

COUNCIL MEETING AND PROCESS EFFICIENCIES

At the April 2022 meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), the Council tasked staff with the development of a “white paper” on the topic of Council effectiveness and operational efficiencies. This request of staff was partially motivated by the functions and operations of the Council during the height of the COVID pandemic, and the efforts of the Council to return to a face-to-face format in early 2022. During the COVID era the Council conducted operations in a very different format compared to the decades prior to the pandemic and did so quite successfully. This experience raised questions for several Council members and others about the way the Council does business and whether there are any lessons that could be learned and applied that would improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Council as we move forward.

Following the April 2022 guidance from the Council, staff formulated an internal working group to identify areas where improvements in Council process or decision-making could occur, and to identify ways in which improvements could be made in those areas. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1 reflects the result of that internal working group. Within this white paper are several categorical themes that staff have identified as potentially benefitting from some attention by the Council and others. This white paper also includes several specific ideas that stem from these themes that could be examined in greater detail over the coming months, with possible Council action on them in 2023.

The Council task for this agenda item is to consider the staff white paper on efficiencies and effectiveness, as well as any advisory body comments, and identify areas for further investigation and analysis by staff. Staff will then bring back additional white papers at the March or April 2023 meeting and at the June 2023 meeting for further consideration and possible action by the Council at those times.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider staff white paper on Council Efficiencies and Effectiveness;**
- 2. Identify areas for further investigation and analysis by staff; and**
- 3. Provide feedback on a timeline for future consideration.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: Council Efficiencies and Effectiveness white paper.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| C.3 | Council Meeting and Process Efficiencies | Merrick Burden |
| a. | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. | Public Comment | |
| c. | Council Action: Review Staff White Paper and Provide Feedback | |