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Agenda Item H.2.a.
Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1 (*Electronic only*)
June 2024

NOAA Fisheries' Equity and Environmental Justice

Presentation to the Pacific Fishery Management Council
June 10, 2024

NOAA Fisheries' National EEJ Strategy

NEWS

NOAA Fisheries Releases Final Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy

May 22, 2023

Agency to incorporate equity and environmental justice into the vital services we provide to all communities.

[Feature Story](#) | [National](#)



More Information

- > [Final Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy \(PDF, 41 pages\)](#)
- > [Final Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy—Spanish \(PDF, 41 pages\)](#)

Recent News

VIDEO

[Climate Change and Marine Animals: A Conservation Challenge](#)
[National](#)



FEATURE STORY

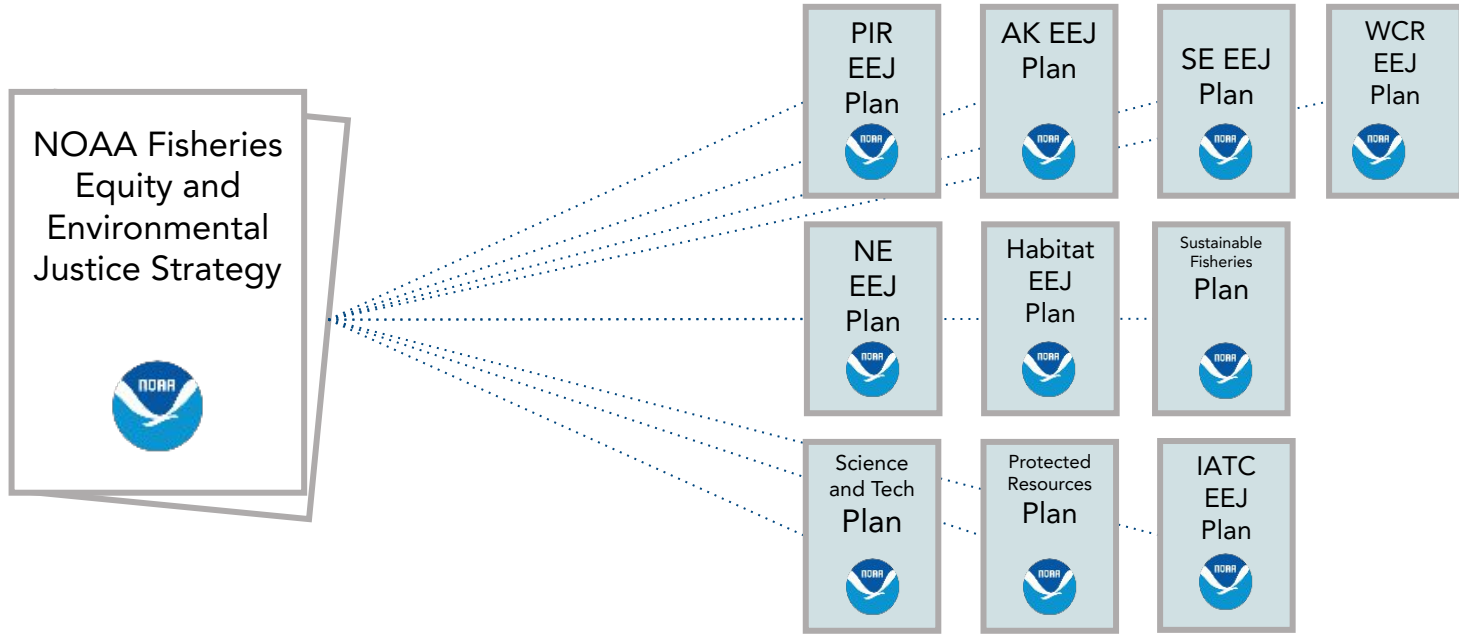
[Celebrating Seaweed by the Seashore](#)
[New England/Mid-Atlantic](#) | [National](#)



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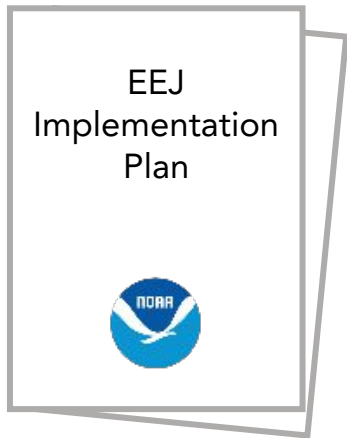
Happening Now:

NOAA Fisheries' Internal Review of Office and Regional Implementation Plans



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About the Plans



- We anticipate publicly releasing all of the plans in June 2024.
- The plans are designed to be living documents that will be updated to ensure they address evolving community needs.
- We know that it will take time to achieve these plans and are committed to making that progress.
- There will be opportunities for the public to provide feedback on the plans.
- We will continue engaging with communities throughout the regions on our efforts and share progress with partners.

EEJ Regional Engagement to Inform Implementation Plans

Alaska

- Virtual and in-person partner and community meetings

Pacific Islands

- In-person meetings with territorial partners
- 8 internal capacity building workshops

West Coast

- Internal capacity building
- Identifying West Coast underserved communities
- Planning for initial engagement

Southeast

- 29 focus groups across the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and US Caribbean

New England/ Mid-Atlantic

- Ground truthing the identification of underserved communities using CSVI tool
- Working with partners to build lines of communication with communities



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Plan Highlights: Sneak Peek

West Coast Regional Implementation Plan actions:

- Identify underserved communities affected by decisions of NOAA Fisheries West Coast programs
- Coordinate with the PFMC to evaluate how West Coast fisheries management and protection of Essential Fish Habitat have impacted underserved communities
- Develop strategic partnerships with the PFMC to further pursue EEJ-related goals and objectives



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National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Math

Study on

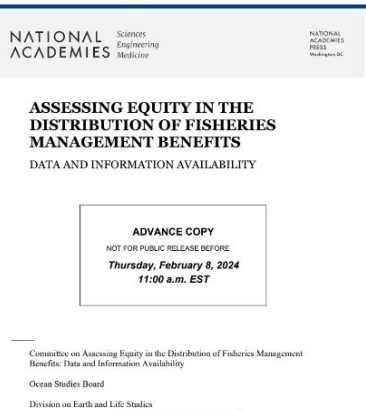
Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits

The Study: Background

Do NOAA Fisheries' benefits (such as funding, fisheries allocations, permits, opportunities, services, and environmental protection and restoration) equitably reach or benefit underserved communities? Can we expand the equity in our delivery of these benefits? – EEJ Strategy

Incorporate EEJ considerations into decision-making about resource allocations, to the extent consistent with applicable law. – EEJ Strategy

Identified need for independent, third-party review

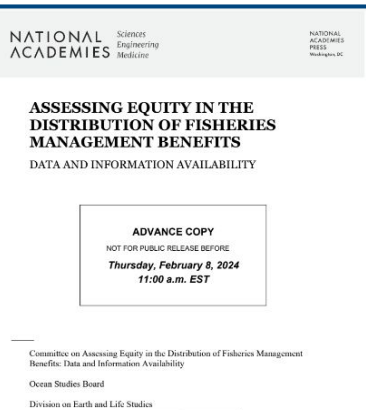


The Study

NASEM study on equitable distribution of fisheries management benefits (allocation/permits/quota):

Phase 1 (began fall 2022, report Feb. 2024):
Identification of information needs and determination of the availability of information

Phase 2 (not yet begun):
Identification of to whom and where benefits accrue and recommendations to make distribution more equitable



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Phase 1

Data and Information Availability

Task - Determine:

- Categories of info required to adequately assess where and to whom the primary benefits of fishery management accrue,
- What info currently exists and what NMFS would need to collect,
- Obstacles to collecting it, and
- Methodologies NFMS could use to assess the relative distribution of benefits w/avail info.



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Phase 1 Report



- Equity is complex and multidimensional.
 - *Distributional, recognitional, procedural, contextual.*
- The multidimensional nature of equity highlights the difficulty and complexity of understanding and addressing equity in fisheries management.
 - Applauded the efforts of NMFS and the councils through the EEJ Strategy and for soliciting feedback.
- Will serve as a useful resource for meeting the goals and objectives of our EEJ Strategy



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Next Steps



Phase 1

- Chapter 3 focuses on distributional equity, responding to the statement of task.
- Chapter 3 findings and recommendations will be helpful with EEJ Strategy implementation.

Phase 2 (not yet begun)

- Focus on distributional benefits of permits and quotas with illustrative case studies.



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Thank You!