

The Pacific Council's IRA Projects – Check In

Agenda Item C.3 – September 21, 2024

IRA Project Proposals – Timeline So Far

- **June 2023:** NOAA announced availability of IRA funding to support climate resilience and responsiveness, with \$20 million dedicated to regional Councils.
- **September 2023:** [ED report under Fiscal Matters](#) provided an update on IRA funding opportunities.
- **October 2023:** CCC meeting offered additional clarity and guidance to Councils on IRA funding opportunities.
- **November 2023:** Council staff provided an [overview](#) of potential IRA project ideas/concepts.
- **January 2024:** Council staff provided a [briefing paper](#) at the COTW meeting detailing IRA project proposals for discussion; proposals were refined by Council staff in consultation with NMFS WCR, Science Centers, and PSMFC leadership/staff.
- **January 31, 2024:** IRA proposals were submitted to NMFS for review.
- **May 2024:** Council staff incorporated minor feedback from NMFS and re-submitted final proposals in late May.
- **June 2024:** NMFS communicated that all three proposals would be fully funded.
- **September 2024:** Council receives IRA funding!



IRA Project Proposals – Overview

IRA 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.

Desired outcomes: 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.

IRA Project Proposals – Overview

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



IRA Project Proposals – Overview

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

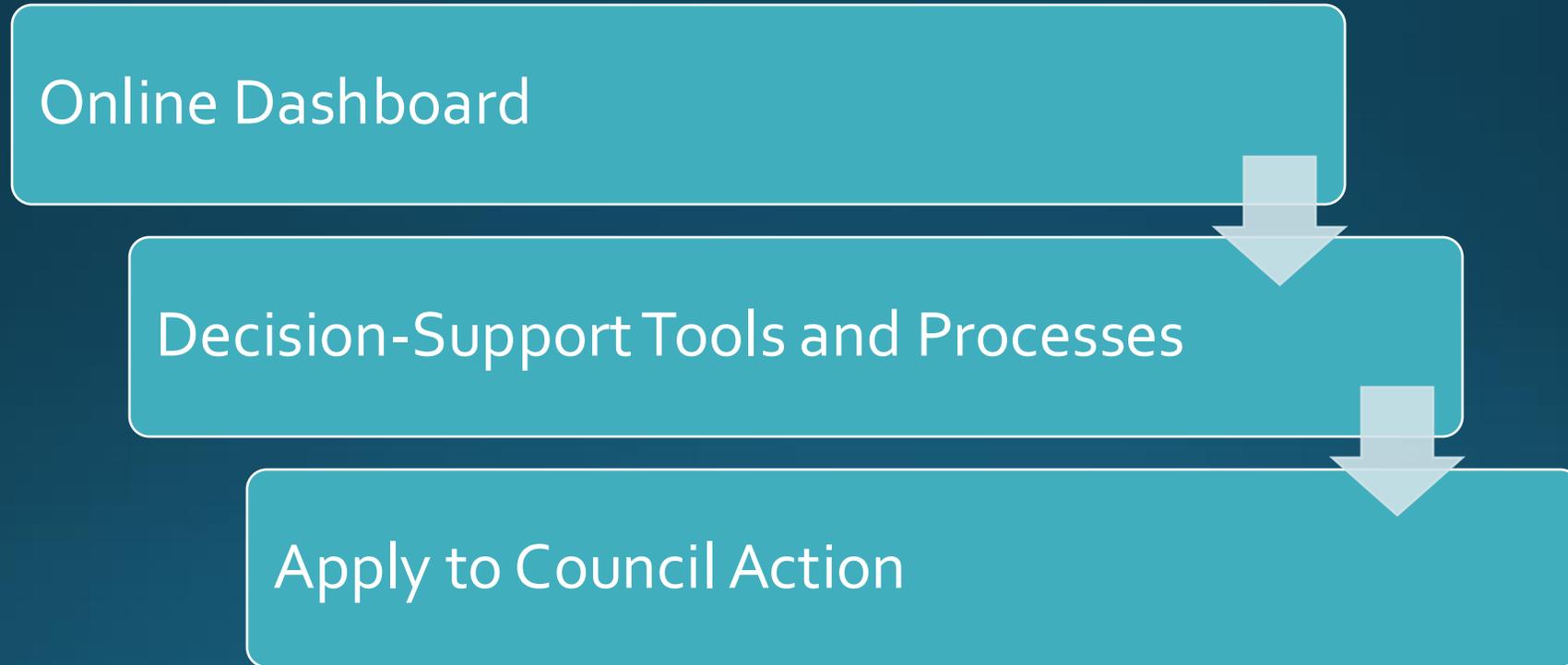
Connects to: Potential Future FEP Initiative 2.6 - Supporting Fishery and Fishing Community Resilience Initiative

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.

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.

IRA Project Proposals – Overview

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



IRA Project Proposals – Overview

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

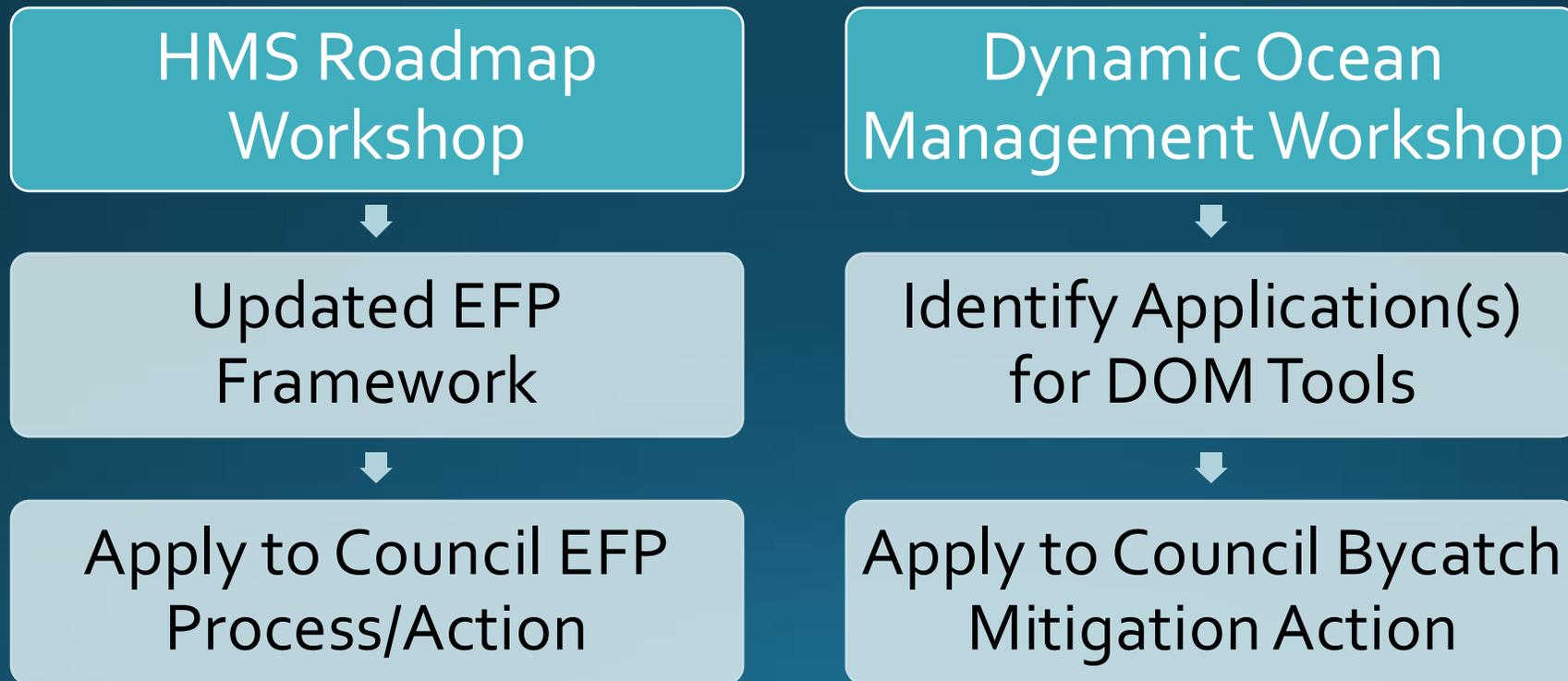
Connects to: Potential Future FEP Initiative 2.3 – Cross-FMP Dynamic Bycatch Monitoring and Minimization Policy Initiative

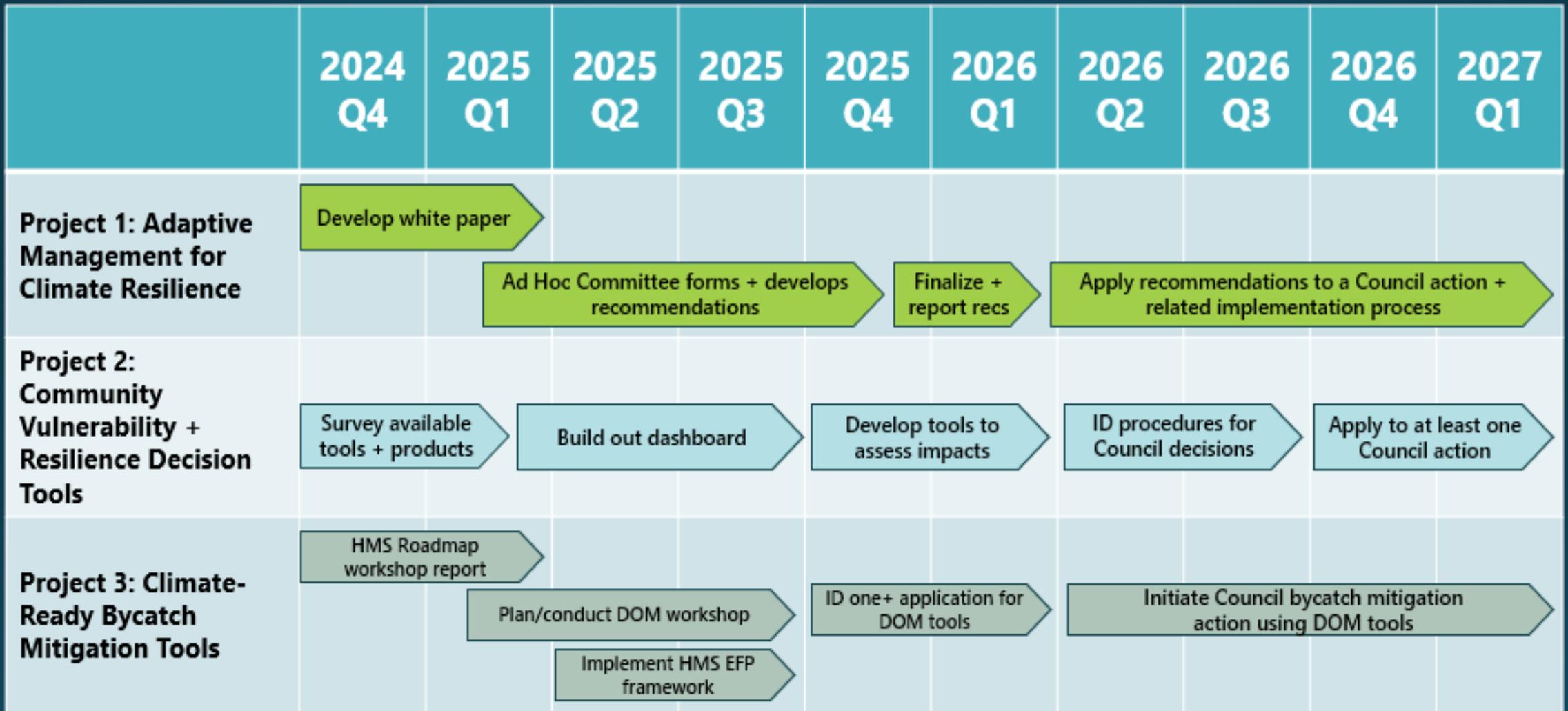
Objective: Develop climate-ready fishing methods that mitigate bycatch, especially in light of shifting stocks and a changing marine environment.

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

IRA Project Proposals – Overview

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





Timeframes are approximate

Ideas for Cross-Cutting Work (across all three projects)

- Hold focused **kick-off workshops or webinars** for each project (per EWG recommendation).
- Map out explicit **connections** to the Council's FEP goals and objectives, FEP Initiative 4, and CCI follow-up actions (per EWG recommendation).
- Continue to center goals around **increasing resilience and flexibility to advance climate-ready fisheries** (per EWG recommendation).
- Coordinate with NWFSC, SWFSC, and NMFS WCR on linkages to **Climate, Ecosystem, and Fisheries Initiative** (CEFI).
- Coordinate with EEJC on linkages to **NMFS EEJ Strategy**.

Input from Advisory Bodies

Workload and
bandwidth

Compressed
timelines

Opportunities for
full participation
by ABs

Coordination
with CEFI and
Science Centers

Staff Recommendation on EWG and EAS Role and Composition

IRA focus: EWG and EAS to provide support, advice, and guidance on the development and implementation of the Council's IRA projects, and other Ecosystem items as needed or requested by the Council.

Council Action

- 1) Discuss IRA project draft work plans and provide guidance on next steps.
- 2) Consider role and composition of the Ecosystem Work Group and Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel.



Thank You!