

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE
FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, 2017 COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Council Coordination Committee (CCC) met in Arlington Virginia February 28-March 1, 2017. Chair Pollard and Executive Director (ED) Tracy attended on behalf of the Council, Dr. Steve Freese represented the West Coast Region and Dr. Mark Strom represented the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. The final agenda is attached. In addition, the Administrative Officers of most of the Councils also met; the Pacific Council was represented by Ms. Patricia Crouse.

Topics of interest and outcomes from the CCC meeting included:

- Budget update from National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters: Expectations for FY17 are that the Continuing Resolution will be extended through the rest of FY17, which would result in approximately FY16 funding levels. No speculation about FY18 was made, although the expectation is that the schedule will be delayed due to administration transition issues.
- Council Member Conflict of Interest and Recusal: New procedures and attribution criteria are being drafted and we can expect an update on development of a regional plan after the May 2017 CCC meeting.
- Marine Monuments: The CCC tentatively approved sending a letter to President Trump that was largely reflective of the letter sent to President Obama last year, pointing out issues of concern to the CCC (Agenda Item A.3, Supplemental Attachment 2). The CCC permitted each Chair/ED two weeks to review the letter with their Council or leadership team, and if there were no objections, the letter will be sent by March 15.
- Administration Transition Update: The CCC developed a letter to DOC Secretary Ross explaining the role of the Councils to help him understand how fisheries could align with some of the new administration's perceived philosophy (Agenda Item A.3, Supplemental Attachment 3). It appears there is already some familiarity with the Councils and fisheries issues within the Secretary's transition and support team.
- Science Update: We can expect requests to be involved in documenting procedures for determining the BSIA, revising the SAIP, developing a regional EBFM roadmap, and reviewing FMPs for compliance with the new SBRM.
- CCC Committee Updates:
 - The Legislative Committee will be working on developing comments on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization legislation, and we recommended the Pacific Council have a seat on the committee. The Committee was directed to prepare a letter on behalf of the CCC in preparation for further consideration at the May CCC meeting or responding to a request for comments if a request came before then.
 - A Budget Committee will work on potential line item sharing issues between the Council and the Commissions, as reflected in the FY17 Senate Budget Record. Chris Moore (Mid-Atlantic Council) and Chuck Tracy (Pacific Council) will be added to the Committee.
 - ED Tracy gave the CCC an update on the status of planning for the Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS-6) meeting, which the Pacific Council will be

hosting January 17-20, 2018. The SCS consists of representatives of the Scientific and Statistical Committee from each Regional Fishery Management Council and staff. The focus of their meeting will be management strategy evaluations.

- The EFH Working Group does not have any major projects scheduled for 2017, but will meet via conference call periodically and will provide the CCC a report of their findings on habitat-related research needs at the May CCC meeting.
- Next Meeting: The next CCC meeting will be in Gloucester, Massachusetts, the week of May 15, 2017

PFMC
3/7/2017