Groundfish Terms of Reference

Detailed Outline

Pacific Fishery Management Council

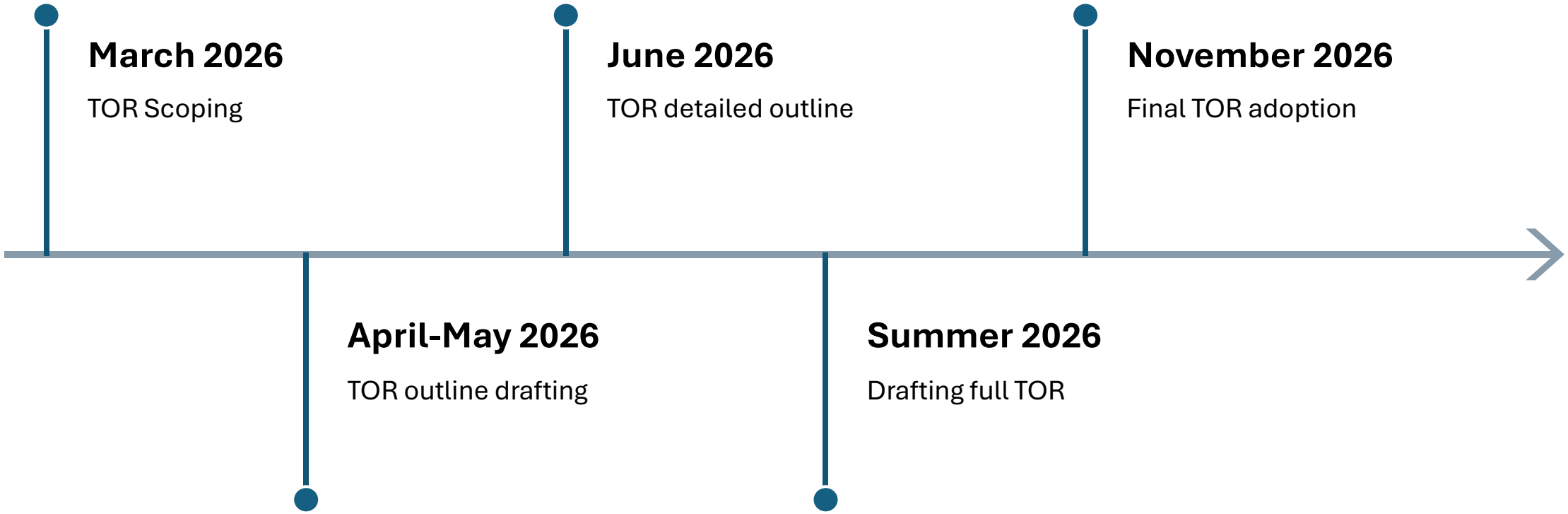
Spokane, Washington

June 15, 2026

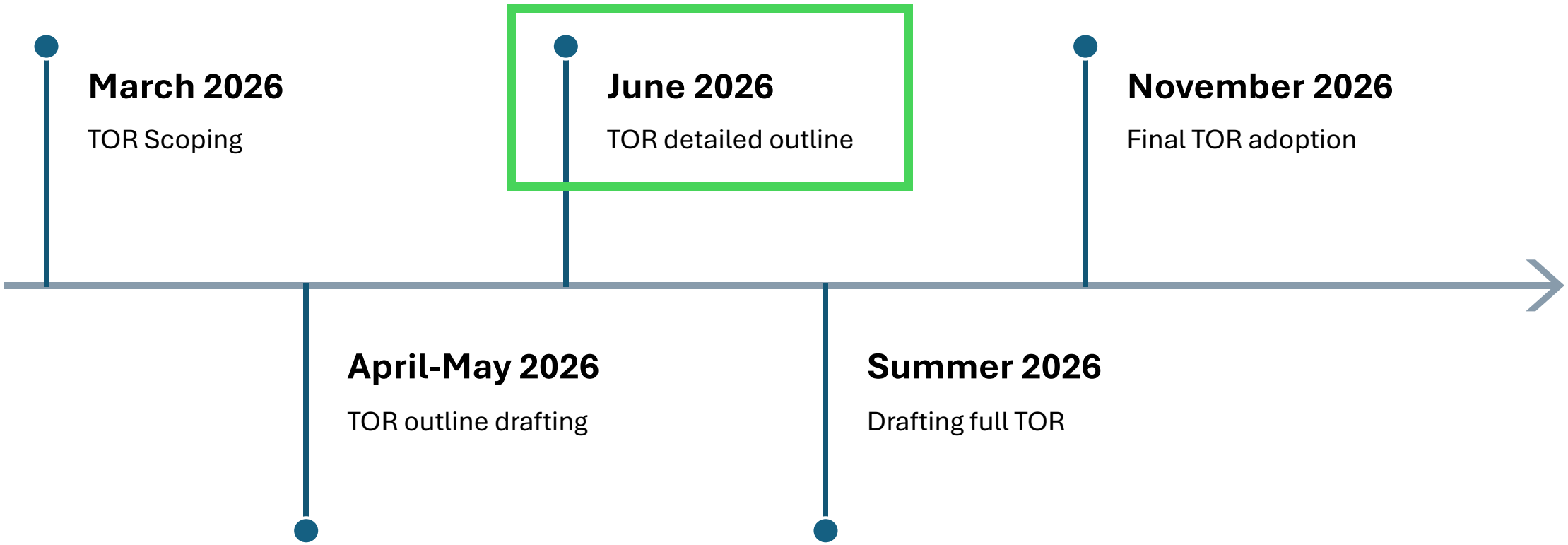
Council Tasks

- Consider **key outcomes from Agenda Item E.3 Stock Assessment Process Review** and proposed process revisions for inclusion in the TOR.
- Provide guidance on whether **one-page, at-a-glance assessment summaries** are a desired TOR component, request feedback on Center capacity and the appropriate stage(s) in the stock assessment process for producing these summaries.
- Provide guidance on the **inclusion of risk tables** in stock assessment documents as part of the TOR (moved from the Accepted Practices document).
- Provide guidance on the expectations for a **GAP-led appendix**.
- **Adopt** a detailed outline of TOR for groundfish stock assessments which will guide the development of a final TOR for adoption in November 2026.

2027-28 Terms of Reference Timeline



2027-28 Terms of Reference Timeline



Documents Considered

- Comments from those who participated in the last cycle under the 2025-26 TOR (Attachment 2)
- NOAA Stock Assessment Report Guidelines (Attachment 3)
- Recommendations from the Stock Assessment Review (Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 2)
- Stock Assessment Process Review Report (January 2026)
- March 2026 reports from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT)

TOR Detailed Outline

- Many sections are listed as **“same”** with minimal changes or refinements
- New sections or organization are **“flagged”**
- Sections listed as **“refine”** contain substantial changes to the section which are described
- **“Proposed”** sections or additions are described

Main Topics for Consideration

- Inclusion and refinement of ***at-a-glance stock assessment summaries*** and refinement of ***executive summary***
- Integration of ***risk tables*** (Stock Assessment document section 5b)
- ***GAP-led appendix*** in the stock assessment document (Stock Assessment document Appendices)
- ***"Management"*** and ***"Research"*** track assessments (section 3C and 3D)
- Assessment Review ***On- & Off- Ramps*** (section 3E)

At-a-glance Summary & Executive Summary

- At-a-glance provided in 2025
- Not listed as a stock assessment document requirement in outline
  - Not part of the National Guidelines (Attachment 3)

Question:

- Should the summary be continued? If so, stand alone or as part of the stock assessment document?

- Considering shortening the executive summary

Questions:

- What is the purpose/objective of the executive summary?
- If shortened, what sections are the most useful and what sections could solely live in the main document?

Risk Tables

- Add language about the development of risk tables
- Reference further risk table guidelines in the Accepted Practices Guidelines document.

Note: The Council will address the use of risk tables in the upcoming Risk Management Agenda Item in November 2026.

Question:

- How does a dedicated section about the relevant risk tables add value as information included within a stock assessment document?

GAP-led appendix

- Dedicated space for industry and stakeholder views of the fishery to be expressed in the stock assessment document and considered during the technical review
- Developed by GAP advisor(s) (e.g., those that go through a STAR panel)
- Development *may* begin during the Pre-assessment Workshop and continue throughout the STAR Panel process to acknowledge stakeholder input and considerations.

Note: This is different from the existing management section.

Question:

- Is this addition appropriate? How will it add value to the stock assessment document?

“Management” and “Research” Track

- “Management” track assessments include benchmark, updates, data-moderate, data limited, and catch-only projections

- “Research” track assessments support the need for a ***research-intensive assessment*** for a particular single stock or multi-species complex that requires extensive analysis well beyond the scope of the biennial management process.
  - It is anticipated that this assessment type would be implemented in very few, specific instances.

Assessment Review On- & Off- Ramps

- Would generalize the information needed to change the assessment type, the review process, and the appropriate steps to make those changes.
  - Descriptions of what is required to switch between research track and management track
  - Descriptions of what is required to switch from one assessment type to another (e.g., benchmarks and updates) within management track

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