

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON  
COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND PRIORITIES

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) reviewed the Council Efficiencies and Recommendations document ([C.5 Attachment 1, April 2025](#)) and has the following comments. In general, we appreciate the work of Council staff to identify ways of making the process more efficient while maintaining a quality, well informed process that results in effective decision-making.

The EAS spent the majority of our time discussing the proposal to reduce the briefing book production timeline from 21 days prior to a Council meeting to 14 days prior. While the EAS appreciates the time constraints on Council staff to produce materials to meet the current deadline, the EAS is concerned that 14 days will not provide adequate time to review and digest the briefing materials and prepare for the meeting—for Council members, advisory body members, and the public.

We are also concerned about the compressed timeframe between when materials are available online and the start of the Council meeting as this reduces the amount of time for advisory bodies to meet prior to a meeting. For example, under the current 21-day period, an advisory body may need about ten days to review the materials relevant to their agenda (or, in the case of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, 14 days). To ensure the advisory body has sufficient time for their discussion and preparation of reports for the Council after their review, the advisory body typically needs to meet at least two to three days prior to the meeting. If the advance briefing book is not available until 14 days prior, there would only be a one- to two-day window available for advisory bodies to meet in advance of the meeting. This makes it difficult to accommodate advisory body member schedules and for stakeholders and the public to attend multiple advisory body meetings that are held concurrently.

The EAS also noted that Attachment 1 describes the rationale for the current 21-day publication period as an artifact of the days when paper briefing books were produced and distributed; however, we recall that the three-week period originated much earlier than when electronic briefing materials began and stems from Council discussions about the amount of time needed to fully review and digest materials and prepare for the meeting. Notably, when paper briefing books were produced and distributed, the advance briefing book deadline was actually four weeks prior to the Council meeting (except for between March and April) to allow time for the production and distribution of the materials and ensure Council and advisory body members received them at least three weeks in advance of the meeting. We believe it was in 2015 when the advance briefing book deadline was reduced from four to three weeks prior to the meeting coinciding with when the majority of Council and advisory body members shifted to receiving their briefing materials electronically.

For these reasons, the EAS recommends the 21-day advance briefing book deadline be maintained.

With regard to the other items in Attachment 1, the EAS generally agrees with the objective of ensuring Council advisory bodies are focused on their respective areas of responsibility and items affecting their operations, and are efficient in their deliberations. We look forward to reviewing Council staff's recommendations for advisory bodies in November. We also support broader use of informational reports for items that may not warrant Council discussion and appreciate the update on Council meeting length.

PFMC  
04/13/2025