

**REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL CHAIRS  
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS MEETING  
APRIL 26-29, 2005**

***DECISIONS SUMMARY***

**MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT (MSA) REAUTHORIZATION AND ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION**

The Council Chairs developed new positions on nine issues relative to potential reauthorization of the MSA. The Council Chairs also reviewed positions developed at the 2001 Council Chairs and Executive Directors (CCED) meeting and eliminated those that were either superseded by the current positions or have become obsolete. Positions developed at the 2002 CCED meeting were reaffirmed, noting that while they were specifically directed at reauthorization legislation proposed in 2001 in H.R. 4749, the position concepts are still valid. A composite, separate document details MSA reauthorization positions developed at this meeting and the positions that stand from prior CCED meetings.

**BUDGET ISSUES**

The Council Chairs and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) scheduled two interim CCED meetings with a principal purpose of discussing budget planning issues. The first meeting is scheduled for October 25-26, 2005 to include a discussion of the fiscal year (FY) 2007 Administration Request budget. The second meeting is scheduled for January 25-26, 2006 with a primary purpose of discussion the FY 2006 Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC) line item and supplemental funding from other line items. Both meetings are to be held in the Washington, DC area and hosted by NMFS, as has been the case for interim CCED meetings in recent years.

The RFMCs will participate in another NOAA Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System (PPBES) budget development process for the FY 2008–2012 period. Mr. Galen Tromble will be the lead contact for NMFS and will coordinate process details in the near future.

**OCEAN COMMISSION REPORT: PRESIDENT'S U.S. OCEAN ACTION PLAN**

The RFMCs will receive an update on the U.S. Ocean Action plan during the October 25-26, 2005 interim CCED meeting.

**ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

The RFMC Chairs and NMFS agreed to continue participation in the workgroup consisting of representatives from four RFMCs and NMFS that have been charged with developing guidelines to ecosystem approaches to management. The work to date was received as a significant advancement, but there was no consensus among RFMC Chairs for specific recommendations for guidelines at this time.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER TRAINING**

The RFMC Chairs recommend pursuing a modified Option 3 as presented in Agenda Item G, Attachment 2, which included (1) initial orientation for new Council members by individual Councils and a two-day NMFS orientation program (both to occur within one month of the August 11 initial appointment date for new Council members), and (2) continued training from a rotating curriculum of current topics, which would be modified annually.

## **NEXT CCED MEETING**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will host the next CCED meeting during the week of May 22, 2006 in New York City, New York or other appropriate venue.

PFMC  
05/12/05