INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE MARINE RESOURCES EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) was founded 12 years ago by a group of New England fishermen. The program, which is organized by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, aims to provide a neutral, workshop-based overview of fisheries science and management to fishermen. To date, more than 800 fishermen in five Council regions have graduated from the program.

Late last year, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) approached the Pacific Council to suggest a series of MREP trainings on the West coast. GMRI has secured funding for two West Coast workshops. In February a scoping committee met in Portland to discuss the idea and potential topics for the workshops. Since that time, a smaller planning team made up of Council staff, Council members and other representatives[1] have been working to develop agendas and identify speakers for a science workshop and a management workshop.

According to the MREP West website,

> MREP West was developed to equip those fishermen working in west coast fisheries with the tools to confidently engage with the tough issues facing their region today. It specifically runs through the fisheries science and management processes, demystifies the acronyms and vocabulary, and exposes fishermen to the 'how' of the whole fisheries management process. Additionally, the program provides a neutral setting in which fishermen can meet the people behind agency jobs, ask personally relevant questions, and share important feedback from the fishing community.
>
> These workshops build upon each other: a three-day Fishery Science Workshop followed by a three-day Fishery Management Workshop. Presenters are drawn from NMFS Regional Offices and Science Centers, the Fishery Management Councils, research institutions, and the fishing community. Workshops are designed and held as a collaborative effort, and they always provide for an industry moderator to help interject questions and keep the discussion relevant to the fishing community. Participants leave the workshops prepared to engage confidently in fishery management and to critically evaluate the science affecting their fishery.

A summary of the draft agendas for the two workshops is below.

Science Workshop

Paradox Hotel, Santa Cruz, August 30-Sept. 1, 2016

[1] Alexa Dayton (GMRI), Bob Dooley (commercial fisherman, Half Moon Bay/GMRI), Chris McHan (GMRI), Sherry Flumerfelt (Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust), Frank Lockhart (NMFS), Dan Wolford (Council), Jennifer Gilden (Council staff).

DAY ONE

Program & Agenda Overview

Fishery Science Overview

- Overview of Council regions
- Role of SSC
- Conceptual framework for data collection and data sources

Fishery Dependent Data Collection

- Commercial and recreational sectors
- Log books, port samplers
- State partnership with Feds via PSMFC

Fishery Independent Data Collection

- Survey & sampling methods
- Population Biology

Introduction to Lab & Lab Tours

Stations & Hands-on activities

- Tour of research vessel: connection to sampling
- Wet lab, age & growth lab; hands-on otolith study
- Visual surveys, tagging studies

Overview of STAR Panels
Moderated Discussion & Questions

- Sources of scientific uncertainty
- Using Fishery Dependent and Fishery Independent data

DAY TWO

Stock Assessment & Modeling Overview

- Stock assessment methods
- Groundfish, CPS, salmon
- Life history traits as they impact stock assessments

Gear Overview and Conservation Engineering

- Bycatch avoidance
- Barotrauma
- Risk pool coop management
- Gears used to avoid bycatch

DAY THREE

Oceanography & Climate Drivers

- Oceanographic processes, tides and currents
- Upwelling, temperature, productivity of CPS stocks
- Ocean and climate drivers and how they are incorporated into stock assessments

Ecosystem/Habitat considerations

Q&A with Regional Administrator & Science Center Director

Program Wrap-up

Management Workshop Agenda

Waterfront Marriott Hotel, Portland, OR, October 18 – 20, 2016

DAY ONE

Magnuson-Stevens Act Overview

- History of the MSA
- History of Councils
- Legislative affairs in the context of reauthorization

Overview of Federal Fisheries Management

- NOAA role; West Coast Regional Office
- Other applicable laws

Fishery Management Council Process Overview

- Council membership makeup/rationale
- Development of FMPs
- Roles

Tribes and the relationship to other pieces

- U&A areas; history
- Components of tribal fisheries
- Boldt Decision
- Tribes as Managers
- Salmon & halibut

Monitoring & Accountability

- Electronic monitoring, observers
- Setting ACLs and sticking to the limits
- Reducing uncertainty

West Coast Regional Office: The Bridge from Science to Management

- Data capture and discussion: recreational, nearshore, fixed gear, trawl fisheries (stations)

Bringing it all together

DAY TWO

West Coast Region Enforcement Overview & Considerations

- NOAA Law Enforcement
- Role of the U.S. Coast Guard
- Role of states
- Day-to-day enforcement
- VMS overview

Essential Fish Habitat

- Description/background
- More

Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order

Role Play Scenarios

- Introduce hypothetical decision, follow the process
- Includes time for lobbying, hallway discussions, etc.
- Groups of 8, each supported by a "chair person" and a staff person

Council Scenario Debrief/ Reflections

DAY THREE

How to Get Involved

- Attending a Council Meeting
- Offering testimony
- Communicating effectively
- Examples

Sustainable Fisheries, Visioning and Current Issues

- 5-minute remarks from each Executive Director followed by Q&A
- Q&A panel
- Forum for attendees to ask questions and consider where and how they may apply their learning to affect outcomes.

Wrap up