

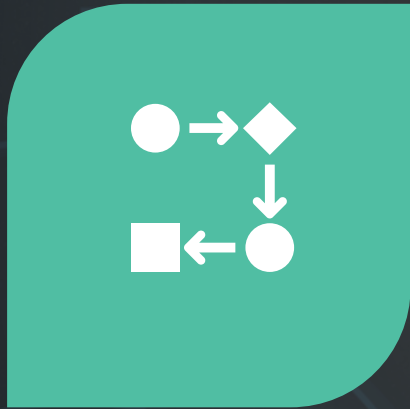
AMENDMENT 31 STOCK DEFINITIONS – FINAL ACTION

Agenda Item H.3

June 24, 2023



Discussion Outline



Background



Alternatives



Action

Council Tasks

1. Adopt final preferred stock definition for all priority species
2. Review and adopt revisions to the FMP
3. Consider and give guidance on integrating proposed stock definition process into COP 9

Scope of Action

- Managed groundfish stocks need to be defined
- 14 species considered
 - Black, canary, copper, quillback, & squarespot, vermilion & vermilion/sunset rockfishes
 - Dover, petrale, & rex soles
 - Lingcod, Pacific spiny dogfish, sablefish, & shortspine thornyhead

Important Aspects of Action

- Definition delineates the stock boundaries
- Single OFL/ABC and harvest control rule for stock
- Status determined at same scale of definition
- Key aspects analyzed for identifying stock
 - Population structure
 - BSIA
 - Specifications/Management

Analytical Findings by Species

(§3.2.1 - §3.2.4)

Single population, ACL, & status area:

Canary & squarespot rockfishes; Dover, petrale, & rex soles; & Pacific spiny dogfish, sablefish, & shortspine thornyhead

Multiple populations, ACLs, & status areas:

Black, copper, quillback, vermilion & vermilion/sunset rockfishes and lingcod

Range of Alternatives (§2)

No Action

Alternative (Alt) 1: Single stock – Pacific Coast

Alt. 2: 2 stocks – N & S of 40°10' N. lat.

Alt. 2a: 2 stocks – N & S of 42° N. lat.

Alt.3: 3 stocks - WA, OR, and CA

Alt. 3a: 3 stocks -WA & OR, N of 34°27' N. lat (NCA), &
S of 34°27' N. lat (SCA)

Alt. 4: 4 stocks -WA, OR, NCA, and SCA



Decision Points: March 2023

- Preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) selected for 12 of the 14 priority species
- No PPA for vermilion and vermilion/sunset rockfishes
- Alternative 2a added to ROA for
 - Quillback rockfish
 - Vermilion & vermilion/sunset rockfishes
 - Not selected as PPA

Preliminary Preferred Alternative (§2.1.2)

- **Alt. 1 (§2.3):** Canary & squarespot rockfishes; Dover, petrale, & rex soles; Pacific spiny dogfish, sablefish, & shortspine thornyhead (Pacific Coast stock)
- **Alt. 2 (§2.4):** Lingcod (N/S of 40°10' N. lat stocks)
- **Alt. 2a (§2.4):** Copper rockfish (N & S of 42° N. lat stocks)
- **Alt. 3 (§2.5):** Black & quillback rockfishes (WA, OR, & CA stocks)

Quillback Rockfish: Alternative 2a (§3.3.6)

- Stock N of 42° N. lat. and a Stock S of 42° N. lat.
- Assessments of different categories [WA (Cat. 3) and OR (Cat. 2)] would be combined
- Uncertainty on whether status can/should be determined for the N of 42° N. lat
- May require Council to consider discretionary sharing agreement between WA and OR

Quillback Rockfish: Alt. 2a/3 (PPA) Comparison

- Alts. 2a & 3 are finer scale than coastwide – neither are contrary to BSIA
- Alt. 3 (PPA) eliminates Alt. 2a uncertainty on whether overfished status can/should be determined from the WA & OR (N of 42° N.lat.) stock
- Alt. 3 would not require discretionary sharing agreements between states



Vermilion & Vermilion/Sunset Rf (§3.3.8)

- No PPA selected
- Considered under all Alts.
- Population structure is at a finer scale than coastwide
- Assessed in 4 areas:
 - WA & OR (vermilion rockfish only)
 - NCA & SCA (vermilion/sunset rockfishes)

Alt.	Definition	Species
1	Pacific Coast	Vermilion and Vermilion/Sunset Rf
2	North and South of 40° 10' N. lat.	Vermilion and Vermilion/Sunset Rf
2a	Washington and Oregon	Vermilion rockfish
	California	Vermilion/Sunset rockfishes
3	Washington	Vermilion rockfish
	Oregon	
	California	Vermilion/Sunset Rf
3a	Washington and Oregon	Vermilion rockfish
	California North of 34° 27' N. lat.	Vermilion/Sunset Rf
	California South of 34° 27' N. lat.	
4	Washington	Vermilion rockfish
	Oregon	
	California North of 34° 27' N. lat.	Vermilion/Sunset Rf
	California South of 34° 27' N. lat.	



Vermilion and Vermilion/Sunset Rockfishes: Comparison

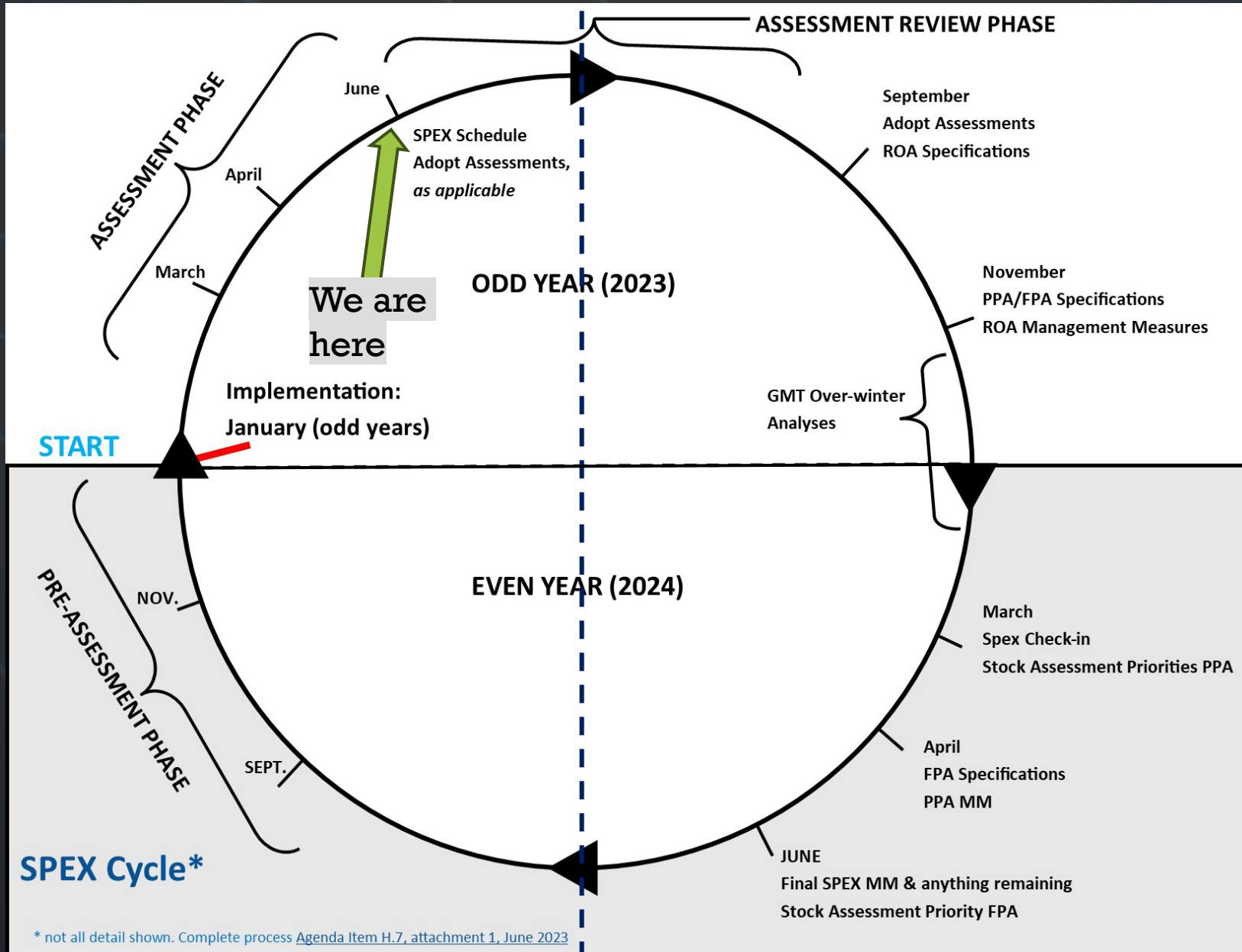
- Alt 1 does not reflect BSIA
- Alt. 2 would likely require new assessments
- Alt 3a may require Council to consider discretionary sharing agreement between WA and OR
- Alts 3 & 4:
 - Reflects assessment areas and BSIA
 - Would not require discretionary allocation/sharing agreements between states



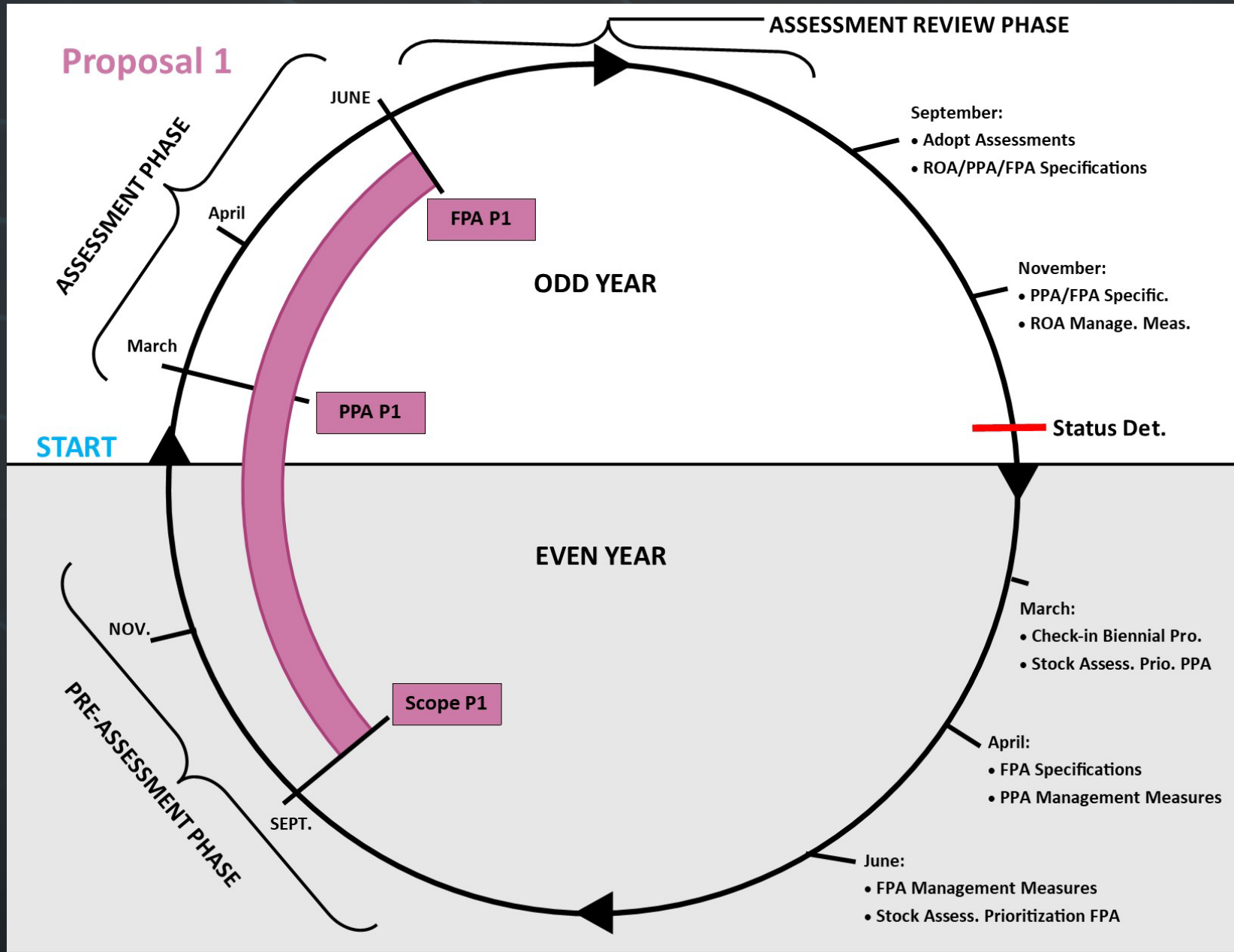
Stock Definition Process (§4)

- Need to determine stock definitions process timeline
- Process timeline will be integrated into COP 9 for review and adoption in Sept.
- Two processes for Council consideration

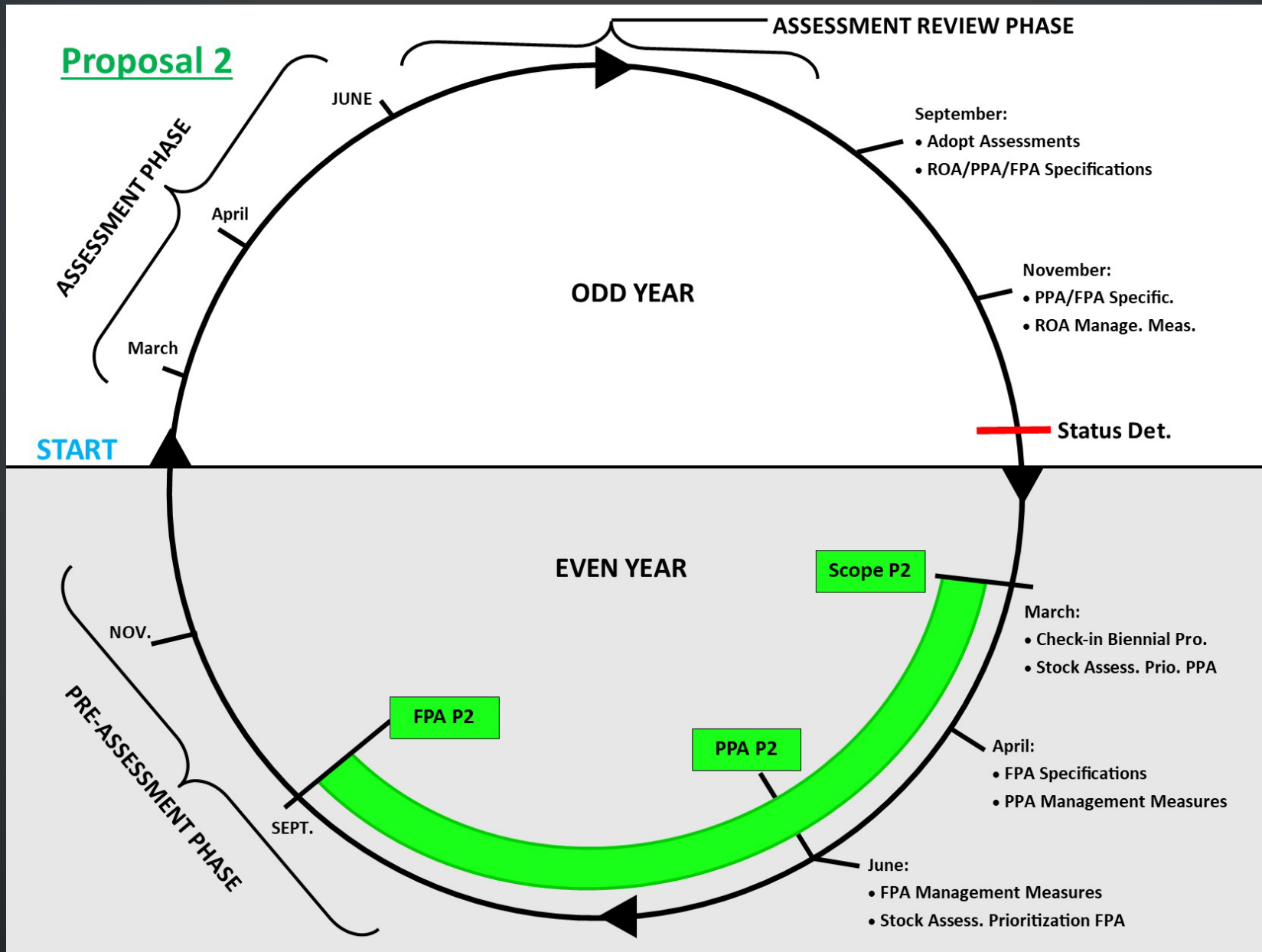
COP 9 Timeline: Current



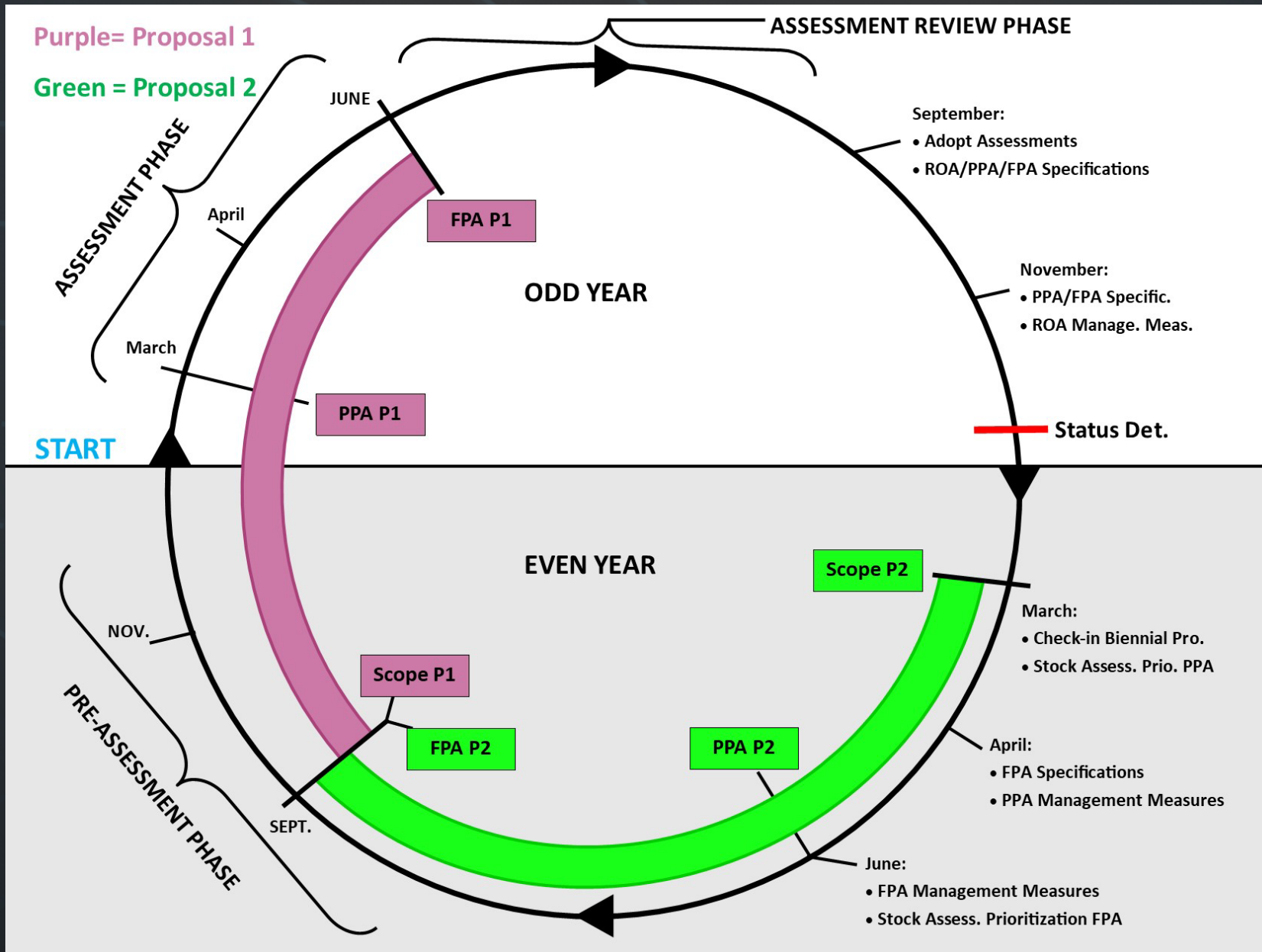
Process Timeline 1



Process Timeline 2



Process Timelines Compared



Council Action

**Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative, as
Appropriate**



Questions?