

## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE GEOGRAPHIC STRATEGIC PLAN AND REGIONAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In the last year National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has completed two national planning initiatives and is in the process of developing corresponding regional documents for the West Coast. The first of these is the national strategic plan (Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1), the regional version of which is the West Coast Geographic Strategic Plan 2023-2026, Working Draft (Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 2). The strategic planning documents address all NMFS responsibilities, including those related to equity and environmental justice (EEJ). NMFS is seeking Council comment on the draft West Coast Geographic Strategic Plan.

The second initiative is NMFS' national Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Strategy (Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 3). NMFS is developing regional implementation plans that will serve as a roadmap for applying the national EEJ Strategy's goals and actions in the context of West Coast needs. The West Coast EEJ Regional Implementation Plan is in the early stage of development and a verbal progress report is expected at this meeting.

At its April 2023 meeting, the Council appointed the Ad-hoc Equity and Environmental Justice Committee (EEJC) "to assist the Council in addressing EEJ issues and, in particular, to advise the Council on working with NMFS on the forthcoming EEJ Strategy Regional Implementation Plan and the geographic strategic plan" (Council Motion, April 2023). The EEJC held an organizational meeting on July 11, at which time Mr. Joe Oatman and Ms. Corey Ridings were elected co-chairs. The committee is scheduled to meet again on September 8 to address its charge, in particular that related to the NMFS' strategic and EEJ planning documents. A report from the EEJC is expected under this agenda item.

### **Council Action:**

#### **Council discussion and guidance on**

- 1. NOAA Fisheries West Coast Geographic Plan (2023-2026).**
- 2. NMFS National EEJ Strategy and the EEJ Regional Implementation Plan.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1: NOAA Fisheries 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.
2. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 2: NOAA Fisheries West Coast Geographic Strategic Plan (2023-2026) (Working Draft).
3. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 3: NOAA Fisheries Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- H.5 National Marine Fisheries Service Geographic Strategic Plan and Regional Equity and Environmental Justice Implementation Plan
  - a. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
  - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

Jim Seger

c. Public Comment

d. **Council Action:** Council Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate

PFMC

08/08/23