

EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT ON COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND PRIORITIES

The Equity and Environmental Justice Committee (EEJC) met on Friday, June 7 and discussed Agenda Item C.2.a, Council Operations and Priorities. The EEJC appreciates the Executive Director's recommendations outlined in [Attachment 1](#). The EEJC discussed the recommendations through an equity and environmental justice lens and offers the following comments and considerations.

The EEJC is more supportive of options that prioritize efficiency over options that would eliminate items deemed noncore. The EEJC feels strongly that all current Council items (both core and noncore) should be maintained at some level, even if at a reduced capacity. Therefore, efforts may be more easily increased when funding constraints are lessened.

The EEJC notes that if resources and time allotted to Council items are reduced, the quality of the reports the Council receives will also likely decrease and adversely impact Council decisions. The EEJC discussed the Council could leverage partnerships with outside funding sources (state agencies, tribes, universities, etc.) on specific items to supplement the Council budget and potentially offset the reduction in capacity and quality.

The EEJC suggests the Council consider modifications to the appointment process for the 2027 cycle to identify ways to increase outreach to underserved and underrepresented communities and ensure the application process does not discount individuals who are not already involved in the fisheries management process.

The EEJC also has concerns that if certain Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) have a reduction in their number of annual meetings and Council meetings are also reduced by one day, some FMPs may be subject to a double-deduction of meeting time. Any adjustments to time spent on FMPs should be equitably distributed to ensure the Council can complete its work under each of them.

The EEJC also reiterates the importance of a gap analysis that reviews Council processes and products and identifies where there might be improvements that would address EEJ considerations (see September 2023, [H.5.b, Supplemental EEJC Report 1](#)). The outcome of this analysis might help provide insight into how EEJ considerations can be integrated into the Council's efficiencies discussion.

PFMC
06/09/24