

Innovation Discussion for December 2025 Council meeting

Jessica, Kerry, and John went through the results from the September meeting and put phrases in different categories and tried to reduce redundancy and resolve contradictory concepts.

Overarching goal – Refer to these goalposts and principles as future SG committee discussions occur and decisions are made.

Goal for December meeting – discuss the topics, clarify concepts, and make sure topics are in the right category. Decide if anything is missing.

Goal for March meeting – Have summarized list of Goalposts and Principles for final review. This final review would include items in the other categories too.

Summary of Goalposts

- Recreational OY is about access not poundage of fish harvested
- Commercial OY is about providing seafood to consumers
- Regional management of fisheries to account for differences across Council region
- Consider holistic view of fishery (e.g., multi-species nature and regime shift)
- Maximize trip efficiencies for recreational and commercial
- Optimize year-round access to all SG species for commercial and recreational
 - Optimize access
- Don't let perfection stop progress
- Take more risks in making decisions
- We will never have the perfect solution for everyone
- Focus on single species management isn't serving fishery well

Summary of Principles to get to Goalposts

- Ensure local knowledge is factored into management decisions
- Council take more risks and try new things to achieve goal and in making management decisions
- **Develop allocations based on total catch –**
 - ***Need to define what this means and how it would work to help clarify Council intent.***
- Don't continue to bring up ideas that the Council has decided not to move forward with unless there is new information and you know the history
 - Examples
 - More commercial IFQs
 - Sector allocation – Council has made a decision to keep current sector allocations (commercial and recreational split) for each fishery approximately the same
- **Be proactive**
 - **This is a broad term and may mean different things to different people. Clarification on what this means for our process so we can then consider how we can do it is desired.**

- Minimize wasted fish
- Act on information we have not what we are hoping to get

Economic

- Evaluate commercial portfolio fishing
- Ensure path for new entrants for permitted fisheries and limited entry fisheries

Science and data collection

- Simplify science to meet management needs
 - Support interim assessments
 - More timely info needed on stock status
 - Stock assessments that match available data
 - Less reliance on traditional stock assessments (timing and single species?)
- Support, Promote efforts to provide/obtain ecosystem and multi-species analyses for supporting catch recommendations and evaluating management alternatives.
- Use more cooperative research projects to get data
 - = more engagement with the stakeholders
 - More engagement with states

Ideas for Process for SG committee and committee efficiency principles

- More communication and collaboration between states and NOAA outside the Council mtg
- Be more responsive and timely
 - Push for shorter timelines for actions
 - Make hard decisions faster
 - Optimize use of expedited procedures
 - Timely response to assessments
 - Make better use of our right to use informed judgement when presented with conflicting and incomplete information
- Get out of the rut
 - Be solution oriented
 - Get away from single species management
 - Be willing to test new and innovative ideas
 - Make difficult decisions when needed in alignment with fishery goals
- Maximize meeting time
 - Use subcommittees to tackle niche issues (e.g., wreckfish subcommittee),
 - this can save time and streamline the process
 - minimize informational discussions (*seems this is about Council as a whole too, not just SG committee*)
 - “Safe word” to stop discussions
- Provide booklet of important info to council members that would include goalposts, principles, SEDAR schedule, workplan, types of Amendments, etc.

Responsibility to Stakeholders

- Understand our audience better
- Desire stakeholder and fishermen satisfaction
- Figure out how to keep fishermen engaged
- Improve confidence of stakeholders in process

Summary of 'No Go' statements and concepts

- There are too many fishermen
 - There are too many commercial fishermen
 - There are too many recreational fishermen
 - Get hooks out of the water
- No sector shaming
- No NOAA shaming
- No state shaming
- That is too much work
- The recreational sector is unaccountable