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Agenda Item C.2.a
Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1
September 2022

NOAA Fisheries' Draft Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy

September 9, 2022
Pacific Fishery Management Council Webinar
Abigail Harley (NOAA WCR)

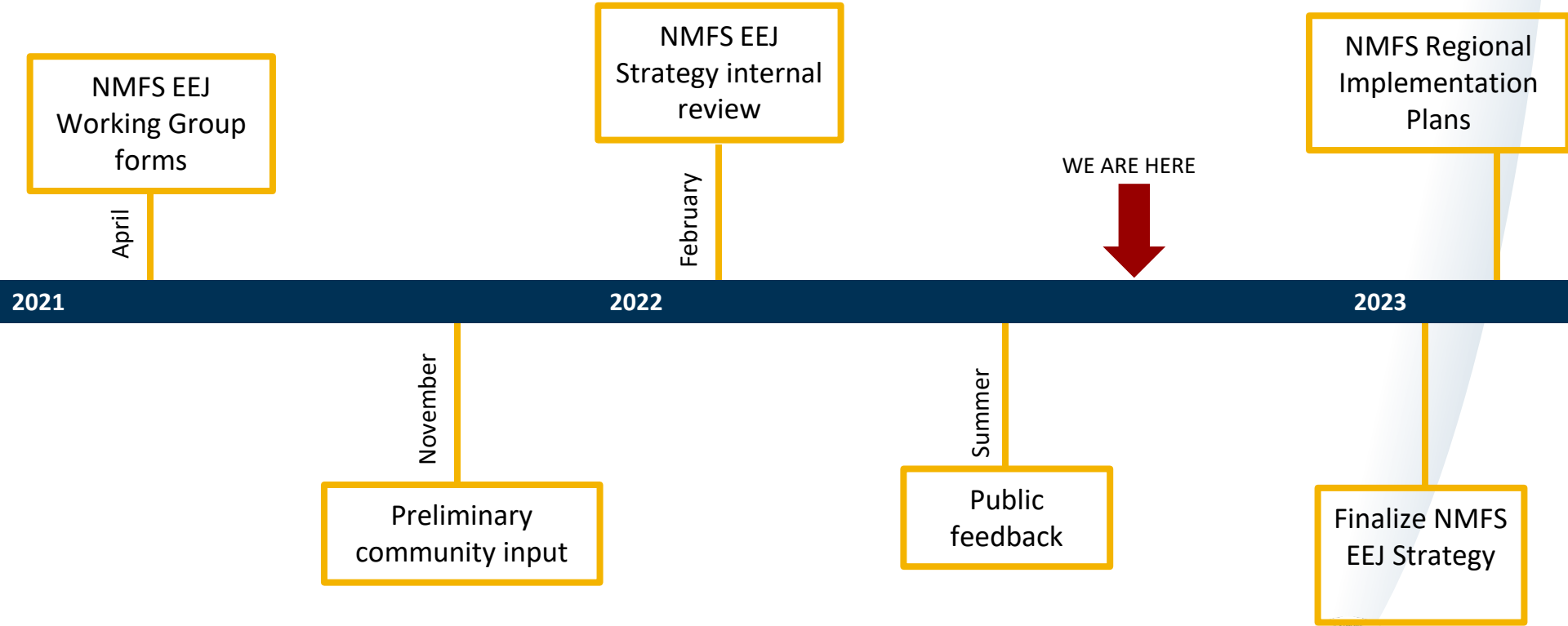
Overview

- NMFS Draft EEJ Strategy [open for public comment](#) through **9/30** (ongoing feedback from Councils welcome after)
- Sam Rauch provided an overview of the Draft EEJ Strategy to the Council during June 2022 meeting
- Today's presentation
 - Background on EEJ Development
 - Content of Draft EEJ Strategy
 - Things for Council consideration



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NMFS EEJ Strategy Development



Some Things to Think About

- **What underserved communities does PFMC work with?**
- **Considerations specific to PFMC/ specific fisheries**
- **Aspects of the Draft EEJ strategy that stand out as being particularly important for you or your community**
- **How can we be more inclusive throughout the fisheries decision making process?**



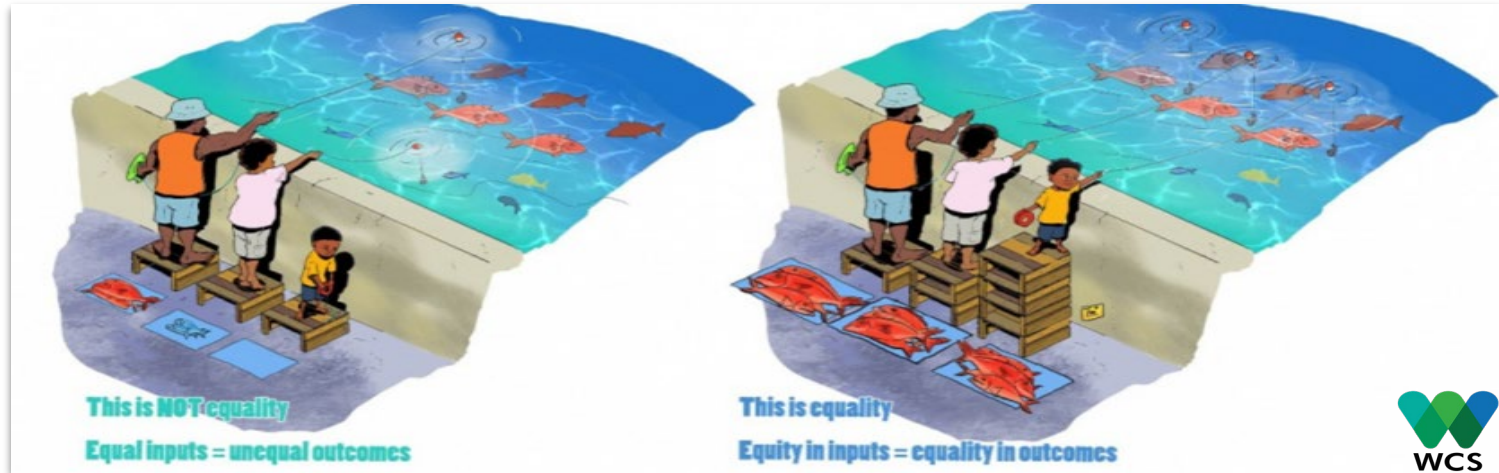
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Executive Orders for Equity and Environmental Justice

- **Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government - EO 13985 (2021)**
- **Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad - EO 14008 (2021), with a focus on environmental justice**
- **Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations - EO 12898 (1994)**

Key Terms: Equity

Equity means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.



Definition from Executive Order 13985



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Key Terms: Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies including but not limited to:

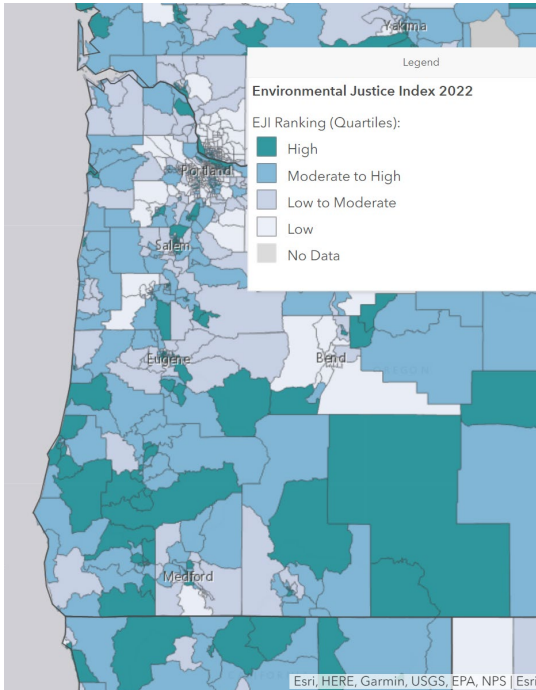
- Equitable protection from environmental and health hazards
- Equitable access to decision-making processes
- Equitable opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized

Definition from the Environmental Protection Agency



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Key Terms: Underserved Communities



Source: <https://onemap.cdc.gov/Portal/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/4bcbcf78d4a4a679df127259f081235>

Underserved communities have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.

Includes geographic communities *as well as* populations sharing a particular characteristic such as: women and girls; Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; persons facing discrimination or barriers related to gender identity; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Definition based on Executive Order 13985



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NMFS Mandates and EEJ (West Coast)

- **MSA:** ties to NS1, NS4, NS8; marine education and training programs, references to specific communities
- **ESA:** federal agencies coordinate and consult with affected Tribal Nations when considering actions under the ESA that may impact Tribal trust resources, Tribally-owned fee lands, or the exercise of Tribal rights
- **MMPA:** work with Tribes to exercise their treaty rights related to marine mammals and fisheries
- **NEPA:** agencies are responsible for incorporating environmental justice into NEPA reviews of our proposed actions



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Barriers to Equity and Environmental Justice

- Unawareness of underserved communities
- Structural barriers
- Barriers to accessing services
- System complexity
- Gaps in expertise
- Gaps in representation



NOAA Fisheries' Draft EEJ Strategy

- Framework to incorporate EEJ into our daily activities
- Requires step-down implementation plans at the Regional level
- Seeks to address barriers to EEJ
- Seeks to promote equity in all we do



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Objectives

Incorporate
EEJ into
Policy and
Plans

Equity in
Research and
Researching
Equity

Outreach
and Engage
Equitably

Equitably
Distribute
Benefits

Inclusive
Governance

Empowering Environment



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Empowering Environment

Objective: Provide the institutional support, including training and resources, needed to implement multiple EEJ approaches at NOAA Fisheries. Internal leadership and management will identify EEJ as priorities and encourage staff to consider EEJ into every aspect of their work.

- Are staff given adequate time, resources, training, and expertise guidance to incorporate EEJ into their work?
- What accountability structures does NOAA Fisheries need, e.g. a commitment to monitoring and evaluation of EEJ metrics and the incorporation of EEJ work into performance plans?

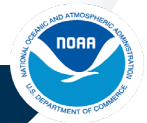


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Incorporate in Policy and Plans

Objective: Ensure that our policies promote equal opportunities for all and do not create unintended inequities or unequal burdens for underserved communities.

- How can NOAA Fisheries better include equity for underserved communities in policies and internal guidance?
- How will NOAA Fisheries review existing policies and procedures with EEJ lenses so that they may be refined or revised to ensure more equitable outcomes?



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Research and Monitoring for Equity

Objective: Identify underserved communities, address their needs, and assess impacts of management decisions.

- How can NOAA Fisheries expand involvement of members of underserved communities in research and monitoring projects?
- How will NOAA Fisheries more equitably allocate research and monitoring resources to identify and characterize underserved communities, understand their needs, and use findings to effectively guide management decisions that affect them?



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Outreach and Engage Equitably

Objective: Build relationships with underserved communities to better understand their needs, and improve information sharing with all stakeholders.

- Does NOAA Fisheries reach underserved communities through various communication platforms, languages, and outreach activities? Are those the preferred methods of communication within the community?
- What training and resources do staff need to expand NOAA Fisheries' outreach and communication in underserved communities?



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Equitably Distribute Benefits

Objective: Distribute benefits equitably among stakeholders by increasing the access to opportunities for underserved communities.

- What barriers do underserved communities face in accessing benefits and opportunities managed by NOAA Fisheries?
- Do NOAA Fisheries' benefits equitably reach or benefit underserved communities? Can we expand the equity in our delivery of these benefits?
- How can we better serve underserved communities with the data and tools NOAA Fisheries provide to the public?



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Inclusive Governance

Objective: Enable the meaningful involvement of underserved communities in the decision-making processes.

- What accountability processes and structures are needed for NOAA Fisheries to assess if underserved community needs are adequately accounted for in decision-making?
- How can underserved communities have equitable access to participate in management processes (time/travel to in-person meetings, broadband internet to support remote participation, access to interpreters, etc.)?



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EEJ at the WCR

- **WCR is working to advance EEJ across all the work we do**
- **National EEJ Workgroup representation**
 - **Abigail Harley (co-chair) & Stacey Miller (WCR rep)**
- **Leadership support & enthusiastic staff across the region**
- **WCR and Science Centers coordinating on EEJ**
- **Ongoing partnership with PFMC**



Next Steps

- **Comments and feedback on Draft NMFS EEJ Strategy**
- **Potential Council Considerations**
 - **How would the Council like to engage in EEJ?**
 - **Who are our underserved communities?**
 - **How can the Council improve equitable access to information & decision making?**
 - **How can the Council ensure that fair access by underserved communities is taken into account in its decisions?**



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Some Things to Think About

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Questions/Feedback?



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