prioritization is intended to identify new management measures to be worked on between specification cycles (now through next summer).
    - The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) was assigned to develop purpose and need statement and scope issues associated with two of four priority new management measure topics. They submitted Informational Report 4 with information on all four topics.
- The Council should determine how to proceed, given these items were not put on the agenda.

For workload assignments:

- Several issues will require follow-ups from Council staff and others to complete between the June and September meetings.
  - The Habitat Committee (HC) has proposed sending up to four letters to action agencies commenting on Essential Fish Habitat issues associated with their activities (C.5.a, Supplemental HC Report 1). These letters have not been drafted; the comment deadlines range from June 29 to September 7.
  - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has allowed the Councils to comment on a draft procedural directive on changing stock status from known to unknown (A.3, Supplemental Attachment 4). Comments are due July 1. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) has developed recommendations for Council consideration (C.5.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1).
  - NMFS has requested the Councils respond to Executive Order (EO) 13921 (Informational Report 7 and A.3, Supplemental Attachment 5), which under Section 4 requires Councils, by November 2, 2020, to submit a prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries to be accomplished by May 2021. The Council's response could be considered at the September Council meeting. This task has not been assigned.
    - Since much of what the Councils' mandate fits within that request, our Year-at-a-Glance planning document should be able to serve as a basis for that list.
    - As noted in the HC report, there are other opportunities for Councils to contribute to the objectives of the EO, specifically regarding aquaculture permitting (Section 6) and siting (Section 7) activities.
    - Several other ABs have requested an opportunity for input into the list.
    - The Council could also make recommendations to the Administration on other (non-Magnuson Act) statute and policies that would address the intent of the EO. For example, the Council Coordination Committee reiterated our comments on fishing restrictions and management authority in National Marine Monuments (A.3, Supplemental Attachment 3).

PFMC  
06/18/20