

# 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*

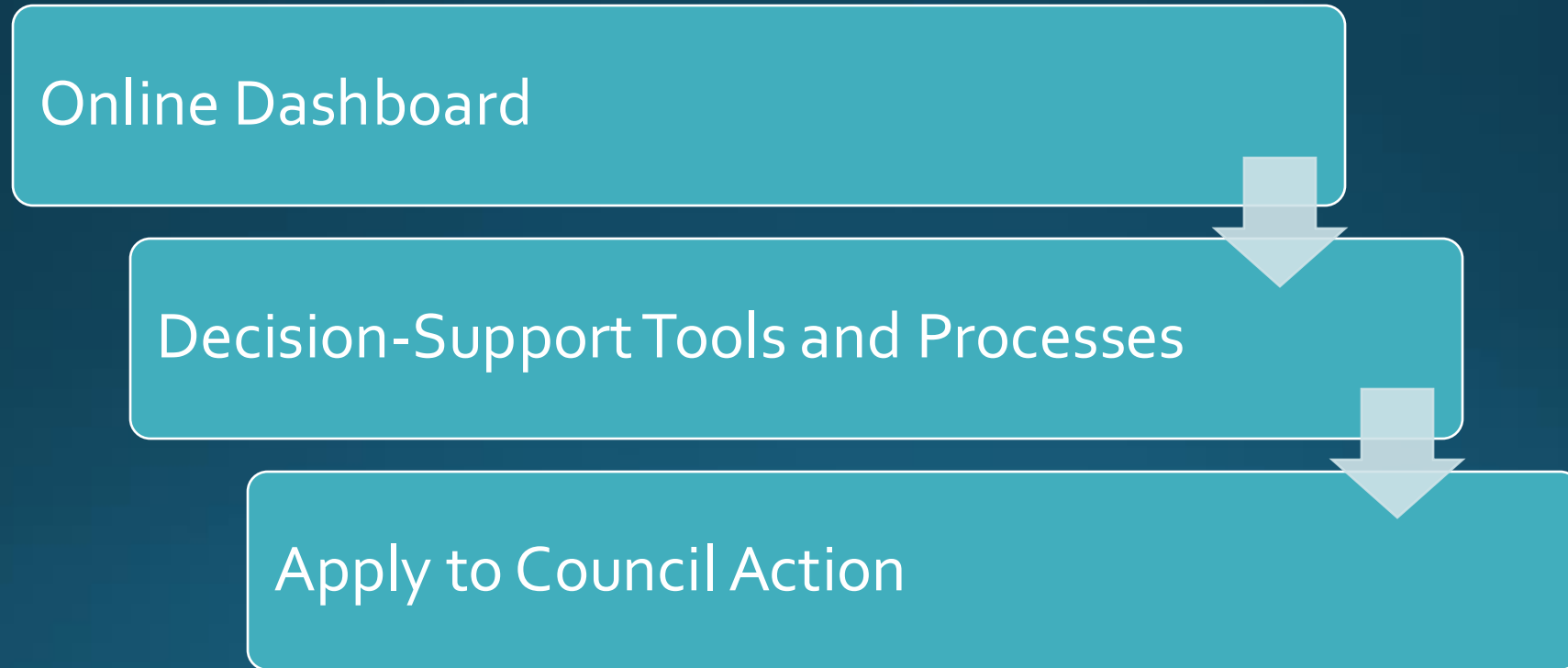
Connects to: Potential Future FEP Initiative 2.6 - Supporting Fishery and Fishing Community Resilience Initiative

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*

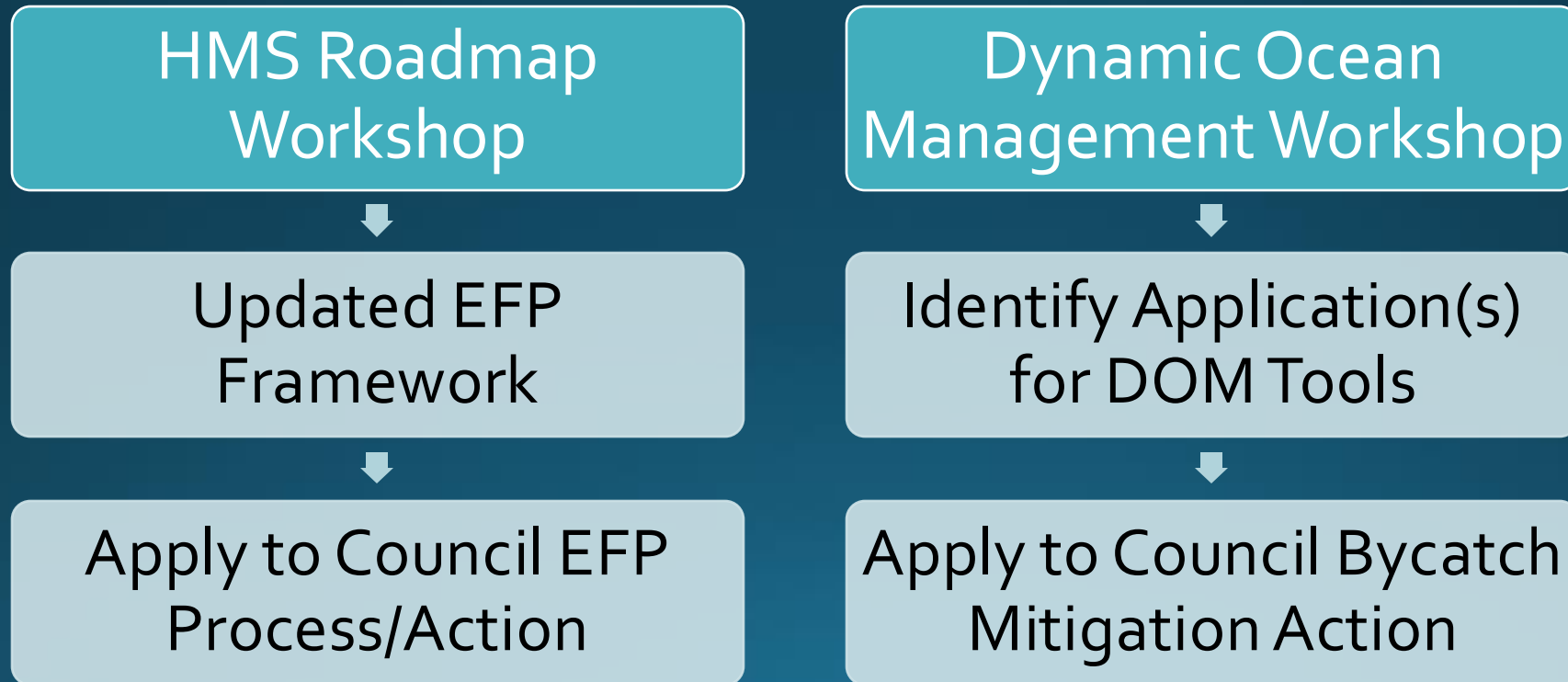
Connects to: Potential Future FEP Initiative 2.3 – Cross-FMP Dynamic Bycatch Monitoring and Minimization Policy Initiative

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

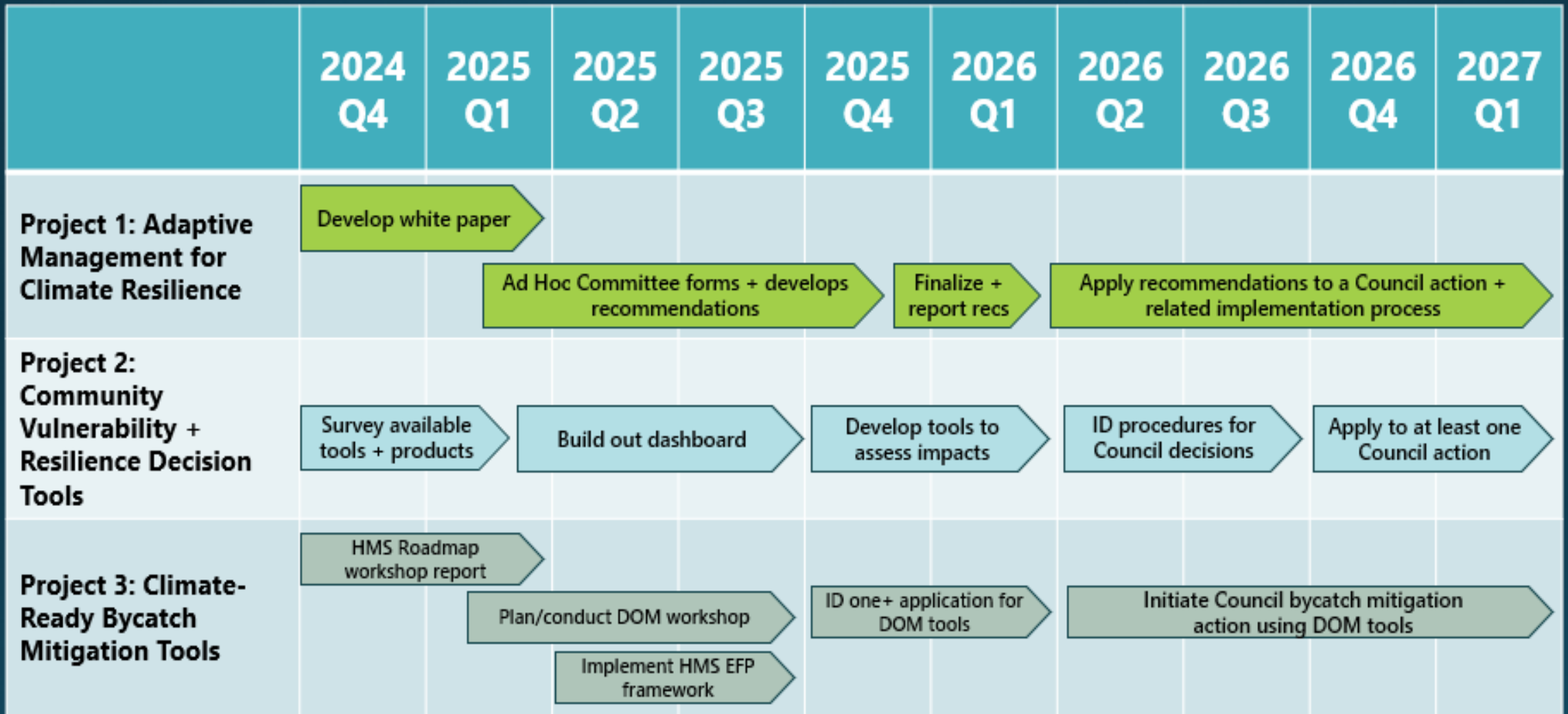
Desired outcomes: Specific management actions that mitigate non-target and protected species bycatch, including through application of an improved EFP framework (starting with HMS fisheries) and via use of dynamic ocean management (DOM) methods and tools.

# 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!**