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Agenda Item H.5.a  
Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1  
September 2023

# Draft West Coast Geographic Strategic Plan 2023-2026

## Pacific Fishery Management Council

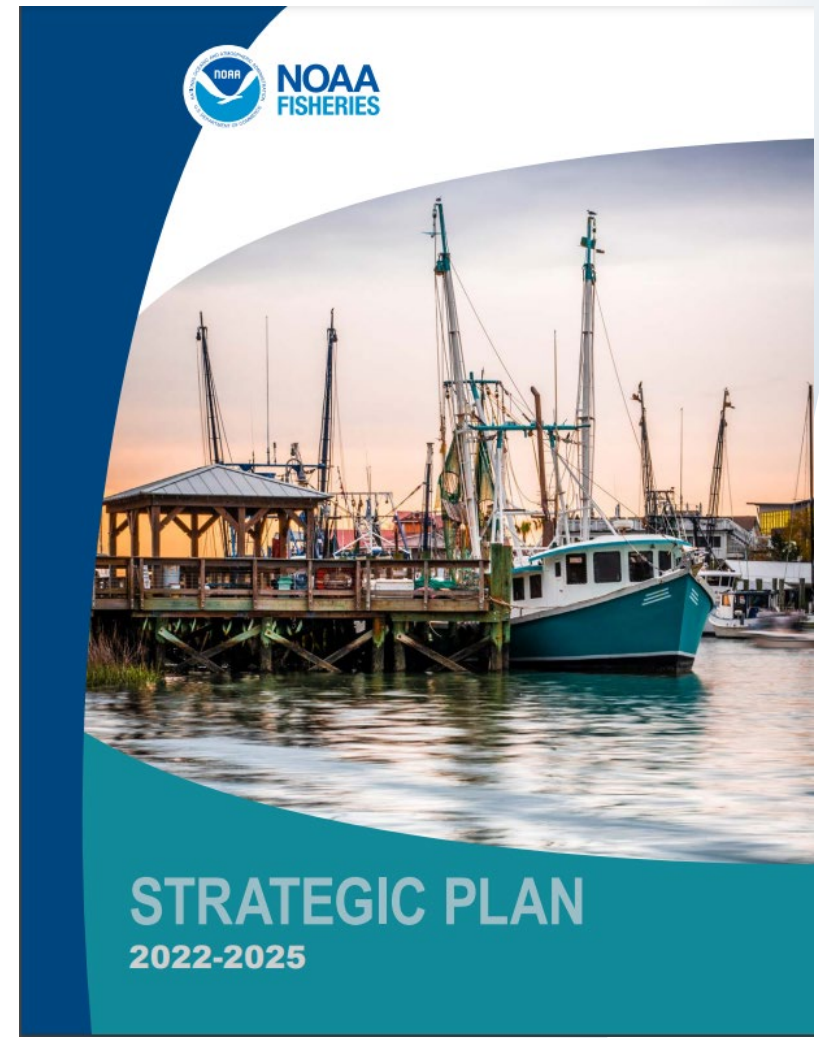
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# National Strategic Plan

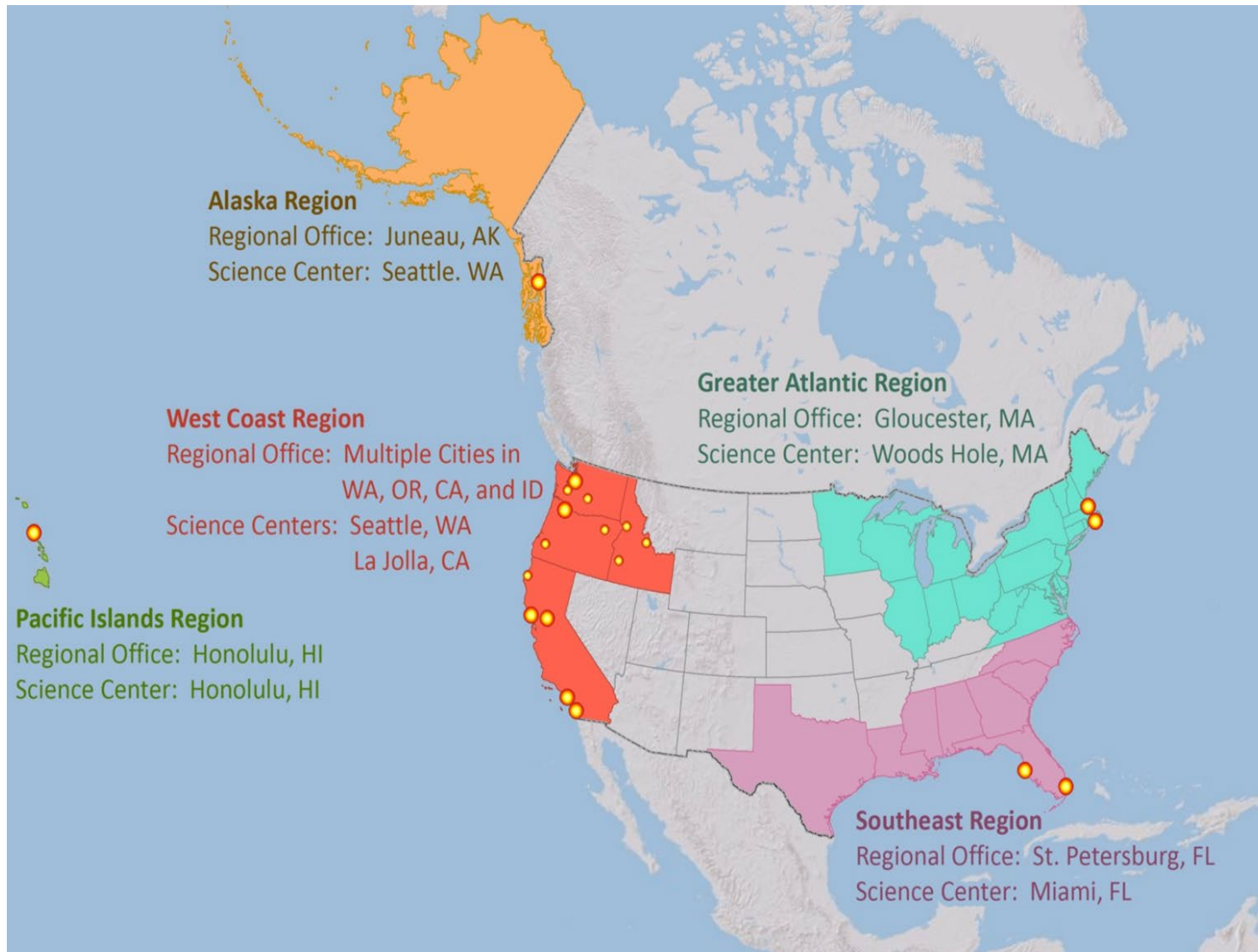
NOAA Fisheries published a new National Strategic Plan covering 2022-2025.

The national strategic plan includes goals and key strategies that are relevant to the Council.

Each region is developing a geographic strategic plan that aligns with the national strategic plan goals and strategies.



# NOAA Fisheries Regional Structure



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# National Strategic Plan

## Top Priorities

- Support a robust and resilient seafood sector and associated communities, and increase seafood production
- Ensure the survival and recovery of endangered U.S. marine species
- Capitalize on funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- Provide science and leadership through NOAA's Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)
- Support responsible development of U.S. offshore wind energy
- Combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Prioritize equity and environmental justice (EEJ)



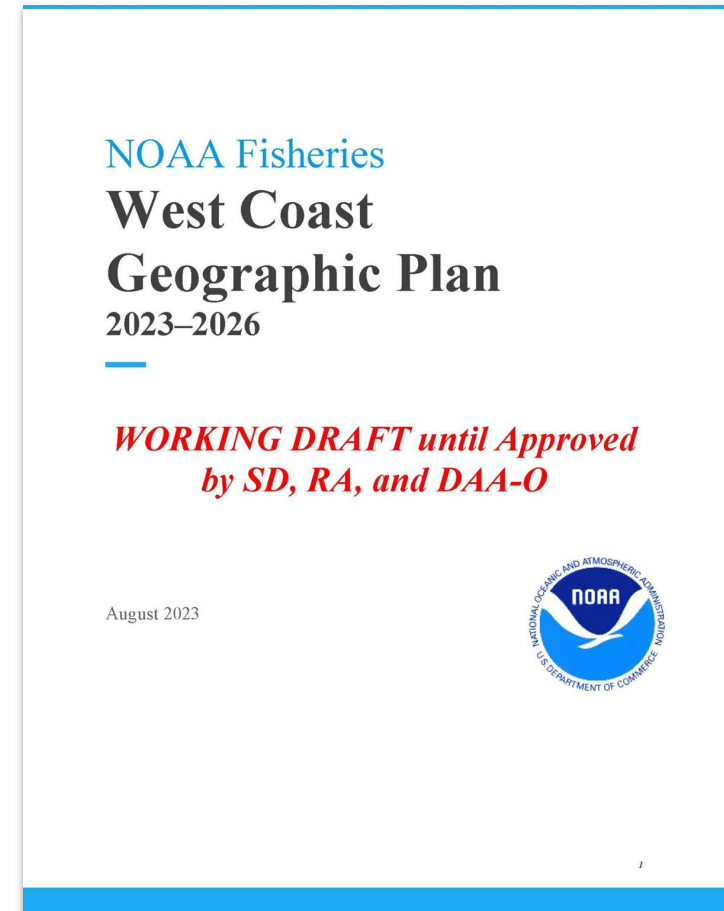
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# West Coast Geographic Strategic Plan

West Coast GSP team:

- West Coast Regional Office
- Northwest Fisheries Science Center
- Southwest Fisheries Science Center
- Restoration Center
- Office of Law Enforcement
- Seafood Inspection Program

The West Coast GSP Team is working through a collaborative process, including engaging with the Council, tribes, and PSMFC to describe how our region will implement the key strategies along the west coast.







# West Coast Challenges

- Large geographic area
- Multiple federal fisheries, numerous treaties and other agreements
- Approximately 50 ESA-listed species/DPS/ESU
- Response to a changing climate
- Impacts of offshore wind development on our marine resources



# West Coast Opportunities

- Relationship with tribal governments
- Partnerships with PFMFC, PSMFC, and states
- Build off current climate ready fisheries work



# National & West Coast Strategic Plan Goals

1. Adaptively manage fisheries for sustainability and economic competitiveness
1. Safeguard protected species and propel their recovery
1. Diversify our workforce, promote equity and environmental justice, and improve our mission performance through organizational excellence



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# Goal 1: Adaptively manage fisheries for sustainability and economic competitiveness

## Key Strategies for Achieving this Goal

1. Manage stocks for optimum yield and build climate and economic resilience in U.S. seafood and fishing sectors
2. Advance climate science and ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) to increase the sustainability of marine fisheries
3. Mitigate and adapt to climate-driven changes in fisheries habitat
4. Diversify our data collection technologies and expand/modernize data products and services
5. Ensure equity and accessibility for tribal, indigenous, and underserved communities
6. Counter IUU fishing activity



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# West Coast Efforts – Closer Look

Efforts under *Goal 1, Key Strategy 1 - Manage stocks for optimum yield and build climate and economic resilience in U.S. seafood and fishing sectors* will focus on activities such as:

- Managing stocks sustainably, working to prevent overfishing, and increasing harvesting and marketing opportunities
- Collaborating with the PFMC and others to promote sustainable commercial and recreational fishing
- Conducting and enhancing stock assessments, models, and management strategy evaluations





# West Coast Efforts – Closer Look

Efforts under *Goal 1, Key Strategy 3 - Mitigate and adapt to climate driven changes in fisheries habitat* will focus on activities such as:

- Capitalizing on BIL and IRA funds to improve fish passage, restore coastal ecosystems, and enhance resilience of underserved communities
- Partnering with the PFMC to improve the climate resilience of federal fisheries
- Executing a new Regional Implementation Plan for Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy



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# Goal 2: Safeguard protected species and propel their recovery

## Key Strategies for Achieving this Goal

1. Implement actions to recover endangered and threatened species
2. Model and predict the effects of climate change on protected marine species, to improve conservation outcomes
3. Expand the use of advanced and innovative technologies
4. Protect and restore important habitats necessary for the recovery of endangered marine species
5. Protect marine species while supporting ocean-based economic growth



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# West Coast Efforts – Closer Look

Efforts under *Goal 2, Key Strategy 1 – Implement actions to recover endangered and threatened species* will focus on activities such as:



- Advance efforts to implement improved gear marking programs to better identify sources of ESA-listed species bycatch
- Incorporate the expertise of tribes in the recovery process
- Communicate and implement the NWFSC and SWFSC salmon recovery science strategies to maximize recovery of ESA-listed salmon



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# Goal 3: Diversify our workforce, promote equity and environmental justice, and improve our mission performance through organizational excellence

## Key Strategies for Achieving this Goal

1. Promote total worker wellness
2. Improve workforce diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility
3. Develop workforce skills for the future
4. Embrace a new paradigm for the workplace
5. Adaptively manage infrastructure
6. Optimize resources
7. Expand internal and stakeholder communications
8. Implement an Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy



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# West Coast Efforts – Closer Look

Efforts under *Goal 3, Key Strategy 7 – Expand internal and stakeholder communications* will focus on activities such as:

- Host Recreational Fisheries Roundtables with West Coast saltwater recreational fishermen to solicit input on revising the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
- Make our large scientific data streams publicly accessible
- Involve NOAA Fisheries stakeholders in decision-making processes, including strategic planning efforts



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# West Coast GSP Process & Timeline

WEST COAST GSP TIMELINE	
<b>April</b>	NOAA Fisheries West Coast team engages Council about GSP process
<b>April - August</b>	NOAA Fisheries West Coast team drafts GSP
<b>August - Sept</b>	NOAA Fisheries West Coast team provides draft GSP to the Council, tribes, PSMFC for feedback
<b>September</b>	NOAA Fisheries West Coast team receives feedback from the Council and other partners
<b>October</b>	NOAA Fisheries West Coast finalizes GSP



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# Seeking Council Input

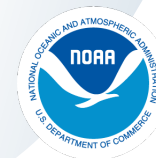
What are the most important issues, challenges and risks facing the Council?

What do you need from NOAA Fisheries to meet these challenges and mitigate for the risks?

This is the opportunity for the Council and advisory bodies to provide feedback before we finalize our plan. Responses are due by September 15, 2023 and may be submitted through the Council process.

Contact Brian Hooper for questions or to provide comments at [brian.hooper@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.hooper@noaa.gov)

## NOAA Fisheries Enterprises



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