

## INFLATION ACT REDUCTION PROJECTS – DRAFT WORKPLANS

The draft workplans below are intended to offer a high-level view of the key products, milestones, and timeframes associated with each of the Council's three Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) projects. These write-ups can serve as a brief narrative that accompanies the tentative project timelines shown in Attachment 3 under this agenda item. As with those timelines, the work described here may shift slightly in response to project planning needs and the schedules of the Council, its Advisory Bodies, and partners.

### **Project 1:** *Innovating the Implementation of Council Actions to Respond to a Dynamic Ocean Environment*

Connects to: Potential Future FEP Initiative 2.8 – Assess Flexibility in Fisheries Management Process

Objective: Identify innovations to make review and implementation of management actions more **timely, efficient, and responsive** to a changing ocean environment; identify how Council decision-making can be coupled with NMFS review and regulatory processes to **better respond to rapidly changing environmental conditions**.

Management need addressed/supported: (1) Improving flexibility and ability to respond to near-term climate shift and long-term climate change, as identified in the CCI scenario planning effort; (2) Implement fisheries management that ensures continued ecosystem services for the well-being of West Coast communities, as identified in the FEP, Goal 3; and (3) Promote fishery management that is sufficiently adaptive to account for the effects of climate variability and change, as identified in the FEP, Goal 6.

Desired outcomes: Near term: A streamlined decision-making framework and related implementation process for at least one Council regulatory or FMP amendment proposal. Longer term: Continuously improve this streamlined framework as it is applied across a broader range of proposed Council actions.

### Project Activities:

- Develop **white paper** that explores all aspects of Council decision-making and related federal regulatory processes needed to implement Council proposals/recommendations. The paper will identify typical choke points or bottlenecks that can lengthen these processes.
  - Estimated timeframe: November 2024 – February 2025
  - Who: Council staff and contractor in consultation with NMFS WCR and GC

- Council may elect to form an **ad hoc working group** or committee made up of a wider array of experts and stakeholders to explore existing and potential opportunities to speed up process timelines and associated implementation mechanisms.
  - Estimated timeframe: April 2025
  - Who: Council, ABs, and relevant experts/stakeholders
- Ad hoc working group develops **report and recommendations**
  - Estimated timeframe: May 2025 – October 2025
  - Who: Ad hoc working group
- Council to then apply the ad hoc committee’s recommendations/learnings to an **in-progress management action**
  - Estimated timeframe: November 2025 – March 2027
  - Who: Council, ABs, NMFS WCR

**Project 2:** *Considering the Effects of Council Management Actions on Human Well-Being in Vulnerable Fishing Communities Impacted by a Changing Marine Ecosystem*

Connects to: Potential Future FEP Initiative 2.6 - Supporting Fishery and Fishing Community Resilience Initiative

Objective: Develop tools and a decision framework to allow the Council to more explicitly consider and understand how management proposals affect vulnerable West Coast fishing communities.

Management need addressed/supported: (1) Develop strategies for increasing the resiliency of the Council’s managed stocks and fisheries in the face of near-term climate shifts and long-term climate change, as identified in the CCI scenario planning effort; and (2) Implement fisheries management that ensures continued ecosystem services for the well-being of West Coast communities, as identified in the FEP, Goal 3.

Desired outcomes: The ability for the Council to more comprehensively understand the impacts of current and future management processes/actions on community resilience in the face of climate change; identification of actions that could be taken to bolster community resilience; and better integrating this information into Council decision processes.

Project Activities:

- Build an **online dashboard** that integrates economic, demographic, and fisheries data at the fishing community level, starting with a survey/audit of available indices and data products.
  - Estimated timeframe: November 2024 – August 2026
  - Who: Contractor in consultation with Council staff, EWG, Science Centers, other Council partners
- Develop decision-support **tools** that make it easier to assess how particular fishery-specific actions affect these communities.
  - Estimated timeframe: October 2025 – February 2026

- Who: Contractor in consultation with Council staff, EWG, Science Centers, other Council partners
- Develop/identify **procedures** to spotlight/frontload this information and related analyses in Council decision-making.
  - Estimated timeframe: March 2026 – July 2026
  - Who: Contractor in consultation with Council staff, ABs, other Council partners
- Council to then apply tools and procedures to **at least one Council action**.
  - Estimated timeframe: September 2026 – September 2027
  - Who: Council, ABs, NMFS WCR

**Project 3:** *Developing Climate-Ready Fishing Methods that Mitigate Bycatch of Non-Target, Associated Species in a Changing Ecosystem*

Connects to: Potential Future FEP Initiative 2.3 – Cross-FMP Dynamic Bycatch Monitoring and Minimization Policy Initiative

Objective: Develop climate-ready fishing methods that mitigate bycatch, especially in light of shifting stocks and a changing marine environment.

Management need addressed/supported: Expand/improve upon existing efforts to mitigate bycatch of non-target and protected species, as identified in the FEP, particularly Objectives 3a and 5b.

Desired outcomes: Specific management actions that mitigate non-target and protected species bycatch, including through application of an updated EFP framework (starting with HMS fisheries) and via use of dynamic ocean management (DOM) methods and tools.

Project Activities:

- Plan and conduct **HMS Roadmap workshop**
  - Estimated timeframe: Workshop complete as of June 2024; report and follow-up tasks scheduled for Council consideration at November 2024 meeting.
  - Who: Contractor in consultation with Council, ABs, NMFS WCR
- Plan and conduct **DOM tools workshop** with stakeholders, Council ABs, NMFS staff, and Council staff
  - Estimated timeframe: November 2024 – March 2025
  - Who: Contractor in consultation with Council, ABs, NMFS WCR
- Implement **HMS EFP framework** based on Roadmap workshop outcomes
  - Estimated timeframe: December 2024 – September 2026
  - Who: Council, ABs, NMFS WCR
- Identify at least one **application for DOM tools**, selected from the Council’s bycatch mitigation actions
  - Estimated timeframe: July 2025 – November 2025
  - Who: ABs, Council staff
- Council to **initiate bycatch mitigation action** using DOM tools
  - Estimated timeframe: November 2025 – November 2026
  - Who: Council, ABs, NMFS WCR

### **Cross-Cutting Work (ongoing)**

- Coordination with Science Centers and NMFS WCR on IRA-funded work, especially the Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI).
  - Build in regular check-in's/meetings (quarterly or otherwise)
  - Consider periodic workshops for more in-depth information sharing/collaboration
  
- Coordination with NMFS WCR and other Council ABs on NMFS's Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Strategy.
  - Build in regular check-in's/meetings with NMFS EEJ liaison(s) and Council EEJ Committee