

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) plans to have a virtual meeting prior to the April 2025 Council meeting to discuss cross-fishery management plan (FMP) items, including research and data needs and workload planning for upcoming items on the Council's June agenda. While the Council is scheduled to discuss Initiative 4: Risk Tables for groundfish and salmon and the Highly Migratory Species Roadmap in June, the EAS is trying to balance providing timely and useful input on ecosystem-related topics with its workload, and streamlining its meeting schedule to the extent possible. We anticipate deciding whether to have a pre-June virtual meeting once we have a better understanding of the scope of the ecosystem-related topics scheduled for June.

Ecosystem topics, and therefore the EAS workload, have historically been focused on the March and September meetings; however, cross-FMP items that are ecosystem-related now appear on most, if not all, of the Council's agendas for the next year. We appreciate the Council considering ecosystem topics through its multiple FMP management processes, which highlights the interconnected nature of the ecosystem items, but propose scheduling consideration of ecosystem-related topics at a subset of the Council meetings to allow timely, cohesive, and efficient input.

Finally, the EAS reiterates our request for an in-person meeting for September 2025. As noted previously, the EAS favors the in-person meeting format for meetings with ecosystem-focused items on the agenda, as these topics are complex and our discussions benefit from having a face-to-face exchange, which helps us reach an informed consensus and provide meaningful input. Looking at the Year-at-a-Glance, in September, the Council is scheduled to discuss two ecosystem projects: the Decision Making for Stronger Communities and New Fishing Opportunities within Bycatch Allowances and the Exempted Fishing Permit Framework. We expect that the September meeting will be an opportunity to provide feedback on the likely substantive progress made on these projects, as well the potential to interact with those working on these projects. Given the EAS's projected workload for the September meeting, the EAS believes that an in-person discussion would be far more effective and efficient than a virtual meeting.

PFMC
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