

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS, TIMELINE, STATUS, AND NEXT STEPS

The text in the below table under the heading “Council guidance” and “Council Recommended Timeline” reflects the guidance provided in June ([Guidance in Writing, June 2024](#)). Indented text under Council guidance reflects the key components to achieve the top-level objective. “Status and Next Steps” describes progress to date and Council staff’s recommended next steps.

Council Guidance	Council Recommended Timeline ^{a/}	Status and Next Steps
Forgo staff and contractor travel/work on Highly Migratory Species and Council travel to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual meeting	January 2025	<p>2024: Included in the proposed provisional 2025 budget, which was adopted at the September Council 2024 meeting.</p> <p>2025: Staff will work with the National Marine Fisheries Service and IPHC to ensure summaries of the meeting outcomes are provided to the Council.</p>
Reduce Council meetings by at least one-half day, including commensurate advisory body (AB) meeting day reductions	September 2025	<p>2024: The June Council meeting was planned for 5.5 days but ended early, at 5 days. The September meeting was planned for 5 days and ended early (~4.5 days).</p> <p>2025: Staff will continue implementing the sub-topics below to ensure process toward the goal.</p>
Clearer guidance to ABs on matters for comment		<p>2024: The Executive Director and Deputy Director provided Staff Officers with more guidance regarding the scheduling of non-fishery management plan (FMP) topics on AB agendas.</p> <p>2025: Staff will develop and implement a refined process for soliciting feedback from ABs and the Council for future AB agendas. Such discussions would occur under the Workload Planning agenda item.</p>
Additional information on Cross FMP groups		<p>2024: In November 2024, staff have proposed a Cross FMP group tasked with gathering representative input and advising the Council on the expected proposed rule to modify National Standard Guidelines 4,8,& 9. If the</p>

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		Council finds value in such an approach, staff could identify future topics that would benefit from a Cross FMP group.
Revise the public comment time to 5 minutes for both an individual and a group, while allowing the Chair or Vice Chair to modify that time before public comment begins on an agenda item depending on how many people have signed up for public comment.		2024: Adopted the revised Council Operating Procedure (COP) to reduce the timeframe in September 2024. Publicized the new timelines in the newsletter, Facebook, Eportal, and meeting notice. Implement at the November 2024 Council meeting.
Implement a more standardized AB report format, with a summary of recommendations or executive summary at the beginning of the report.		2024: Some ABs have started to standardize reports based on Council discussion and staff guidance. 2025: A draft template(s) will be discussed by Council staff at our annual retreat in January and brought to ABs for review and discussion. It is anticipated that the template for the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be different than the management/technical team and advisory subpanel templates. Further, certain actions may necessitate a departure from the template.
Promote summarization of reports, reading only the recommendations/ executive summary, and key sections, then have the AB member be available for questions. Have AB strive to provide presentations summarizing complex items, rather than reading reports, as time and workload allows.		2024: Some ABs have started to summarize reports and provide presentations, based on Council discussion and staff guidance to date. 2025: Council staff will provide further guidance and discuss ABs ways to achieve these goals.

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No page limits		
Seek guidance from NOAA General Counsel on what is required to “build the record”		<p>2024: Council staff discussed this proposal with General Counsel.</p> <p>2025: Coordinate with General Counsel to provide briefings to the Council and Advisory Bodies.</p>
Work toward developing a new process for considering new initiatives on a pre-specified schedule, may require changes to the (COP). This new process should align with the budget process.	September 2025	
Continue to explore reducing the size of Council meetings and relocating meetings to more economical locations.	March 2026	
<p>Consider having one Council meeting every year, or every other year fully remote or only Council members in person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look into having that meeting in a coastal fishing community, which could encourage participation from “local” fishery participants and/or new people to the Council process. 	March 2026	
Continue to explore annual scheduling for the various FMP, being strategic in which agenda items would be covered during remote meetings (see details below)	March 2026	

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Schedule AB meetings in advance of Council meetings when possible given Council schedule and process requirements	March 2026	
Explore a decisional mechanism framework to determine effective AB size and composition, keeping in mind the equity and environmental justice goals and operational needs.	March 2026	
Reduce workload and agenda planning to twice per year, rather than at every meeting, scheduled for meetings that can help inform the Council's budget process. Between those meetings have Council staff schedule items as necessary.	September 2026	
Examine how to streamline the Exempted Fishing Permit Process across all FMPs, such as only accepting new EFPs once per year, approving in one meeting, and having only NMFS review and approve/ dis-approve renewals while keeping the council informed of those EFPs.	September 2026	
<p>Agency reports that are informational in nature, especially those that were available in the advanced briefing book do not need to be read or summarized on the Council floor. Staff from the appropriate agency would be available for questions.</p> <p>Put all informational reports under their respective FMPs and/or agenda items, rather</p>	September 2026	

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than bunched together at the bottom of the online briefing book page, where may easily get overlooked.		

a/ Sooner if possible