

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) discussed Future Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (Agenda Item G.6) and has the following comments.

The EAS appreciated the opportunity to meet in person at this meeting. Meeting face-to-face allowed for greater in-depth discussions and stronger team building. We were more efficient with our discussions and report finalizing. While there may be interest to have a combination of in-person and online meetings for advisory bodies throughout the year, the EAS notes that we only meet twice a year with a six-month break in between meetings. As such, there is generally a lot of information to absorb and digest to catch up on what has happened since our last meeting and, since ecosystem items tend to be on the Council's agenda early in the meeting week, having an in-person dialogue promotes greater understanding of the topics at hand and efficiency in our report writing and review process. We also noted that the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiative 4 will require a higher level of discussion and input than we have had during the past few years. As such, we firmly believe that meeting in person allows the EAS to develop and provide advice for the Council more efficiently. Therefore, we recommend meeting in person for both the March and September Council meetings from this point forward.

The EWG indicated their intent to hold a webinar in May 2023 with participants from the Science Centers, management teams, and advisory bodies with expertise relevant to potential pilot species for Initiative 4, and we look forward to their discussion. However, we also think it would be helpful to have a subsequent webinar prior to the September meeting to brief members of the EAS and other advisory bodies, management teams, and the public on the work that was completed after their webinar in May relative to FEP Initiative 4. The March 1, 2023, briefing was especially helpful for the EAS to have the opportunity to ask the EWG questions and better understand the recommendations presented in Agenda Item H.2.a, EWG Report 1, March 2023.

PFMC
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