REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Budget Committee (BC or Committee) met on November 13, 2026, to review the Council's 2026 budget status and the proposed Calendar Year (CY) 2027 provisional budget.

CY 2026 Financial Status

Executive Director Merrick Burden reviewed the Council's CY 2026 financial position and year end outlook. End-of-year forecasts predict that Council expenditures will be approximately $63K under the operational budget, meaning actual expenses are roughly 99% of the approved budget. This surplus does not have a meaningful impact on how the Council should approach the 2027 budget.

CY 2027 Status

Mr. Burden reported that initial funding has been recently released by NOAA's grants management division, and the PFMC has received approximately $954,000.

The Committee reviewed the updated future obligations for 2027-2032 of signed commitments, with obligations of $935K in 2027 and a total obligation of $3.9M.

The BC considered the provisional 2027 budget proposed by staff. This budget is designed to support the Council's current scope and scale of activities, ongoing operational practices, and completing work tied to the recently accepted no-cost extension. Following the September Council meeting, staff refined the proposed provisional budget to include several updates including refinements relative to the NCE, updated benefits expenses (especially insurance rates), Council and other meeting plans, and a new lease for Council office space. The staff proposed CY 2027 budget of $5,791,552 includes the Advisory Body schedule adopted in September, the usual in person meetings of GMT, STT, STAR Panels, SSC subcommittee meetings, CCC meetings, and other usual meetings. The budget also includes an amount of $100,000 to account for priorities that may arise outside of the Council's budget setting process. The BC discussed the prospect of adding other workshops or meetings to the budget and ultimately declined to do so, noting that these additional meetings can be considered as part of final budget adoption in June, or could be covered by the $100,000 amount set aside for priorities that may arise.

Committee Discussion

The Committee spent some time discussing the SSC and Advisory Subpanel stipends and the importance of supporting the individuals that contribute their time to the Council process. It was noted that the budget for the stipends has remained flat for several years. The BC expressed interest in knowing how much other Councils spend on Advisory Subpanel and SSC stipends (both in total and per day) to inform future consideration of stipend payments. It was noted that, with the upcoming advisory body appointment process, this information would be helpful as the council considers appointments and membership to its advisory groups.

The Committee supported the 2027 provisional budget as proposed by staff of $5,791,552.

Budget Committee Recommendations:

1. Adopt a Calendar Year 2027 provisional budget of $5,791,552
2. Request Council Staff survey the other Councils regarding their stipend payments

PFMC
11/16/26