



Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate Resilience Planning Timeline

November 2025¹

Overview

Funding made available to the Councils under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with the resources and staff capacity to invest in a focused climate resilience planning effort. The Council received \$2.6 million in funding it applied for from NMFS, which must be spent by the end of 2027. The groundwork established during the IRA grant period will continue to support the Council's climate resilience work into the future.

The Council's IRA funding proposal focuses on three objectives that build on and advance the Council's current work:

1. Develop a climate-resilient management policy.
2. Continue work to incorporate local and traditional knowledge.
3. Strengthen the consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications.

The Council is currently at the midpoint of its 2024-2027 grant. The purpose of this document is to provide a progress update and outline potential ideas for further activities to meet IRA funding objectives. This document updates and replaces an initial funding timeline² provided to the Council in December 2024, and reflects current Council priorities and staff tasking.

No action is necessary if the Council feels the activities outlined in this update are sufficient. The Council could provide input at the December 2025 Council meeting, and/or task the Ecosystem with providing input and provide additional direction at a future Council meeting. The scope and timing of future activities outlined in this document may also depend on staff and NMFS capacity.

Progress update

While circumstances have changed significantly since NMFS approved the Council's proposal for IRA funding in early 2024, the Council is successfully making progress toward meeting each of its three grant objectives. The Council's IRA work plan has been adapted in response to conditions that included the initial delay in receiving funds from NMFS, changes in the regulatory and funding environment, limitations on Council and NMFS staff capacity, and evolving Council priorities. The Council's decision³

¹ Prepared by Katie Latanich, NPFMC Staff

² D1a IRA Funding Timeline [Update](#), December 2024

³ D4 [Motion](#), October 2025

in October 2025 to take no further action on the Programmatic Evaluation, which was initially envisioned as the analytical vehicle for Objectives 1 and 2, is a change in Council direction that influences next steps for completing objectives in the second half of the grant period.

The following describes how the Council's IRA-supported work has progressed and may continue to evolve over the remainder of the grant period. In addition to summarizing completed and ongoing work, this document includes potential ideas for additional activities the Council could undertake in support of IRA objectives. It may be useful for the Council to task the Ecosystem Committee with reviewing and providing recommendations on these opportunities.

Table 1: Completed, ongoing, and potential additional work to fulfill IRA funding objectives during the 2024-2027 grant period. **Ideas for additional work are tentative at present, and would depend on Council priorities as well as staff and NMFS capacity.**

NFPMC IRA Objective	Completed work	In progress	Additional <u>potential</u> activities
Cross-objective activities	Ongoing throughout IRA grant period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement Climate Resilience Workplan ● Convene reconstituted Ecosystem Committee ● Develop plain-language communication and outreach materials 		
1 - Develop a climate-resilient management policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate Scenarios Workshop ● Programmatic Evaluation work 2024-2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete Groundfish Management Policy triennial review and next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2027 Climate Resilience Planning / IRA wrap-up workshop ● Crab FMP Policy Review
2 - Continue work to integrate local and traditional knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chum salmon bycatch analysis and incorporation of LKTKS information into analytical document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Document procedures based on lessons learned from chum salmon bycatch analysis ● Ongoing work and analyses to be informed by LKTKS Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities for additional activities with Council guidance and in collaboration with NMFS staff
3 - Strengthen consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CCTF final report and Climate Resilience Workplan ● SSC SCS8 recommendations ● SSC Harvest Control Rule (HCR) workshop and recommendations (June 2025) ● Plan Team discussions and recommendations (Fall 2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint Groundfish Plan Team workshop on HCRs (Jan 2026) ● SSC update on HCRs (Feb 2026) ● Council update and next steps on HCRs (June 2026) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement next steps from HCR work depending on timeline and scope of outcomes

Cross-objective activities

Three ongoing Council activities support multiple IRA objectives and enhance the Council's climate resilience planning and capacity.

1. **Establishment of a Climate Resilience Workplan:** In December 2024 the Council established a [Climate Resilience Workplan](#) based on recommendations of the Climate Change Task Force.⁴ This workplan identifies near-term opportunities for incorporating existing and emergent climate science, including work in support of Objective 3: Strengthen the consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications. Staff are developing a tracking tool and continue to collaborate with NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) staff, including through the Changing Ecosystems and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI) Alaska Team (ACT), on opportunities for advancing workplan activities. An update will be provided at the June 2026 Council meeting.
2. **Reconstitution of the Council's Ecosystem Committee:** In December 2024, the Council recommended reconstituting its Ecosystem Committee to advise the Council on matters related to ecosystem-based fisheries management and climate resilience planning related to the federal fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction. The Council adopted revised [Terms of Reference](#) and announced [appointments](#) at the October 2025 Council meeting. A first meeting will be held in early 2026. The Ecosystem Committee will provide input on IRA planning and projects, and on the ongoing implementation of the climate Resilience Workplan, as tasked by the Council and the Committee co-chairs.
3. **Develop outreach materials:** Council staff will develop plain language communication and outreach materials for communicating the Council's work toward climate-resilient fisheries management. Staff recently updated the [climate readiness page](#) on the Council's website to make it easier for the public to find climate and IRA-related work in one place. As work on the three objectives moves forward staff will focus on plain-language materials on technical topics, particularly in support of Objective 3.

Objective 1: Develop a climate-resilient management policy

Current status

This objective was originally intended to be achieved through the Programmatic Evaluation initiated by the Council in 2023, which would have revisited the management policies, goals, and objectives for all of the Council's federally managed fisheries. At its October 2025 meeting the Council recommended taking no further action on the Programmatic Evaluation, in response to public testimony and capacity concerns.

The Council will consequently reinstitute the triennial process of reviewing Groundfish FMP objectives.⁵ Reviews are a long-standing, self-imposed requirement established in the Groundfish FMPs. They provide the Council with the opportunity to review actions relative to FMP objectives, consider

⁴ The Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) was convened as a module under the Bering Sea FEP, and concluded its work with its [final report](#) in December 2024

⁵ The next comprehensive review requirement would have been met by the Programmatic Evaluation process; see E1 Groundfish [Workplan](#), April 2025

modifications to the management objectives and Groundfish Management Policy, and consider whether additional Council actions might be needed to support the Policy. This next review will also take into account the Council's recent work on climate resilience and integration of Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence information, thus supporting both Objective 1 and Objective 2.

Next steps

In progress

The Council will complete the next Groundfish Management Policy triennial review and determine whether to make any adjustments to FMP goals and objectives. At a minimum, this work would follow the same process as the 2019-2021 review.⁶ Staff suggest taking a more comprehensive approach to this review, in order to support Objectives 1 and 2 and capture the Council's recent work on climate resilience and incorporation of LKTKS information, and given that 20 years have passed since the groundfish Management Policy was adopted in 2004. Staff will provide more information and ideas in a planning update at the December 2025 Council meeting under the Staff Tasking agenda item. The timeline for completing the Groundfish Management Policy Review will depend on the Council's preferred approach, whether the Council directs staff to make any revisions or additions to the review document, and ultimately whether the Council recommends making any changes to policy guidance through an FMP amendment.

Potential ideas for additional activities

- 2027 Climate Resilience Planning / IRA Wrap-up Workshop

Note: A 2027 workshop is included here as a placeholder for the Council community to discuss progress and plan for next steps to sustain climate resilience planning beyond the IRA grant period. The original IRA funding proposal included funds to support workshops in support of the grant objectives. While the Council does not need to make a decision or commit to a 2027 workshop at this point, staff suggest planning for a capstone workshop as an important milestone in support of all three objectives. The Council could further discuss the scope of a wrap-up workshop at its June 2026 meeting.

For example, the Council could hold a strategic discussion to engage the public in building on progress during the IRA grant period and identifying potential future directions and priorities. This workshop could build on ideas from the 2024 Climate Scenarios Workshop, implementation of the Climate Resilience Workplan, products emerging from the CEFI initiative, and work in support of IRA objectives. This could be structured as a standalone workshop with opportunities for informal discussion, or as a working session during a Council meeting.

- Crab FMP Management Policy Review

The Council could conduct a review of Crab FMP policy guidance, applying or adapting the approach used for Groundfish Management Policy reviews. The Council could consider the

⁶ D3 Groundfish Management Policy [Review](#), February 2022

optimal timing of this review after discussing the Groundfish FMP review document in June 2026.

Objective 2: Continue work to incorporate local and traditional knowledge.

Current status

The Council's original IRA proposal included two activities under this objective; first, holding a workshop to consider how to adapt the recommendations of the Council's LKTKS Protocol and onramps, which were developed for the Bering Sea, to other fisheries and regions; and second, developing procedures for incorporating LKTKS into Council amendment analyses. The Programmatic Evaluation was envisioned as one pathway though not the only vehicle for these activities.

Council staff have made significant progress supporting Objective 2 through the Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Action, scheduled for final action in early 2026. Staff have incorporated LK, TK, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information into this analysis; this can help to inform practices for future analyses.

Next steps

In progress

Staff will continue to further develop LKTK procedures based on lessons learned from the chum salmon bycatch analysis. Staff will also continue to carry out work in light of and informed by the Protocol.

Potential additional activities

The Council could consider undertaking additional activities in support of Objective 2. **Further guidance from the Council would be helpful for identifying opportunities, gaps, and specific needs to address.**

One opportunity would be to develop a process and/or guidance for incorporating LKTKS information into analyses in the Gulf of Alaska region. The LKTKS Protocol was developed as a module under the Bering Sea FEP, and the product and process followed are specific to this region. There could be different pathways for developing guidance for the GOA region that would be informed by the experience gained from developing the LKTKS Protocol.

Staff will also continue to communicate with Gulf of Alaska Climate Integrated Modeling Project (GOACLIM) and CEFI socioeconomic leads to identify future opportunities for integrating information products into the Council process to support climate resilient fisheries management.⁷ Staff will continue to provide updates to the Council.

Objective 3: Strengthen the consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications.

Current status

The Council's proposal under Objective 3 would develop and implement new tools for the harvest specifications process, to adapt to risk in the face of uncertainty due to climate-driven marine ecosystem

⁷ For examples, see D1 AFSC Climate Science [Update](#), December 2024

changes. The Council’s proposal originally envisioned a two-part approach to identifying adjustments that could be implemented **with** and **without** the need for FMP adjustments. This approach has been adapted to reflect capacity limitations and provide a more focused starting point.

In response to Council direction,⁸ Council staff are co-leading collaborative work with NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center scientists to examine whether alternative harvest control rules could perform better than the status quo under changing ecosystem conditions. In June 2025, the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee held a half-day Harvest Control Rule Workshop to discuss and gather input on HCR potential adjustments. The Council requested that the subset of candidate HCRs that the SSC found most promising for consideration be presented to the Plan Teams during the fall specifications cycle.⁹ Council staff presented to the Joint Groundfish Plan Teams in September 2025, and provided an update on the current set of HCRs under consideration for simulation testing by the ACLIM and GOACLIM research teams. Staff are also scheduled to brief the Crab Plan Team at their November meeting.

Next steps

In progress

The Joint Groundfish Plan teams plan to meet in January 2026 to discuss and recommend HCRs and potential mechanisms for modifying or frameworks for when different HCRs could be triggered. This report and any staff consideration of frameworks will be presented to the SSC in February 2026. The Council is scheduled to receive a report at the June 2026 Council meeting and may determine next steps at this time.

Additional activities

Discussions by the Plan Teams, SSC, and Council in the first half of 2026 will identify next steps and additional activities in support of Objective 3.

⁸ October 2024 [motion](#), December 2024 [motion](#) (Climate Resilience Workplan)

⁹ D6 Council [motion](#), June 2025