

## FINAL REGIONAL OPERATING AGREEMENT

Regional Operating Agreements (ROAs) describe roles and responsibilities of the regional Council staff and its corresponding National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel regional partners in planning, developing, and approving fishery management plans, amendments, and regulations.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and NMFS West Coast partners have an ROA that was signed in 2017. The NMFS Operational Guidelines require parties to review their ROA periodically, and provide the opportunity to revise the ROA to update procedures and make any desired changes. At the June 2021 meeting, Council and NMFS staff discussed potential revisions to the ROA, with the objective of finalizing a new ROA at the November 2021 Council meeting. Council staff has coordinated with NMFS and NOAA General Counsel partners and has recommended some changes to the ROA for Council consideration (Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1). Attachment 2 is the same document, but showing markups.

### **Council Action:**

**Review and provide final comments on the West Coast ROA.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: Draft Operating Agreement Among the Pacific Fishery Management Council; NOAA Fisheries West Coast Regional Office; NOAA Fisheries Northwest Fisheries Science Center; NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center; NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, West Coast Division; NOAA General Counsel, Northwest Section; and NOAA General Counsel, Southwest Section.
2. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2: Markup Draft Regional Operating Agreement.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

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| C.3 | Final Regional Operating Agreement  | Chuck Tracy |
| a.  | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies   |             |
| b.  | Public Comment  |             |
| c.  | <b>Council Action:</b> Review Changes Proposed by Council Staff and NMFS and Adopt a Final Regional Operating Agreement |             |