

EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT ON NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REGIONAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Equity and Environmental Justice Committee (EEJC) met on Friday, June 7 and received a summary of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report *Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits: Data and Information Availability (2024)* ([Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1](#)) and a progress report on the development of the West Coast EEJ Regional Implementation Plan (Regional Plan) from Ms. Maggie Sommer (National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)).

The EEJC expresses appreciation for NMFS requesting the NAS conduct the consensus study. The report includes tools and recommendations that could be leveraged by the Council, as well as by NMFS. For example, Figure S-1 in the report depicts the four dimensions of equity (distributional, procedural, recognitional, and contextual) and is a simple but effective framework the Council could consider during deliberations. The EEJC also noted the Council process already includes applications of procedural and recognitional equity, and the Council strives to consider distributional equity in its decision-making process for its Fishery Management Plans (FMPs).

The EEJC also notes the framework depicted in the figure could be utilized as part of the gap analysis discussed in September 2023 that would review Council processes and products and identify where there might be improvements that would address EEJ considerations ([H.5.b, Supplemental EEJC Report 1](#)) and reiterates the importance of conducting this analysis. A case study on a recent Council action could be conducted to see if each of the elements of equity were considered.

The EEJC appreciates the update on the Regional Plan and looks forward to reviewing the completed document when it becomes available. The EEJC noted there will likely be themes that bridge the two documents and, both individually and together, the NAS report and Regional Plan can help guide the Council in future discussions on the integration of EEJ in the Council process. The EEJC hopes to further discuss these documents prior to the September 2023 Council meeting and in-person at the November meeting.

PFMC
06/09/2024