

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING AND PROCESS EFFICIENCIES

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed the Council Meeting and Process Efficiencies staff report ([C.3 Attachment 1](#)) and discussed the concepts identified for further examination and Council consideration. This report highlights a few aspects of the staff report related to the HMSMT's concerns and experiences and recommends additional considerations and processes that were not specifically mentioned in the staff report are recommended, along with ideas for strategic planning.

The HMSMT has grappled with several of the concerns outlined in the staff report, particularly burn out, member turnover, and workload increases, and appreciates staff's work to acknowledge and find potential solutions to these issues. The HMSMT recommends prioritizing concepts in the staff report as (1) near-term endeavors, (2) ideas to be informed with experimentation, and (3) topics focused on Council format and information flow that would benefit from a longer-term strategic planning approach, including considerations that were not mentioned in the staff report.

(1) Near term:

The HMSMT considered items in this category as accessible in the near-term while also adding flexibility for increased collaboration and optimization of the meeting process. While some components may need modification, the HMSMT sees value in working to implement these concepts soon.

- *2.1.1.2 Remote participation of some participants upon approval of the Executive Director and/or Chair based upon clear criteria.*
- *2.1.3 Remote presenter to in-person advisory body meeting.*
- *2.1.4 Remote public listening/comment to in-person advisory body meetings.*

(2) Informed through experimentation:

Implementation of these concepts may take additional resources to be applicable to full Council meetings. Determining protocols for these formats could benefit from further testing on a subset of advisory bodies (ABs) or with different types of equipment.

- *2.1.1.1 Remote participation open to anyone at any time.*
- *2.1.2 Hybrid meeting where some advisory bodies are virtual while others are in person but meeting during the Council meeting week.*

(3) Longer-term strategic:

Items in this category would require more substantial consideration and brainstorming to implement effectively.

- *2.2 Is the Council interested in staggering the Council and advisory bodies to a greater degree?*
- *2.3 Could topic-specific Council meetings help with Council effectiveness? For example, we could devote one meeting to specific groundfish items only.*
- *2.4 How could Council timelines and deadlines be constructed so as to better ensure adequate and timely flow of information to help support Council deliberation and policy.*

Other strategic considerations:

The HMSMT recommends consideration of some additional elements that were not explicitly mentioned in the staff report.

Though the staff report discusses changes in the way workload planning is achieved within the Council process, the HMSMT sees value in also considering prioritization of workload under individual Fishery Management Plans where Council and AB subject matter experts can evaluate alternative workload plans. Topic-focused Council meetings may be a vehicle for such an approach.

AB members should be included in a strategic planning process as they can provide unique and influential perspectives shaped by different experiences or preferences from varied meeting formats. This could prove beneficial to Council evaluation of diverse approaches.

Lastly, strategic planning could also benefit from outreach to other Councils that have experience with some of the different formats the Pacific Council is interested in evaluating. Making this sort of information available to advisory bodies may help spur interest in experimentation with different approaches.

PFMC
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