



**Ecosystem and Ocean Planning
Committee and AP Updates:**
EAFM Risk Assessment Review
&
*Policy/Process for EFP Applications Under
Forage Amendment*

June 2023 Council Meeting

Virginia Beach, VA

EAFM Risk Assessment Review

- Meeting 1 – joint webinar meeting of Committee and AP on April 27th
 - Focus on risk elements and associated definitions
 - What are we measuring (element) and why are we measuring it (definition)
 - Current elements framed around risks to meeting Council management objectives
 - Pre-meeting feedback on existing and new elements
 - Keep/Modify/Delete
 - Offered suggested modifications

Risk Element	Def: Risk to What?	Proportion of Responses		
		Keep	Mod	Del
<i>Ecological Elements</i>				
Stock Assessment Performance	Risk of not achieving OY due to analytical limitations	0.87	0.13	0.00
F Status	Risk of not achieving OY due to overfishing	1.00	0.00	0.00
B Status	Risk of not achieving OY due to depleted stock	1.00	0.00	0.00
Food Web (MAFMC Predator)	Risk of not achieving OY due to MAFMC managed species interactions	0.93	0.07	0.00
Food Web (MAFMC Prey)	Risk of not achieving OY due to MAFMC managed species interactions	0.93	0.07	0.00
Food Web (Protected Species Prey)	Risk of not achieving protected species objectives due to species interactions	0.73	0.27	0.00
Ecosystem Productivity	Risk of not achieving OY due to changing system productivity	0.93	0.07	0.00
Climate	Risk of not achieving OY due to climate vulnerability	0.60	0.33	0.07
Distribution Shifts	Risk of not achieving OY due to climate-driven distribution shifts	0.75	0.25	0.00
Estuarine habitat	Risk of not achieving OY due to threats to estuarine/nursery habitat	1.00	0.00	0.00

Meeting 1 Feedback

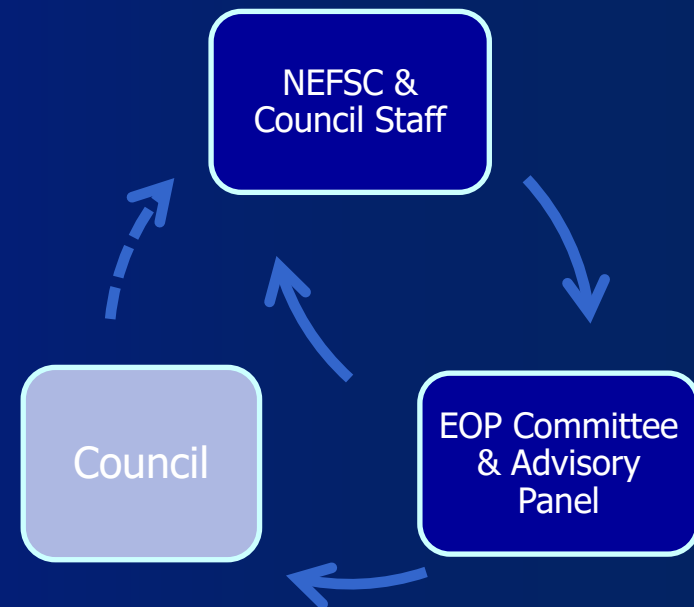
- Existing elements – 14 of 24 existing elements identified as “keep as is”
 - Some suggested edits for further review
- Remaining 10 existing elements identified as “keep but with modifications”
 - Group discussed modifications for each element and identified potential options for further review
- Potentially new elements – previously considered, from SOE report, identified by EOP
 - Identified and reviewed over 20 potentially new elements
 - Diverse feedback on keeping/modifying/deleting these elements
 - Group developed modifications and alternatives for further review
- Not finalizing list of risk elements – identifying what is worth measuring and keep on list for now

Timeline & Review Approach

- Iteratively review and update specific parts of the risk assessment at a series of meetings in 2023

✓ Meeting 1 (April 27th) – considered Risk Elements and Definitions

- Meeting 2 (July 7th webinar) – consider Indicators and Ranking Criteria
- Meeting 3 (September in-person) – review risk assessment components and application(s) for Council needs
- October Council meeting – present updated risk assessment for Council review and approval



EFPs for Forage Amendment Species

2023 Implementation Plan:

Develop a policy and/or process for reviewing EFP applications for new or expanding fisheries as it relates to the unmanaged forage amendment.

EOP Committee Recommendations

- Use Pacific Council Operating Procedure 24 as a template.
- Add all staff recommendations.
- Add guidelines for SSC review terms of reference.
- Consider a decision tree approach to determine if each relevant EFP warrants full review or if fewer steps could suffice for some.

AP Input on EFP Review Process

- Mixed opinions on Pacific Council COP 24 as a template.
 - 5 AP members supported (consideration of ecosystem impacts)
 - 3 AP members opposed (process is too complex)
- A complex process could serve as a barrier to obtaining EFPs, especially for small businesses (6 advisors).
- Need clear guidelines on the types of analysis needed to support issuance of EFPs (3 advisors).
- Council should support opportunities for development of new sustainable fisheries (3 advisors).