

## UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE ORDER 14008

President Biden's Executive Order (EO) 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad was released on January 27, 2021 (Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1). In its initial response of the EO, the Council sent two letters to the Administration following its April meeting. The first (Attachment 2) was sent to the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce responding to Section 216(a) of the EO, which focuses on steps the U.S. should take to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, including proposing guidelines for determining whether lands and waters qualify for conservation. The second letter (Attachment 3) was sent to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) responding to Section 216(c), which focuses on collecting input on how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change.

In early May, the National Climate Task Force released their report on Section 216(a) (Attachment 4). One of the report's recommendations 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.

The Task Force report also calls for annual progress reports, the first of which would be due by the end of 2021 and include:

- Progress on the areas of collaboration outlined in the Task Force report;
- An assessment of land-cover changes, including loss of open space; and
- A review of the condition of fish and wildlife habitats and populations.

NMFS will provide an overview of the EO and progress and next steps on its implementation. There are several opportunities for the Council to engage with the Administration in addressing the objectives of the EO, and the Council should be prepared to respond to such requests from NMFS. The Council should also be aware that at its May meeting, the Council Coordination Committee established an Area-Based Management 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.

**Council Action:**

**Provide comments and guidance on implementation of EO 14008.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: Executive Order 14008.
2. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2: Letter regarding EO 14008 216(c) to DOI.
3. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 3: Letter regarding EO 14008 216(a) to NMFS.
4. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 4: National Climate Task Force Report: Conserving And Restoring America The Beautiful.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

**Agenda Order:**

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|-----|---|-----------------|
| C.3 | Update on Executive Order 14008   | Chuck Tracy     |
| a.  | Report of the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries                | NMFS Leadership |
| b.  | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies           |                 |
| c.  | Public Comment  |                 |
| d.  | <b>Council Action:</b> Review Progress and Provide Comments, as Necessary |                 |

PFMC  
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