

Decisions Summary Document
2013 Annual Council Coordination Committee Meeting
May 6, 9-10, 2013
Washington, District of Columbia

Decision summary statements listed below for this Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting are listed under the agenda topic title as listed in the final agenda, shown at: http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/A3_CCC_AGENDA_May2013CCC_BB.pdf

D. CCC Meeting Protocols

The CCC adopted modified [terms of reference](#) incorporating recommendations from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding closed session language, a new statement regarding the functional relationship between the CCC and the individual Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) regarding recommendations to NMFS, and other minor revisions.

E. Budget Issues

The CCC received an update on 2013 funding and 2014 budget issues from NMFS, including a possible spending plan for FY 2013 containing an approximate 10 percent reduction compared with FY 2012 funding and slight increase from FY 2012 in the President's proposed budget for FY 2014. However, a formal spending plan has not been released for Congressional consideration, and the CCC reached no decisions in reaction to the information presented.

F. Consideration of Managing Our Nations Fisheries 3 (MONF 3) Conference Results

The CCC discussed potential processes for moving ahead with the 128 conference [findings](#), noting that the findings could not be categorized as consensus, majority, or minority findings. The CCC tasked the Pacific Council staff with assigning the findings into categories of (1) changes of a statutory nature, particularly associated with reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), (2) changes of a regulatory nature, including (a) revision of National Standard Guidelines and (b) revisions to other regulations, and (3) changes that require a policy change without regulatory or statutory changes. The CCC established a CCC MSA Subcommittee, comprised of one representative to be designated from each RFMC, to develop recommendations on MONF3 findings for consideration by the full CCC, with an expectation that this consideration occur in late summer 2013 via special webinar CCC meeting. RFMCs will make an effort to provide additional input to the CCC MSA Subcommittee as allowed by their schedules and the progress of the legislative process.

G. ESA Transparency

The CCC discussed and provided input on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Endangered Species Act Working Group (Workgroup) Report options, which were designed to increase confidence in the science and process used for Section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act on MSA fishery management actions. The CCC recommended the Workgroup continue developing and refining the options for the final report, which is scheduled for October 2013, for CCC discussion at the 2014 interim meeting.

H. Electronic Monitoring

Terms of reference for the CCC's Electronic Monitoring Workgroup were adopted ([Agenda Item H, Supplemental Attachment 3](#)), noting that RFMCs not represented on the workgroup can be added to the workgroup by notifying Kitty Simonds. The group will be convened by Kitty Simonds to meet over the summer, provide NMFS with comment on NMFS' Policy on Electronic Technologies and Fishery-Dependent Data Collection, and provide input on any scientific and technical guidance being developed by NMFS. The Workgroup may also provide comment on the national EM workshop being developed by Lowman and Associates, as well as other items covered in the Workgroup's terms of reference. It was agreed that the Workgroup comments could go forward without returning to the CCC for endorsement.

I. Allocation Review Process

The CCC accepted the NMFS offers to (1) compile a listing of existing allocation decisions, including dates for those decisions so as to provide an indication of fresh or stale status, and (2) provide recommendations from the Office of Science and Technology on specifications of a possible National Scientific and Statistical Committee task to identify performance standards for possible allocation review processes and analysis of proposed allocation revisions; these work products are expected to be completed in time for consideration at the 2014 CCC interim meeting. The CCC would also consider ideas related to reallocation processes that were developed as findings during the MONF3 conference, and RFMC-specific proposals to move forward with an allocation review process. An update of progress on these matters is expected at the proposed CCC interim webinar meeting in late summer 2013.

J. Office of the Inspector General Report (OIGR) Action Plan

After hearing the OIGR subcommittee report on the NOAA [action plan](#) in response to the OIG phase 1 [Report on Magnuson-Stevens Act \(MSA\) Rulemaking](#), the CCC divided the OIGR Subcommittee into two separate subcommittees: one with a membership of primarily of RFMC members yet to be named, focusing on OIGR recommendations 1-3 dealing with financial disclosures; and a second with a membership primarily of Executive Directors yet to be named, focusing on OIGR recommendations 3-6 dealing with operational guidelines, regional operating agreements, and records handling. Each subcommittee was directed to work with NMFS in developing timelines and work products, particularly for matters currently scheduled in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) action plan for completion before February 1, 2014. If possible, the late-summer CCC webinar interim meeting will consider any urgent recommendations.

K. New National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

The CCC reviewed the draft revised NEPA Policy Directive that is a result of discussions between the CCC NEPA consultation subcommittee (the Executive Directors of the North Pacific, South Atlantic, and Mid-Atlantic Councils) and NMFS (see Agenda Item K, [Supplemental Attachment 5](#)). The CCC approved the proposed edits with one minor change.¹ The draft revised NEPA Policy Directive will be subject to review by NOAA Headquarters before final approval and promulgation. If additional changes are mandated by Headquarters review, NMFS will consult with the CCC NEPA consultation subcommittee before issuing a

¹ In the first sentence under section II, Applicability, strike "In compliance with MSA section 304(i),".

revised Policy Directive. In approving the changes, the CCC made clear that they do not believe the Policy Directive fully addresses the requirements in MSA section 304(i).

L. Next Meetings

The CCC tasked the Pacific Council with convening a special interim CCC meeting via webinar for the primary purpose of dealing with MONF3 findings, expected in late summer, but to be timed to coincide with expectations of the House MSA legislation drafting, if possible. The CCC also set the 2014 annual CCC meeting to be during the week of May 12, 2014 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. No date or venue was selected for the 2014 interim CCC meeting typically held in January or February of each year.