

## REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Budget Committee (BC) discussed the Executive Director's recommendations included as Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1. The BC agrees with the need to take steps that can improve the cost efficiency of Council operations. Based on the fiscal outlook provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the BC agrees with the Executive Director's recommendation that such steps be made in a steady and systematic fashion over the next three years and in a manner that minimizes the possibility of disruption to Council decision making.

The BC specifically considered two recommendations for implementation in 2025, including 1) a goal of shortening Council and associated Advisory Body meetings by the September 2025 Council meeting, and 2) reducing Council participation in international forums. The BC agreed that the pace recommended by the Executive Director for implementing these two recommendations is appropriate. Given that the fiscal outlook is one where the funds allocated to the Council annually have not kept up with inflation and increased workload, the two areas would be most promising for cost savings at the least disruption. However, the way they are achieved, especially the shortening of meetings, is one best considered by the full Council.

PFMC  
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