

REGIONAL OPERATING AGREEMENT

The Executive Director and Deputy Director met with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) Sustainable Fisheries division leadership several times this year to further our discussions on revising the Regional Operating Agreement (ROA) between the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), WCR, Northwest and Southwest Fishery Science Centers, Office of Law Enforcement, and General Counsel. Attachment 1 is a joint Council/WCR staff report covering most of the subjects we intend to focus on for revisions. The report is largely conceptual at this point, and we plan to work with the other parties over the next few months to develop more detailed recommendations. We intend to propose a revised ROA to the Council by the November 2021 Council meeting for adoption.

Our intent with the revisions is twofold, first to address recent policy changes and second to clarify roles and responsibilities to improve efficiency in developing and finalizing Council actions. We hope this will also improve the comprehensiveness of information available to the Council for decision making and reduce the time between final action and transmittal of regulations to NMFS, which starts the implementation clock.

Council Action:

Review Conceptual Changes to the Regional Operating Agreement Proposed by Council Staff and NMFS, and Provide Guidance for Further Development of a Revised Agreement.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1: Joint NMFS/Council Staff Report On Major Focus Areas For Revisions To The Regional Operating Agreement.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| C.5 | Regional Operating Agreement | Chuck Tracy |
| a. | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. | Public Comment | |
| c. | Council Action: Review Conceptual Changes to the Regional Operating Agreement Proposed by Council Staff and NMFS, and Provide Guidance for Further Development of a Revised Agreement | |