

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING AND PROCESS EFFICIENCIES

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) reviewed the Council Efficiencies and Effectiveness White Paper at our September 7 meeting and support efforts to improve efficiencies where possible. We appreciate Council staff's efforts in developing this report and offer the following comments for Council consideration.

To the extent possible, the STT strongly encourages full in-person participation of salmon advisory bodies (with limited exceptions) during the March and April Council meetings. This format leads to more effective communication both within the STT and among representatives of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS). It also is conducive to increased efficiency in the development of our work assignments, which is critical during the complex preseason process of assessing potential ocean salmon fishery management measures. The value of meeting in-person for these meetings cannot be overstated, especially when it comes to maintaining existing relationships and forging new ones. For routine salmon-related agenda items that occur throughout the remainder of the year, the STT sees value in exploring options for partial or fully remote participation, which would help reduce time and costs associated with travel.

Having participated in hybrid advisory body meetings during the March and April 2022 Council meetings, the STT agrees with the pros and cons to this approach as outlined in the white paper. We appreciate the diligent efforts of the Council staff to ensure that hybrid meetings proceed as seamlessly and smoothly as possible, but recognize that this has come with a significant increase to Council staff workloads. While offering a hybrid option does increase accessibility, both to advisory body members who otherwise would not be able to attend in person and to members of the public, it can create an imbalance between in-person and virtual participants where virtual participants contribute and take away less. We recognize that some participants are not ready to attend in person with ongoing health concerns over COVID-19, so allowances should be made for concerned parties to attend virtually. Finding a way to balance these pros and cons will be important if offering hybrid advisory body meetings continues to be a Council priority.

PFMC
09/08/2022