

SPECIAL PROJECT 1: NATIONWIDE REVIEW OF IF, THEN STATEMENTS AND COUNCIL MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Special Project 1, *Adaptive Management and Flexibility*, is one of three special projects for which the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has received dedicated funding through the Inflation Reduction Act. The project's objective is to identify innovations that make review and implementation of Council actions more timely, efficient, and responsive to a changing ocean environment and other unexpected events. Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to consider two work products developed under Special Project 1: 1) a review of if-then statements and inseason management actions, as used on the West Coast and by regional fishery management councils across the U.S.; and 2) proposed changes to Council Operating Procedure (COP) 11 regarding Council meeting requirements for developing fishery management plan (FMP) amendments.

The Council last discussed Special Project 1 at its April 2026 meeting, where it adopted a series of motions to advance the implementation of the project. In addition to identifying the priority order of project components, the Council identified preliminary preferred actions under four of these components. This agenda item provides the materials needed for the Council to consider two of those actions and determine whether the associated cross-FMP work under Special Project 1 can be considered complete.

Nationwide If-Then Review. Under Special Project 1's If-Then Statement priority area of work, the Council requested that staff conduct a review of existing if-then statements in both National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations and the Council process, including approaches used in other regions around the U.S. This review, provided under Attachment 1, is intended to fulfill the Council's request for an informational assessment of existing approaches. It may also serve as a reference if the Council or an individual FMP later considers developing specific if-then statements to facilitate timely management responses without requiring a Council meeting.

Council Meeting Requirements for FMP Amendments. The Council also requested that staff develop a plan to build more flexibility into Council action timelines by identifying opportunities to reduce the number of meetings required for certain FMP amendments and other actions that are well developed and broadly supported. During the April 2026 discussion of Special Project 1, Council staff indicated that this effort could likely be accomplished through targeted edits to COP 11 *Plan Amendment Cycles*. FMP amendments are typically developed over the course of three or more Council meetings. The proposed changes are intended to provide flexibility in the timing of FMP amendment actions without changing the Council's substantive decision-making responsibilities or requirements. The Council should consider whether the proposed revisions provide an appropriate framework for using an accelerated schedule when an action is sufficiently developed and additional meetings would not provide commensurate value. The Council has the option of adopting final COP 11 edits under Agenda Item D.4 at this meeting.

The Council may also wish to confirm that the Review of If-Then Statements and Council Action Meeting Requirements actions are complete under Special Project 1. The nationwide review provides the requested cross-FMP information on existing if-then approaches, while development of FMP-specific if-then statements can continue under the respective FMP agenda items, as appropriate. Similarly, beyond the proposed COP 11 revisions described under this agenda item, staff have not identified additional cross-FMP changes needed to facilitate accelerated Council action. Staff therefore do not recommend additional cross-FMP work under these components at this time. Confirming completion of these elements would provide clarity regarding the remaining scope of work under Special Project 1.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Consider contents of staff reports and whether the Nationwide Review of If, Then Statements and Council Meeting Requirements actions under Special Project 1 can be considered complete.**
- 2. Recommend adjustments to Council Meeting Requirements for incorporation into COP 11, with the option of final action to update the COPs under Agenda Item D.4.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1: Staff Report on Nationwide Review of If, Then Statements and Inseason Management Actions.
2. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 2: Staff Report on Council Meeting Requirements.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.5 Special Project 1: Nationwide Review of If, Then Statements and
Council Meeting Requirements Gilly Lyons
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Staff Report as Final or Provide Further Direction, as Appropriate; Recommend Adjustments to Council Meeting Requirements for Incorporation into Council Operating Procedures

PFMC
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