

# Adaptive Management Project - Scoping

Agenda Item H.1 – September 22, 2025


# Adaptive Management Project

## Objective:

Identify innovations to Council decision-making processes and operating procedures that will allow the Council to develop, analyze, and adopt management actions and recommendations on timeframes that are more responsive to rapidly changing conditions.

# Project Background

FEP Initiative 3: Climate and Communities Initiative (2017-2021)



CCI Scenario Planning Effort (2019-2021)



Future Potential FEP Initiative 2.8 (2022)



Council Special Projects (2024+)

# Council Discussion to Date

- **September 2023, November 2023, January 2024, and September 2024:** Council received/discussed updates on project proposals; funding received in September 2024.
- **December 2024:** All-Advisory Body kick-off meeting held online.
- **March 2025:** Council discussed possible alignment of Adaptive Management project with groundfish new management measures/priorities; signaled support for broader, cross-FMP discussion at April Council meeting.
- **April 2025:** Council received update on Adaptive Management project and adopted a motion providing guidance to staff.

# April 2025 Council Motion

- Develop an action plan for exploring and implementing general tools for increasing flexibility and adaptive management...in all of the Council's FMPs.
  - The focus should be on increasing the Council's ability to respond quickly to environmental changes and unexpected/unintended events.
  - Include exploration of ways to improve timeliness of fishery-independent and fishery-dependent data streams, including via local and tribal knowledge.
  - Prioritize Groundfish FMP for this evaluation.
- For any tools developed prior to completing the above work (e.g., the Groundfish Harvest Specifications Flexibility action), consider benefits across other Council FMPs and concurrently amend those FMPs, if appropriate.

# Today's Agenda Item – Scoping

## Council Tasks:

1. Adopt a Problem Statement.
2. Provide guidance on developing a range of alternatives, including identifying a narrow list of priority actions that can be accomplished within the Special Project timeframe.
3. Provide guidance on next steps, including sequencing actions, if necessary.



## Council Action:

Adopt scope of action, provide guidance on next steps.

# H.1 Attachment 1

## Assessment of the problem:

- CCE is highly variable → leads to sudden/unexpected change + uncertainty.
- Council timelines are often too long/slow to keep pace with rapid changes.
- How can Council processes be changed to be more responsive to rapid or unexpected change?

## Potential Cross-FMP actions:

- Continuous improvement framework
- If-then statements
- Council EFP process improvements
- Increasing procedural efficiencies
- Improving timeliness of data streams, including via integration of local and traditional knowledge

# H.1 Supp. Att. 2: Potential Categories of Actions + Prioritization Ideas

- Cross-FMP
- FMP-specific
- Anticipated workload
- Complexity of action
- Impact on Council speed, responsiveness, and/or flexibility





# Ongoing Work Adjacent to Adaptive Management Project

- Groundfish harvest spex flex
- FIW HMS EFP process improvements
- Pacific sardine stock structure
- Council Operations and Priorities/Council Efficiencies



**Thank You!**