

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The 2017 annual Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting was hosted by the New England Fishery Management Council in Gloucester, Massachusetts May 15-18, 2017. The meeting agenda is shown in Agenda Item C.1, Attachment 1. Briefing and presentation materials for the CCC meeting are available electronically at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/councils/ccc/2017/2017-may-agenda.html>.

In addition to the regular CCC meeting, the Deputy Directors and senior staff of the various Councils met concurrently to discuss operational and administrative matters.

Council Chair Herb Pollard, Vice Chair Phil Anderson, Executive Director Chuck Tracy, and Deputy Director Mike Burner attended on behalf of the Pacific Council. Mr. Frank Lockhart attended on behalf of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region.

Below are a few of the highlights of the CCC meeting:

Transitions

- Chris Oliver, North Pacific Executive Director has been nominated as NMFS Assistant Administrator
 - Vetting process occurring now
 - Tentative start date is June 19
- Dr. Kevin Werner is new Northwest Fisheries Science Center Director

Budget Update

- 2017 Councils and Commissions line item was 2.3 percent greater than 2016
 - We should expect approximately that increase over 2016 for that portion of our funding.
- Probably 60 days until the NMFS spend plan finalized (mid-July)
 - Still no final word on most of our special project funding
 - However, the Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiative funding has been promised
- 2018 Presidents budget was unavailable at CCC meeting
 - Bluebook has 2.45 percent decrease for Council and Commission line item relative to 2017
 - Possible bump for science (inc. Pacific Coast Fisheries Information Network and Recreational Fishery Information Network) as NMFS reviews Management and Administrative recessions

Legislative Issues

- The CCC continues to advance a MSA Reauthorization Working Document (Agenda Item C.3, Supplemental Attachment 7, electronic only), which contains: Issue Summaries, Consensus Positions, Regional Perspectives
 - Source document for response to requests without additional process delays

- Several new consensus positions were agreed to
- Still working on other position statements for future consideration
- Will be updating regional perspectives
- Expect bill on removal/revision of National Ocean Policy, Council should prepare position
- Also bills expected on Monument and Sanctuary designation process, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Red Snapper

Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act

- The CCC signed a letter to the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior requesting standing (Supplemental Attachment 3), although Regional Fishery Management Councils comments already solicited
- Monuments to be reviewed are those greater than 100,000 acres; no marine monuments in the Pacific Council area meet his criterion
- The Western Pacific Council comments has submitted comments (Supplemental Attachment 4, Electronic only)
- New England Council comments are not yet available
- Deadline for comments is ~July 12

Regulatory Review (Executive Orders 13771 and 13777)

- New regulations have to be “significant, generally defined as having more than \$100,000,000 in imposed costs”
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act actions generally not significant
- Old regulations for repeal (2 for 1) don’t have to be significant
 - Cost savings will be pooled for Agency-wide use (credits)
- Councils may be given opportunity to help with reviewing regulations for repeal

Electronic Technology Cost Allocation Update

- Cost Allocation Framework being developed
 - List of allocations by category
 - Specify Agency and industry costs
 - Funding transitions to industry, if appropriate
- Policy directive draft expected out this summer, with comments due by fall

Council Communications Group Assignment

- Develop a one or two-page handout describing the role of fishery management councils intended to help people better understand:
 - what we do
 - how we operate
 - our membership
 - where we fit within the regulatory process