

COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND PRIORITIES

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) members met in a Committee-of-the-Whole (COTW) format on January 18th and January 19th. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the long-term status of Council finances, staff and advisor workload, and effective decision making. The purpose of a COTW is to relax the typical rules of procedure and debate in order to have a dialog among Council members. A COTW is a committee meeting with agenda topics referred to, by the Council. Recommendations developed at a COTW meeting are forwarded to the full Council for possible adoption or refinement. A report from the meeting is included as reference material.

The COTW report and associated recommendations are part of the Council's ongoing discussion about finances and workload. One recommendation from the COTW is that the Council's Executive Director develop recommendations regarding restructuring and reorganizing the Council process in order to address concerns related to finances, workload, and effective decision making. If the Council concurs with the COTW recommendation, Council staff would plan to create a two-meeting process to consider the Executive Director recommendations, with initial consideration in June and final decisions in September or November. In the event the Council considers changes to the composition of term-limited Advisory Body positions (Scientific and Statistical Committee at-large positions; Habitat Committee tribal, industry, conservation, and at-large positions; and all Advisory Subpanel positions), such changes would be coordinated with the scheduled review for the 2025-2027 term (see [Council Operating Procedure 9, Schedule 6](#)) which begins in June 2024. The proposed timeline and process is recommended to facilitate focused review and comment on proposals by the Council, Advisory Bodies, and the public.

In April the Council should consider the COTW's report and consider whether any further direction to the Executive Director is necessary prior to receiving recommendations in June.

Council Action:

Consider the report and recommendations of the Committee-of-the-Whole, including:

- 1. Direct the Executive Director to develop recommendations for Council organization and process, consistent with the objectives discussed at the COTW.**
- 2. Direct staff to develop a tool to assist in the prioritization of agenda items.**
- 3. Provide guidance on next steps.**

Reference Materials:

1. G.2.a, COTW Report 1: Committee of the whole meeting report.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

G.2 Council Operations and Priorities

Kelly Ames

- a. Report of the committee of the whole
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Committee of the Whole Report and Recommendations

PFMC
03/21/24