

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

Members of the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) listened to the Council's meeting planning discussion during the March 2023 meeting and noted the question of whether a standalone agenda item would be needed at either the June 2023 or September 2023 Council meetings to discuss possible workshops hosted by The Nature Conservancy, per their offer at the March meeting, in support of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4.

After listening to Council discussion and conferring by email, the EWG does not believe a standalone agenda item to scope workshops is necessary for the June Council meeting. If the Council is interested in an update from our May 15 & 17 meeting, the EWG could submit a short report under the workload planning agenda item in June. This would allow the Council to consider The Nature Conservancy's request for the Council to commit to participating in or co-sponsoring the workshops, and to discuss the Council workload associated with the workshops and the schedule of when they might occur.

If the Council is not interested in receiving a June EWG report, we would report out on our May meeting under the ecosystem initiative agenda item already scheduled for September. Also, National Marine Fisheries Service noted in March that Federal staff participating in the Council process cannot receive travel support from the Council or other outside sources, and would mostly likely not be available to participate in these workshops before September 30, 2023. For this and other reasons (e.g., Stock assessment Review Panels for groundfish assessments happening over the summer), if the Council decides to participate in or co-sponsor the suggested workshops, the EWG would prefer that the workshops be held after September.

PFMC
03/20/23