

# Special Project 3: Workshop to Develop New Fishing Systems

Agenda Item E.2 – March 2026

# Special Project 3: New Fishing Opportunities within Bycatch Allowances

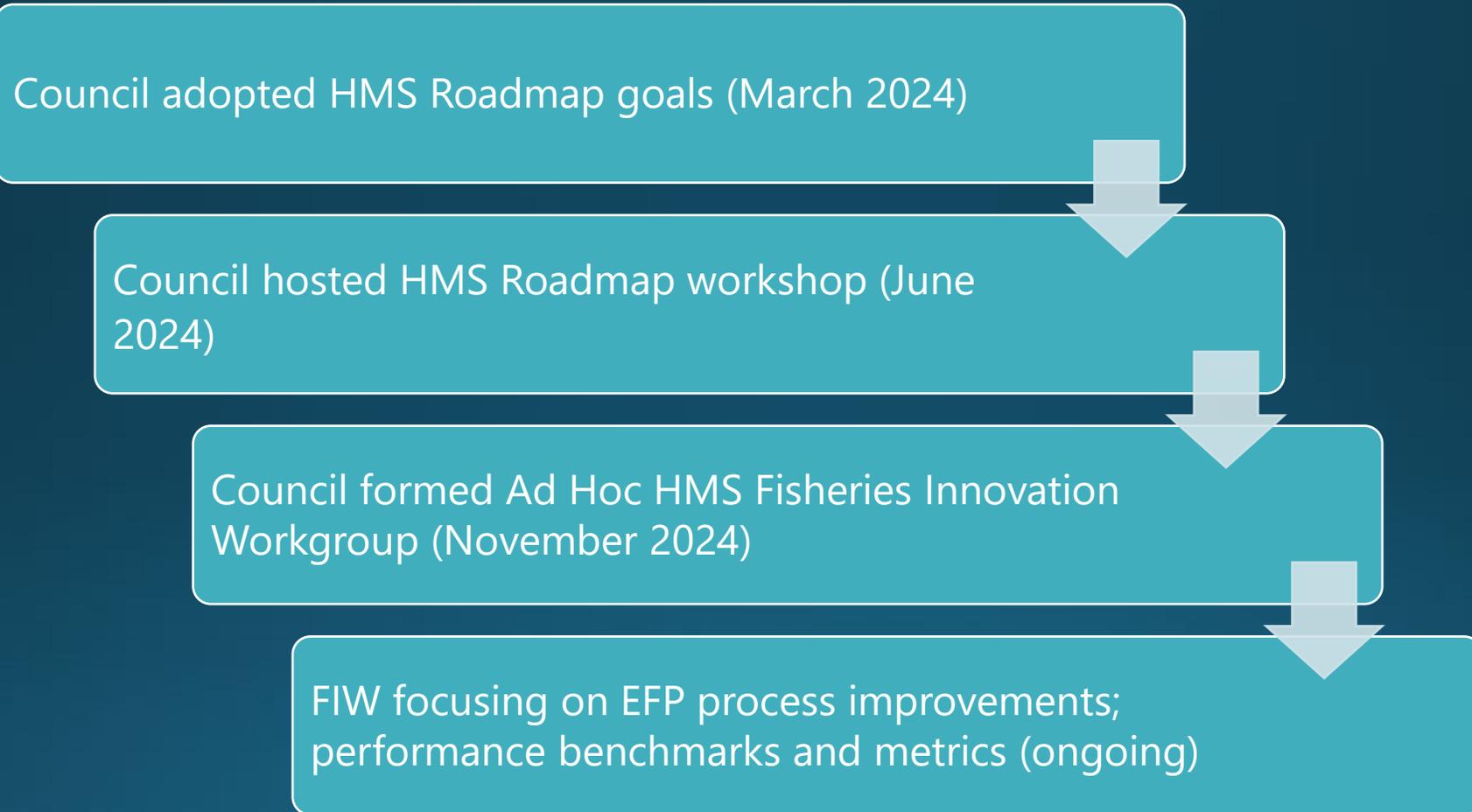
## Objective:

Support the development of climate-ready fishing methods that minimize bycatch, with an initial focus on the U.S. West Coast HMS fishery.

## Components:

- 1) Further development of the Council's HMS Roadmap, especially re: the use of EFPs to develop new or modified fishing practices.
- 2) Exploration of forward-looking tools, such as Dynamic Ocean Management, that can facilitate more adaptive management strategies and fishing methods.

# Component 1: HMS Roadmap Development



# Component 2: Workshop Proposal

## Original Proposal (Council's IRA Proposal)

Convene fishery participants, scientists, managers, and others to investigate how DOM methods and tools can inform bycatch mitigation efforts, risk-based frameworks, and more adaptive/responsive management.

## Revised Proposal (E.2 Staff Report)

- Outreach to and engagement with HMS fishery participants.
- Convene fishery participants, scientists, managers, and others to brainstorm specific, actionable ideas for developing new fishing systems that are effective at targeting HMS and are low-bycatch (including use of DOM tools).

# Proposed Definition of “Fishing System”

For purposes of this workshop, a “fishing system” may be defined as an integrated combination of gear, deployment strategy, spatial and temporal effort, monitoring and compliance, and economic structure.

DOM tools may serve as a component of a fishing system by informing when, where, and how fishing occurs in order to reduce bycatch risk while maintaining the ability to effectively target stocks.

# Proposed Goals for Outreach/Engagement Phase

1. Provide opportunities for the fishing public to discuss the components of an economically viable, low-bycatch West Coast HMS fishery, as well as associated challenges and constraints.
2. Identify and discuss ideas for new or modified fishing practices, methods, and approaches that have the potential to expand HMS fishing opportunities while minimizing bycatch.

# Proposed Goals for Workshop

1. Identify the components of new fishing systems – or modifications to existing ones – that can support a robust West Coast HMS fishery that is economically viable, low-bycatch, and climate-ready.
2. Identify the concepts, tools, and resources needed to implement these new fishing systems, taking into account where appropriate the Council's benchmarks and metrics used to evaluate the performance of EFPs; leave the workshop with concrete concepts that can be further explored and advanced by interested parties and/or, where and when appropriate, considered by the Council as possible recommendations to NMFS for implementation.
3. Identify opportunities for fishermen and others to incubate or advance these concepts, either independently or in collaboration with researchers and/or other fishermen.

# Proposed Goals for Workshop (cont'd)

4. Foster a shared understanding of the contents of the HMS Roadmap such that workshop participants can evaluate potential new methods, tools, or approaches in the context of the Roadmap's goals and action items to support more streamlined prioritization.
5. Produce written summaries describing complete fishing systems (including gear, deployment, spatial/temporal strategy, DOM-informed decision tools where appropriate, monitoring, bycatch controls, and economic considerations) that can serve as the basis for future EFP applications or cooperative research proposals.

# Proposed Timeline and Next Steps

- March Council meeting: Council to consider workshop proposal.
- Depending on Council guidance, staff could begin planning for both the outreach/engagement phase and the workshop, starting after the March meeting.
  - Proposed timing of outreach phase: Spring/Summer 2026
  - Proposed timing of workshop: Late 2026
- Development of a workshop agenda, identifying a date, finding a location, and contracting with a facilitator.
- Maintaining connections between Special Project 1 (Adaptive Management) and Special Project 3 as both move forward.



## Agenda Item E.2: Council Tasks and Action

- Provide guidance on workshop objectives and structure.
- Provide guidance on next steps, as appropriate.



**Thank You!**