

NMFS REGIONAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EEJ) PLAN & EEJ COMMITTEE UPDATE

In May 2023, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released their national EEJ Strategy (September 2023 Council Meeting, [Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 3](#)). The NMFS West Coast Regional Office is in the process of developing a Regional Implementation Plan that will serve as a roadmap for applying the national EEJ Strategy's goals and actions in the context of West Coast needs.

Earlier this year, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) published a report titled *Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits: Data and Information Availability (2024)* (Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 1). The report is the product of a consensus study conducted by the NAS, at the request of the NMFS. The report considers the data and information needed to assess equity in the distribution of fisheries management benefits.

The Council's Ad-hoc Equity and Environmental Justice Committee (EEJC), which was appointed in April 2023 "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)" will meet on June 7, 2024 to discuss the West Coast Regional Implementation Plan and NAS report. The EEJC will also discuss the Council's September 2023 adoption of the EEJC's recommendations pertaining to considerations of EEJ within the Council process (September 2023 Council Meeting, [Agenda Item H.5.b, Supplemental EEJC Report 1](#)) and Council Operations and Priorities (Agenda Item C.2).

The Council should consider the update on the development of the Regional Implementation Plan, summary of the NAS report, and the EEJC report and provide guidance as appropriate.

Council Action:

Review Committee report and provide guidance as appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1: National Academy of Sciences Report (*Electronic Only*).
2. *Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental EEJC Report 1*.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.2 NMFS Regional Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Plan and
EEJ Committee (EEJC) - Update
 - a. Report of the NMFS
 - b. Report of the EEJC
 - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment

- e. **Council Action:** Review Committee Report and Provide Guidance On Next Steps

PFMC
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