

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) reviewed the proposed ecosystem management agenda items on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance (YAG) Summary ([Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1](#)) and November Quick Reference (QR) ([Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 2](#)).

Salmon risk tables are [shown as a potential agenda item](#) for November 2025, but the EWG remains uncertain how staff losses at the Science Centers will affect their capacity to advance this work. The EWG appreciates the efforts from the Science Centers, Council staff, and the Salmon Technical Team to discuss with us how risk tables and spotlight charts can be helpful to the Council. While recognizing the value in continuing those efforts, the EWG considers this now a matter for the Council's workload priority discussions under the Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Looking to March 2026, the EWG highlights the intended wrap-up of Initiative 4, which the EWG views as appropriate for the groundfish risk tables, but would like to flag the potential for salmon risk tables as an unfinished item and one that may be of interest for future Council discussions. Given the intensive fisheries review, forecasting, and season setting process that the Council takes up in March, any discussion on the applicability of risk tables to salmon management should take into account the salmon Advisory Bodies' availability to provide input, and should include sufficient advance notice to ensure they can engage effectively based on capacity. In general, the EWG requests clear direction from the Council on whether it considers Initiative 4 complete and on any next steps that the Council would like the EWG to take.

Council staff briefed the EWG on the Risk Table item scheduled under Groundfish for March 2026, as noted in the EWG report under Agenda Item G.3. If, following the use of groundfish risk tables under Agenda Item G.3, the Council believes that Initiative 4 is not complete for groundfish, the EWG recommends that the Council unshade its potential groundfish risk table discussion for March 2026 and take the opportunity to further reflect on the pilot experience.