

PACIFIC COUNCIL REPORT FROM THE MAY 2021
COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Council Coordination Committee (CCC) heard from Representatives Jared Huffman (D-CA) and Ed Case (D-HI) on their discussion draft reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), and from Representative, Don Stevens (R-AK) on his MSA reauthorization Bill HR-59. The CCC also was able to discuss issues with four Committee staff:

- Nikki Teutschel and Fern Gibbons, staff for the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
- Lora Snyder and Annick Miller – staff for the House Natural Resources Committee

The CCC was briefed on Executive Order 14008 and the National Climate Task Force report: Conserving And Restoring America The Beautiful. One of the report's recommendation was that an interagency working group should develop an American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas to measure the progress of conservation, stewardship, and restoration efforts across the United States. In response to this recommendation, the regional councils will be forming a CCC Area-Based Management (ABM) Subcommittee to develop a common understanding among the Councils of area-based management measures and to develop a report on area-based measures in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including:

- A comprehensive evaluation of all existing EEZ Federal fishery-area closures and other area-based measures in the U.S.
- A discussion of the pros and cons of area-based management.
- Contrasting management objectives and expected benefits of area-based management tools for the diversity of ecosystems under Councils' jurisdictions.

Each Council will have representation on the Subcommittee; Mr. Kerry Griffin is representing the Pacific Council.

The CCC received an overview from the Bureau of Ocean Management on their activities related to offshore wind development and a report from the CCC's Habitat Working Group (HWG). The HWG report recommended the CCC consider tasking the HWG with developing a best practices document related to offshore development including habitat consultations, engaging with stakeholders, informing cable routes, sharing fishery and habitat data sources, etc. However, the CCC prioritized the work of the ABM Subcommittee, and due to staffing overlap between the HWG and ABM Subcommittee, directed the HWG to await further guidance on assignments until the October 2021 CCC meeting.

The CCC received a briefing on a National Standard 1 Draft Technical Memorandum on managing with annual catch limits for data-limited stocks. The draft will be available for review at the September Pacific Council meeting with comments due sometime in October or November.

Brett Alger (NMFS) provided an overview of a draft procedural directive on applying information law to electronic monitoring (EM) data. The Directive will establish requirements for EM programs to address data confidentiality, Federal Records Act, and Freedom of Information Act

(FOIA) issues. The draft directive was released after the CCC meeting, but is now available and will be discussed under agenda item G.3 at this Council meeting. Comments on the draft are due by July 15.

Adam Issenberg (NOAA GC) reviewed draft policy and procedural directives on guidance for financial disclosures and recusals. Regional handbooks will be developed to outline procedures to make sure Councils are in compliance with the updated guidance.

The Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD) Steering Committee reported the first CMOD workshop is scheduled to occur in person during the first week of November in Denver, CO. Scoping is underway to refine the agenda, which focuses on the theme of new approaches to ecosystem-based fishery management. Three Council members and one Council staff from each Regional Council will be invited to attend the workshop.

The 7th national Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS) meeting was postponed (again) until summer 2022, so it can take place in person in Alaska. The agenda for the SCS7 will cover three main topics as well as provide additional time to review and discuss national and regional initiatives. The theme topics are:

- How to incorporate ecosystem indicators into the stock assessment process.
- Developing information to support management of interacting species in consideration of ecosystem-based fishery management.
- How to assess and develop fishing level recommendations for species exhibiting distributional changes.

PFMC
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