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## NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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# E Staff Tasking

February 2026 Council Meeting

## Action Memo

Council Staff: Diana Evans and Anna Henry

Action Required:

1. Review Committees, Plan Teams, and upcoming meetings
2. Provide direction on tasking priorities, scheduling, and future meetings

## BACKGROUND

### Committee and Plan Team Membership and Upcoming Meetings

#### Membership

Posted on the eAgenda is the updated Council committee list reflecting changes since December 2025.

#### Status of future advisory group meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings are currently anticipated:

Advisory Group	Dates and location	Draft agenda topics (may change)
Legislative Committee	March 2, 2026 (T) Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review draft legislation and develop draft comments</li></ul>
Ecosystem Committee	March 6, 2026 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss EFH 5-Year Review process and information products</li><li>• Discuss IRA/climate resilience activities</li><li>• Update on Groundfish Management Policy Review process</li></ul>
Scallop Plan Team	April 6, 2026 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2025-2026 Fishery, Survey, Socioeconomic Updates</li><li>• Status of Assessment Development</li></ul>
Ecosystem Committee	May 8, 2026 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on exploration of alternative Harvest Control Rules to support climate resilience</li><li>• Review and recommendations on draft Groundfish Management Policy Review document</li></ul>
BSAI Crab Plan Team	May 11-15, 2026 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AIGKC, PIGKC, and WAIRKC stock assessment reviews and specification recommendations</li><li>• Proposed model runs for fall assessments, and other modeling updates</li><li>• Emerging issues around <i>Chionoecetes</i> hybrid abundance and management implications</li><li>• Risk tables and ESP development</li><li>• Research and survey updates</li></ul>
Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee	May 2026 (TBD) Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of the 2025 Observer Annual report</li><li>• NMFS updates, including budget</li></ul>

## Tasking and Scheduling

Posted on the eAgenda is an updated version of the 3-meeting outlook. Additionally, the eAgenda includes updated list of Council staff responsibilities, and the groundfish workplan, as background.

### Upcoming Council meetings – Planning for 2027 and beyond

A **preliminary June 2026 agenda** is posted to the eAgenda for your review. Please note that this preliminary draft is for the purpose of discussion and feedback, and will be revised after this meeting. The June meeting is currently very full, and we will likely need to defer one or more agenda items to a subsequent meeting.

At present the Council's funding outlook is positive, and if that is confirmed, we anticipate that both the October and December 2026 meetings may be able to occur in person. If we do encounter budget reductions, we may make the October AP and Council meetings virtual. Due to the anticipated workload for the SSC to catch up on groundfish assessments after last year, we would try to host the SSC meeting in person for both meetings if possible.

Since the last meeting, we have confirmed the feasibility of switching to a new 4 meeting/year schedule beginning in 2027, which moves the first two meetings of the year to late February and mid-May. We are still confirming venues and locations for each meeting based on cost effectiveness, but the dates are firm. As per the Finance Committee's recommendation, one meeting per year may be virtual unless in-hand funding allows for the meeting to be in person. At present, this is likely to be the October meeting. We also confirmed that these meeting dates will accommodate the opening of the crab fisheries in October.

For 2026-2028, the meeting dates will be as follows.

<b>2026</b>	Feb 2-11	Jun 1-9	Oct 5-13	Nov 30-Dec 8
<b>2027</b>	Feb 22-Mar 2	May 17-25	Oct 4-12	Nov 29-Dec 7
<b>2028</b>	Feb 28-Mar 7	May 15-23	Oct 2-10	Dec 4-12

## Proposals and Public Comment

Written public comments that have been submitted to the Council are available on the eAgenda.