

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON NMFS REGIONAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EEJ) PLAN AND EEJ COMMITTEE - UPDATE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) report on data and information availability regarding the distribution of fisheries management benefits in the U.S. (Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1).

The SSC emphasizes the need for continued collection of social, economic, and demographic data on fisheries participants. The Economic Data Collection (EDC) program and the West Coast Fisheries Participation Survey provide data that could support the kinds of equity analyses described in the NAS report. Data on quota prices, quota transfers, and permit prices also could inform equity analyses. Available data provide useful information on vessel and permit owners, but do not include information about other groups dependent on fisheries, such as crew members or fish processors. There is also a clear need to identify groups that are underrepresented in the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process and fisheries more broadly. Once the EEJ Implementation Plan for the West Coast Region becomes available and equity goals become more developed, there will be a need for additional social data.

The SSC recommends inclusion of equity and environmental justice (EEJ) experts in Council-related processes. This may involve transitioning the EEJ Committee from *ad hoc* to standing status and focusing recruitment efforts accordingly. Broadening the areas of expertise and demographic diversity of EEJ Committee membership would improve the identification and implementation of EEJ initiatives. Designating a social scientist position with expertise in EEJ on the SSC (e.g., as part of [COP4](#)) would also support effective scientific review of EEJ. Broader participation in EEJ Committee discussions would be possible if meetings did not overlap with those of other advisory bodies.

PFMC
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