

## SPECIAL PROJECTS: PROJECT PLANNING, UPDATES, AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is currently implementing three special projects for which it has received dedicated funding under the Inflation Reduction Act:

- Special Project 1: Adaptive Management and Flexibility
- Special Project 2: Decision Making for Stronger Fishing Communities
- Special Project 3: New Fishing Opportunities within Bycatch Allowances

As the Council prepares to further advance and complete these projects, this agenda item provides an opportunity to discuss recent project updates, consider upcoming work, review project timelines, and identify any areas in need of further clarification. The current grant received by the Council to support these projects ends on December 31, 2026; the Council will be requesting a no-cost extension (NCE) through December 31, 2027. The NCE request provides an opportunity to prioritize the work that can reasonably be completed during the additional year, rather than simply extending the existing workplan. In a Supplemental report for this agenda item, Council staff will provide recommendations regarding which project components can likely be accomplished in the next year, and which may be appropriate to narrow, defer, or address outside the timeline, scope, or budget of the Special Projects.

The three projects differ in structure, focus, and content, but they also intersect and may provide opportunities to support or amplify one another. The attachments associated with this agenda item describe anticipated work under each project and highlight areas where coordination may be beneficial. In considering the remaining work, the Council may wish to consider whether related activities can be coordinated, whether work identified under one project can be addressed through another project or existing Council process, and whether any activities can be narrowed or deferred to align available resources with project goals and objectives.

Attachment 1 illustrates the five priority areas nested under Special Project 1 and describes the components of work under each one. Of the three projects, Special Project 1 has the broadest and most varied scope and may require further refinement to remain within available grant scope, budget, and staff capacity. Two components of Special Project 1 (Nationwide If-Then Review and Council Meeting Requirements) will be considered in more detail under Agenda Item C.5 at this meeting and may be ripe for conclusion, thus helping to further clarify remaining project work and priorities.

Attachments 1-3 include progress updates on each project, respectively, as well as an appendix (Appendix A) that contains the text of a project summary and overview. Attachment 4 provides a Gantt chart that shows the approximate timing of remaining work under each project and its components. This chart reflects the work currently anticipated by staff and is intended as a planning tool rather than a commitment to complete each identified activity. The timing and scope of some actions may be adjusted in light of workload and budget considerations. As described above, the Council may wish to consider how remaining work should be prioritized and/or refined to align available resources with project goals and objectives.

### **Council Tasks:**

1. Consider contents of staff reports and discuss progress, remaining work, project timelines, and synergies among the three Special Projects.
2. Prioritize and refine remaining work under Special Project 1, including whether any components should be narrowed, deferred, or transitioned to other Council processes as needed to ensure the project remains within scope, budget, and available capacity.

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: Staff Report on Project Planning, Updates, and Clarifications – Special Project 1, Adaptive Management and Flexibility.
2. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2: Staff Report on Project Planning, Updates, and Clarifications – Special Project 2, Decision Making for Stronger Fishing Communities.
3. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 3: Staff Report on Project Planning, Updates, and Clarifications – Special Project 3: New Fishing Opportunities within Bycatch Allowances
4. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 4: Gantt Chart with Consolidated Project Timelines.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- C.3 Special Projects: Project Planning, Updates, and Clarifications Gilly Lyons
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Refine Scope of Special Projects to Align Work with Available Capacity

PFMC

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