

WHAT HAPPENS AT COUNCIL & ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS?

THE COUNCIL MEETS **4x** PER YEAR—

twice in Hawai'i and once each in American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. The meetings are web streamed and minutes are available on the Council website after they have been approved at the next meeting.

The **Advisory Panel**, **Fishery Industry Advisory Committee** and the **Scientific and Statistical Committee** are advisory groups to the Council and represent scientific and stakeholder expertise. These groups meet prior to the Council meeting and provide recommendations and advice for Council consideration.

Meetings are open to the public.

THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE WITH ALL OF THESE GROUPS about management issues under consideration.

WHAT'S THE MEETING PROCESS?


EACH COUNCIL AND ADVISORY GROUP:


1. Hears reports and brings up issues
2. TAKES PUBLIC TESTIMONY
3. Deliberates
4. May make a recommendation or take other action.


Public comment forms can be found on a table near the meeting entrance. Give the form to any staff person. At the appropriate time in the agenda, the meeting chair will call for comments in the order the forms were received.


HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN A COUNCIL MEETING?



 **THE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA** is set by the executive director and the Council. Requests for an item to be placed on the agenda should be directed to the executive director or to the Council chair or a vice-chair.

 **BRIEFING MATERIALS** are available to review electronically on the Council website and on hardcopy at the meeting. They include brief background summaries, documents for regulatory actions, reports from agencies and organizations, written public comments and other material relevant to the agenda. Other helpful outreach materials are also available.

 **THE ISSUE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN** may be discussed multiple times at different meetings. It is helpful to listen to the discussions at each group. Given the groups' different areas of expertise, discussion and public testimony can vary, and offer valuable insights into the scope of the Council's considerations.

 **IF YOU ARE LIMITED IN TIME**, look for when the Council is hearing your issue. Share your views and concerns directly with the decision-makers tasked with taking action.

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

Council week may involve other events open to the public. This might include:

- **PLAN TEAM MEETINGS**
- **STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
- **FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION & RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
- **FISHERS FORUMS**

all of which can be **VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES** to learn more about the issues and meet others working within the process.

www.wpcouncil.org/meetings-calendars

PHOTO: HAWAIIAN FRESH SEAFOOD

