

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The 2018 annual Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting was hosted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in Sitka, Alaska May 22-24, 2018. The meeting agenda is shown in Agenda Item C.1, Attachment 1. Briefing and presentation materials for the CCC meeting are available electronically at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/council-coordination-committee#ccc-meetings>.

In addition to the regular CCC meeting, the CCC's Council Communications Group met concurrently to discuss outreach, communication, and technology matters.

Council Chair Phil Anderson, Vice Chair David Crabbe, Council staff Chuck Tracy, Jennifer Gilden, and Sandra Krause attended on behalf of the Pacific Council. Mr. Barry Thom attended on behalf of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region.

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

Budget Update

Brian Pawlak (NMFS) reported that the NMFS spend plan is not yet final, but should be released soon. Regarding 2018 funding, the Councils should expect the same funding level as in 2017 for both the PPA and the usual Management and Program Services items; however, an additional item was added this year for regulatory reform activities totaling \$1M with the PFMC share about \$146K. Chris Oliver stated he hopes this funding item will persist in the future. Regarding 2019 funding, the President's budget has about \$176K increase for Regional Councils, and the House and Senate Marks should be available by the end of June.

Disaster Relief has about \$220M available, and OMB is determining allocation among requests, some of which are still under review. He expects release of funds is at least 3-4 months out.

Electronic Technology Cost Allocation Update

Brett Alger (NMFS) provided an update on electronic technology implementation planning. A draft procedural directive on electronic monitoring (EM) cost sharing is available for Council review at this meeting with a target for finalization this fall. Issues being addressed in separate processes include data access, ownership, and confidentiality, EM standards, and new guidance for updating the current regional electronic technology implementation plans scheduled for 2019.

Data Modernization

Dorothy Lowman and Kate Wing presented information relative to the [Net Gains Report](#), developed by the Fishing Data Innovation Task Force, which considered the need, opportunities, and applications for modernizing and streamlining of fishery information systems. The CCC sent a letter (Supplemental Attachment 3) addressed to Chris Oliver supporting improving the way NMFS and its partners collect, analyze, store and provides access to data as well as invest in necessary infrastructure. The draft letter also includes a discussion of developing public-private

partnerships and adapting internal programs, like the Fishery Information System grants, to support modernization efforts at the regions and states.

Legislative Update

Dave Whaley (CCC Legislative Liaison) reported there he expects a big shift in Congressional Committee membership after the November elections as several members will not be seeking reelection. As for legislation, he expects a Senate aquaculture bill to be introduced very soon, and it likely will recognize the Magnuson Act authority to issue aquaculture permits, although there is concern the legislation may undermine some of that authority. He reported that drift gillnet bills have been introduced in both the house and senate, and that an MSA reauthorization house bill could be introduced before the August recess.

The CCC revised and tentatively approved some CCC consensus statements for MSA reauthorization to be included in the CCC Working Paper on the topics of Cooperative Research and Aquaculture, consistent with this Council's recommendations from its April meeting.

The CCC also tentatively approved a letter to Congressman Young with an updated CCC consensus statement on alternative fishery management measures (e.g., ACLs). The new statement is consistent with the recommendations made on an earlier draft of the letter from this Council made at its April meeting (Supplemental Attachment 4).

Policy Priorities

Chuck Tracy and Jennifer Lukens (NMFS) summarized the NMFS Policy Directive process and the status of revisions to policies. NMFS was asked to identify priorities and consider Council workload implications of their policy development process on the Councils. NMFS was receptive and responded positively by revising their plans for developing bycatch reduction strategies. The CCC also received updates from NMFS on a number of other policy initiatives including EBFM implementation plans, BSIA, electronic monitoring, allocation reviews, and financial disclosure and recusal regulations.

Research Priorities

Tom Nies (NEFMC) and Cisco Werner (NMFS) presented information on the Regional Council's Research and Data Needs Documents and revision processes. There were numerous questions and comments about how NMFS used those documents and more general questions about the regional and national research prioritization process. The topic also came up several times in subsequent agenda items that exemplified the need to better understand the process and utilize the information in the documents. The CCC sent a letter to Chris Oliver requesting further incorporation of those documents into research planning and grant processes and clarification on current use of the documents by NMFS (Supplemental Attachment 4).

Aquaculture

Carrie Simmons (GMFMC) presented information on the GMFMC aquaculture FMP, which includes criteria for siting, prohibited species, and biological reference points for cultured species (e.g., harvest limits). This discussion helped inform the CCC consensus statement on aquaculture mentioned above.

Regulatory Reform

The Councils will be approving a list of regulations that should be considered for repeal or reform (see agenda item C.5). Alan Risenhoover (NMFS) reported the Regional Councils will be responsible for deciding which issues, if any, to pursue in coordination with NMFS Regional Offices. Any changes would go through the Council's usual processes (FMP amendment, regulatory amendment, etc.). He also noted the possibility of National level action if appropriate, but said that such efforts would start at the regional level.

Communications Group Report

This was the second in-person meeting of the CCG since becoming an official advisory committee to the Council Coordination Committee in 2012. Representatives from the eight Councils met to share best practices, discuss new communications technologies and methods, and analyze communications strategies. Among other things, they discussed technologies for collecting and analyzing public comment, website improvements, benefits and drawbacks of using social media to communicate with the public, transparency requirements contained in current MSA reauthorization bills, emerging communications methods, media relations, and challenges in communication of science. The CCG made a series of recommendations that were provided to the CCC.

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