

E IRA Funding Timeline Update

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IRA Funding Timeline Update

Purpose: Progress update and potential ideas for further activities to meet IRA funding objectives, consistent with the Council's stated approach of building on initiatives in progress

No action is necessary if the Council feels the activities outlined in the IRA funding timeline update are sufficient. The Council *could*:

- Provide additional direction at this meeting
- Task the Ecosystem Committee with providing input
- Provide further direction at a future Council meeting



IRA Funding Timeline Update

The Council received \$2.6m in IRA funding from NMFS. IRA funds must be fully spent by the end of 2027.

The Council is making progress toward meeting each of its three grant objectives:

1. Develop a climate resilient management policy
2. Continue work to integrate Local Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge
3. Strengthen consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications



IRA Funding Timeline Update

Workplan adaptations

- Initial delay in receiving funds
- Changes in regulatory and funding environment
- Limitations on NMFS and Council staff capacity
- Evolving Council priorities, including no further action on Programmatic Evaluation



Table 1: Completed, ongoing, and potential additional work

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 	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) 	Implement next steps from HCR work depending on timeline and scope of outcomes



Cross-objective activities

Ongoing activities that support all 3 IRA objectives and enhance the Council's climate resilience planning work

1. Establishment of a Climate Resilience Workplan focused on near-term opportunities to incorporate existing and emergent climate science (December 2024; based on CCTF recommendations)
2. Reconstitution of the Ecosystem Committee with new TOR, tasking, and membership
3. Development of outreach materials (particularly for Objective 3)



1 – Develop a climate-resilient management policy

- Originally supported by Programmatic Evaluation
- Now supported by Groundfish Management Policy triennial review
 - Existing requirement established in Groundfish FMPs
 - Opportunity to consider adjustments to FMP guidance
 - Consider a more cumulative review to support Objectives 1 and 2 and capture the Council's recent work on climate resilience and incorporation of LKTKS information. (Will discuss further under E – Staff Tasking.)



1 – Develop a climate-resilient management policy

Potential ideas for additional activities

- 2027 Climate Resilience Planning/IRA Wrap-Up Workshop
 - Discuss progress and plan for next steps to sustain climate resilience planning beyond the IRA grant period
 - Could build on 2024 Climate Scenarios Workshop, implementation of Climate Resilience Workplan, and other work in support of IRA objectives



1 – Develop a climate-resilient management policy

Potential ideas for additional activities

- Crab FMP Management Policy Review
 - Apply or adapt approach used for Groundfish Management Policy Reviews
 - Consider optimal timing after discussing Groundfish review in June 2026



2 – Continue work to integrate Local and Traditional Knowledge

- Originally supported by Programmatic Evaluation
- Currently supported through Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Action
 - Incorporates LK, TK, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information
 - Can help inform practices for future analyses
- Staff will continue to further develop LKTK procedures, and carry out work informed by the Protocol



2 – Continue work to integrate Local and Traditional Knowledge

Potential ideas for additional activities

- Staff will continue to communicate with GOACLIM and CEFI leads regarding opportunities
- One opportunity would be to develop a process and/or guidance for incorporating LKTKS information into analyses in the Gulf of Alaska region
- **Further guidance from the Council would be helpful for identifying opportunities, gaps, and specific needs to address.**



3 – Strengthen consideration of uncertainty and risk in harvest specifications

- Staff co-leading collaborative work with NMFS AFSC to examine whether alternative harvest control rules could perform better than the status quo under changing ecosystem conditions
 - June SSC workshop
 - September: Staff update to Groundfish Plan Teams on HCRs under consideration for simulation testing
 - Early 2026: Additional GPT (January) and SSC discussions (February)
 - Council update June 2026, consideration of next steps



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- Provide additional direction at this meeting
- Task the Ecosystem Committee with providing input on specific issues (tentative meeting dates March and May/June 2026)
- Provide further direction at a future Council meeting

