

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING AND PROCESS EFFICIENCIES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the Staff White Paper on Formats for Council Advisory Body Meetings ([Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1, April 2023](#)) and received an overview from Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Staff Officer Kit Dahl. The CPSMT discussed the ideas that apply to the format options of Council advisory bodies and Council meetings.

The CPSMT greatly appreciates the work done by Council staff in preparing this document and understands more details are to come at the June 2023 meeting. The CPSMT agrees with the proposed guidelines for meeting formats in 2023 put forth by the Council where each advisory body will meet in person at least once per year, and have in-person meetings when topics that are complex, controversial, and need ongoing exchange among groups are on the agenda. The CPSMT sees value in defining the process by which such determinations will be made more clearly, in terms of which parties are involved, timing, etc. The CPSMT appreciates the flexibility provided to advisory bodies to allow remote meetings where in-person meetings are not necessary for certain topics, but understands that planning will be needed to determine which meeting format is best for any given CPSMT meeting. As an example, the CPSMT has benefited by having early online meetings to discuss various agenda items, which allowed more time at later in-person meetings for agenda items that required an increased level of interaction and discussion. The CPSMT recommends the Council continue that form of meeting efficiency.

The CPSMT agrees with the format options proposed in Table 1 and that the benefits of expanding remote access to listen to in-person advisory body meetings should be considered. For example, while the team supports a hybrid option since many advisory bodies have the desire to listen to the SSC, outside advisory body members and the public may also wish to participate in other in-person advisory body meetings as well.

Overall, the CPSMT supports the Council using a mix of concurrent online and in-person meeting formats in the future. The CPSMT also sees value for the Council to invest in the technology and personnel capacity needed to use hybrid meeting formats more widely. Although the cost and impacts of these hardware and personnel changes are not trivial, this option would benefit the Council process by improving public access and transparency.