

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON
COUNCIL MEETING AND PROCESS EFFICIENCIES

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the material associated with Agenda Item C.3, Council Meeting and Process Efficiencies, and have the following comments.

If the current format of five Council meetings a year is continued, the EC's preference would be to meet in person in conjunction with the Council meetings. This allows the EC to fully participate in the Council process as well as having discussions with other Council participants regarding the topics being considered. The EC is not able to effectively execute its duty to "provide advice to the Council concerning the feasibility of proposed management measures from an enforcement standpoint" when meeting virtually. Meeting in person also facilitates better coordination amongst EC members regarding enforcement of the various West Coast fisheries.

A possible solution discussed by the EC to reduce associated costs of in person meetings would be to have the majority of the EC present for the first half of the Council meetings to facilitate discussion and Council responses and allow for EC members other than the Chair and Vice-Chair to depart prior to the end of the meeting. The EC Chair and Vice-Chair would remain to provide statements and be available for questions and discussion. The EC would like to note that EC members from NOAA OLE and USCG provide funding for their attendance at Council meetings through their own respective budgets.

Overall, the EC sees benefit to a hybrid model that would allow both in-person and virtual participation by EC members, especially during the initial EC meeting prior to the start of each Council meeting. The EC has observed benefits to the virtual meetings. The virtual meetings allow for other representatives from the enforcement organizations, including EC designees, to participate in the Council and become familiar with the process as well as provide expertise in enforcement aspects of a particular fishery the regular EC representative might not be as familiar with.

The EC is supportive of improving Council processes and efficiencies where possible while taking into consideration associated costs and effectiveness. The EC looks forward to participating in this discussion as the Council makes future considerations.

PFMC
09/11/22