

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
COUNCIL MEETING AND PROCESS EFFICIENCIES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) reviewed and discussed the ‘Staff White Paper’ under this Agenda Item on April 2 at our SAS meeting. The SAS very much appreciates the work done by staff to reach out to the salmon teams and the consideration given to our comments with respect to the value of in person meetings during the salmon season setting process, and the difficulty we encountered with trying to conduct hybrid meetings. While the SAS values public participation at our meetings, we feel that in person attendance is important in helping the public understand the context of discussions and decisions. The SAS also recognizes the value of having members of the public in attendance to facilitate the dissemination of information about the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process and the range of issues discussed.

The SAS would also point out the value to the Council process of having all, or most, of the advisory bodies meeting in person at least periodically. The Council considers issues at times that involve impacts on salmon by other fisheries and that interaction between advisory bodies is valuable in helping to understand complex issues. As an example, the bycatch of salmon in the whiting troll fishery was an issue that was best understood by both groups after the benefit of discussions between the SAS and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel. Those discussions were greatly enhanced because of the mutual respect and trust of both groups that had been gained by formal and informal interactions at Council meetings.

The effectiveness of the Council process depends co-equally on the best available science and the strong bonds and relationships developed within the advisory bodies. The recent changes in the meeting process are the modern reality, but maintaining strong relationships are vital to the success of the Council.

PFMC
04/03/23