

Agenda Item H.1
Supplemental Staff Presentation
April 2026

Special Project 1: Adaptive Management and Flexibility

Agenda Item H.1 – April 11, 2026

Special Project 1: Adaptive Management and Flexibility

Project Objective:

Identify innovations that make review and implementation of Council actions more timely, efficient, and responsive to a changing ocean environment and other unexpected events.

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.
- **September 2025:** Scoping - Council adopted a problem statement and identified three priority areas to advance under the project.

Scoping – September 2025

Problem Statement

“Because management decisions in the Council process often unfold over years, Council actions can lag behind changes in the marine environment related to climate change and other unexpected events (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics) and may not keep pace with the science that underpins management decisions. We need to improve Council processes and operating procedures to support timely responses to rapidly changing conditions.”

Priority Areas

- If-then statements and inseason management actions for FMPs where they make sense to allow action to happen outside of a Council meeting.
- EFP process improvements for all FMPs, using lessons learned from the HMS Roadmap - Fisheries Innovation Workgroup, and including pathways to efficiently move tested EFPs into regulations.
- Improved processes for data streams and integration of Local and Indigenous Knowledge.

Briefing Book Materials

- Att. 1: Process and Timeline Overview
- Att. 2: If-Then Statements and Inseason Actions
- Att. 3: EFP Process Improvements
- Att. 4: Integration of Local and Indigenous Knowledge
- Supp. Att. 5: Council Action Meeting Requirements





Today's Agenda Item – Adopt a PPA

Tasks:

- Consider potential action items described in staff reports.
- Provide guidance on identifying preliminary preferred actions to advance under Special Project 1.
- Provide guidance on next steps, including sequencing actions, if necessary.

Action:

Adopt preliminary preferred alternatives; provide guidance on next steps.

Additional Considerations

- Attachments 2-4 include a total of 20 potential action items – but no need to prioritize each one!
- Council may wish to identify a subset of actions under one or more of the priority areas from Attachments 2-4, plus any new potential actions brought forward in AB reports.
- Council may also wish to consider whether to prioritize or sequence one or more of the priority areas at this time.

If-Then Statements and Inseason Management Actions

Potential Action Items (from Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 2):

- Action 1: Specify a framework and process to support the development of new if-then statements.
- Action 2: Conduct a review of the use of if-then statements in both NMFS regulations and the Council process.
- Action 3: Request that Management Teams, in collaboration with their respective Advisory Subpanels, review and consider opportunities to develop if-then statements and/or new inseason management actions.

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EFP Process Improvements

Potential Action Items (from Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 3):

Tier 1: High Impact/Low Effort

- Action 1: Create clear EFP materials for applicants
- Action 2: Create ways to prioritize applicants likely to actively use EFP
- Action 3: Identify Council research priorities critical for increasing adaptive capacity and well-suited for EFPs
- Action 4: Promote efficiency and flexibility in EFP applications and in Council recommendations
- Action 5: Standardize the protocol for initial review of EFP applications
- Action 6: Allow for a one-meeting process for certain EFPs and identify other review flexibilities

EFP Process Improvements

Tier 2: High Impact/Moderate Effort

- Action 7: Make technical edits and updates to the COPs (with two sub-options: Option A - Create an “umbrella” COP; Option B - Edit the COPs individually)
- Action 8: Develop criteria for considering EFPs outside of designated windows
- Action 9: Frontload environmental analyses and build in flexibilities (where appropriate)
- Action 10: Create more efficiency, consistency, and accessibility for EFP reporting and data
- Action 11: Establish a “checkpoint” schedule for considering EFP-informed management changes
- Action 12: Create templates for assessing risk and scientific uncertainty to use when considering an EFP-informed regulatory change

Integrating Local and Indigenous Knowledge

- **Local Knowledge** is typically defined as the observations and experiences of local people in a region, as well as people with significant experience or expertise related to a region, species, or fishery. LK is often acquired over the course of a few generations or less, and it is the product of knowledge formation and dissemination based on personal, shared and inherited experience. [From *NPFMC LKTKS Task Force*]
- **Indigenous Knowledge** is a cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living beings (including humans) with one another and with their environment. It is based in moral and ethical foundations often grounded in social, spiritual, cultural, and natural systems that are intertwined and inseparable, thus offering a holistic perspective. IK is inherently heterogeneous due to the cultural, geographic and socioeconomic differences from which it is derived, and is deeply connected to the Indigenous Peoples holding that knowledge. [From *NOAA Guidance and Best Practices for Engaging and Including Indigenous Knowledge in Decision-Making*]

Integrating Local and Indigenous Knowledge

Potential Action Items (from Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 4)

- Action 1a: Email portal for CCIEA Ecosystem Status Report (ESR)
- Action 1b: New ESR section or appendix for on-the-water observations
- Action 2: Fishermen's Roundtables
- Action 3: Fishery Performance Reports
- Action 4: On-the-Water Observations Feedback Tool
- Action 5: Workshop to Identify LK Priorities and Pathways

Council Action Meeting Requirements

From Supplemental Attachment 5:

If tasked, Council staff could...

- Develop draft criteria and a proposed approach to applying that criteria when determining if an action could be completed in fewer meetings than under status quo.
- Provide additional information and a draft framework at the September 2026 meeting (or at a later meeting).
- No potential action items described at this time.





Next Steps

- Council action at April meeting: Adopt preliminary preferred alternatives (i.e., actions); provide guidance on next steps.
- Based on the Council's direction, staff will develop selected actions and bring to the September 2026 meeting for further discussion or adoption.
- Some COP revisions could be possibly be considered as soon as June.



Thank You!