

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS, TIMELINE, STATUS, AND NEXT STEPS

The text in the below table under the heading “Council guidance” and “Council Recommended Timeline” reflects the guidance provided in June ([Guidance in Writing, June 2024](#)). Indented text under Council guidance reflects the key components to achieve the top-level objective. “Status and Next Steps” describes progress to date and Council staff’s recommended next steps.

No.	Council Guidance	Council Recommended Timeline ^{a/}	Status and Next Steps
1.	Forgo staff and contractor travel/work on Highly Migratory Species and Council travel to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual meeting	January 2025	Completed and ongoing, 2026 budget reflects this guidance
2.	Reduce Council meetings by at least one-half day, including commensurate advisory body (AB) meeting day reductions	September 2025	2025: March (5.5 days), April (5 days), June (4 days), Sept (4 days), Nov (5 days) 2026: On track for 5-day meetings in March, April, and November. 4 days in June and September.
	Clearer guidance to ABs on matters for comment		2025: Proposed guidance for March and April 2026 will be provided under Agenda Item C.6 Future Workload Planning. Any deviation from planned agenda topics require direction from the Executive Director and/or Deputy Director.
	Additional information on Cross FMP groups		2025: No need to form a Cross FMP group. 2026: Consider where appropriate.
	Revise the public comment time to 5 minutes for both an individual and a group, while allowing the Chair or Vice		Completed, Council Operating Procedure (COP) 1 updated Nov 2024

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	Chair to modify that time before public comment begins on an agenda item depending on how many people have signed up for public comment.		
	Implement a more standardized AB report format, with a summary of recommendations or executive summary at the beginning of the report.		2025: Initial discussions occurred, template development was postponed due to workload. 2026: A draft template(s) will be discussed by Council staff at our annual work planning session in January and brought to ABs for review and discussion. It is anticipated that the template for the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be different than the management/technical team and advisory subpanel templates. Further, certain actions may necessitate a departure from the template.
	Promote summarization of reports, reading only the recommendations/ executive summary, and key sections, then have the AB member be available for questions. Have AB strive to provide presentations summarizing complex items, rather than reading reports, as time and workload allows. No page limits		2025: Guidance provided, some successes, but further refinement needed. 2026: Additional guidance will be provided.
	Seek guidance from NOAA General Counsel on what is required to “build the record”		2025: Postponed due to competing workload.

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			2026: Coordinate with General Counsel to provide briefings to the Council and Advisory Bodies.
	Work toward developing a new process for considering new initiatives on a pre-specified schedule, may require changes to the COP. This new process should align with the budget process.	September 2025	Postponed due to competing workload and challenges with 2025 planning. Further consideration of this item will occur in 2026.
3.	Continue to explore reducing the size of Council meetings and relocating meetings to more economical locations.	March 2026	2026: Council meetings will be held at more economical locations (Sacramento, Portland, Spokane, and Vancouver); several remote Advisory Body meetings proposed, consistent with Council guidance (see Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 1)
4.	Consider having one Council meeting every year, or every other year fully remote or only Council members in person Look into having that meeting in a coastal fishing community, which could encourage participation from “local” fishery participants and/or new people to the Council process.	March 2026	Considering the effect of these meeting formats. Further discussion planned for June 2026.
5.	Continue to explore annual scheduling for the various FMP, being strategic in which agenda items would be covered during remote meetings (see details below)	March 2026	2025: Planned the 2026 Year at a Glance around the Council efficiencies guidance, with some adjustments (see Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 1) 2026: Ongoing refinements
6.	Schedule AB meetings in advance of Council meetings when possible given Council schedule and process requirements	March 2026	

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7.	Explore a decisional mechanism framework to determine effective AB size and composition	March 2026	
8.	Reduce workload and agenda planning to twice per year, rather than at every meeting, scheduled for meetings that can help inform the Council's budget process. Between those meetings have Council staff schedule items as necessary.	September 2026	
9.	Examine how to streamline the Exempted Fishing Permit Process across all FMPs, such as only accepting new EFPs once per year, approving in one meeting, and having only NMFS review and approve/ dis-approve renewals while keeping the council informed of those EFPs.	September 2026	2025: Highly Migratory Species FMP made progress by amending COP20 in September 2025. Further, this topic was identified as a priority for the Flexible and Adaptive Management agenda item. 2026: Finalize HMS EFP process (scheduled March 2026), update EFP process for the remaining FMPs (scheduled September 2026).
10.	Agency reports that are informational in nature, especially those that were available in the advanced briefing book do not need to be read or summarized on the Council floor. Staff from the appropriate agency would be available for questions.	September 2026	2025: Guidance provided, some successes, but further refinement needed. 2026: Additional guidance will be provided.
11.	Put all informational reports under their respective FMPs and/or agenda items, rather than bunched together at the bottom of the online briefing book page, where may easily get overlooked.	September 2026	

a/ Sooner if possible