

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) discussed the Year-at-a-Glance (YAG; Agenda Item K.4, Attachment 1) and the Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda (Agenda Item K.4, Attachment 2) for November 2024. The scope and nature of the EWG's involvement in the new Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) projects is not developed, which inhibits the ability to plan for the coming year. For clarity, the EWG offers the following recommendations.

On the YAG:

1. Add a groundfish and salmon risk table update agenda item to the March 2025 meeting agenda to inform the Council of progress made and recommendation on next steps, as was adopted by the Council under H.1.
2. Make IRA project update materials that will be discussed in April available to advisory bodies at the March meeting to allow for advisory body input, as the March meeting has a longstanding Ecosystem agenda item (Ecosystem Status Report; ESR) and is traditionally when the EWG meets in person.

EWG Meeting Format

The EWG notes that the Year-At-a-Glance Advisory Body Meeting Schedule & Format for 2025 shows the EWG as to be determined for all meetings. The EWG traditionally meets in-person in March for the presentation of the ESR and discussion of current and future Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiatives. The EWG requests to continue this schedule until further clarification on the EWG role in the IRA projects and the associated workload.

As the EWG role in the IRA projects becomes more defined, the EWG will be evaluating the need for additional in-person meetings to help facilitate engagement and in-person conversations, if necessary. While this would require additional travel funding, these meetings would be associated with IRA projects, so the EWG suggests funding EWG travel with those external funds.