

EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EEJ) –
GAP ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK AND REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In May 2023, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released their national Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Strategy (September 2023 Council Meeting, [Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 3](#)). In August 2024, the NMFS West Coast Regional Office released the West Coast Equity and Environmental Justice Regional Implementation Plan (RP) (Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1) that will serve as a roadmap for applying the national EEJ Strategy's goals and actions in the context of West Coast needs. Under this agenda item, the Council will receive a report from NMFS on the RP and should provide comments to NMFS on the action items included in the plan, as appropriate.

When the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) first reviewed the draft national EEJ Strategy in 2022, the Council initiated formal discussions to determine its own approach to addressing EEJ issues ([Agenda Item F.1, Situation Summary](#)) and, in April 2023, appointed an ad-hoc Equity and Environmental Justice Committee (EEJC) “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).

The ad-hoc EEJC held their first organizational meeting on July 11, 2023 and, in September 2023, provided a number of recommendations to the Council on how it could work both internally and with partners to address EEJ issues and increase engagement with underserved communities ([Agenda Item H.5.b, Supplemental EEJC Report 1](#)). One of these recommendations was for the Council to conduct a gap analysis that reviews Council process and products, noting where there might be improvements that would address EEJ considerations.

The EEJC met on August 1, 2024 and provided input on a draft work plan for the Gap Analysis Framework (Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2). Under this agenda item, the Council will review and approve the draft Gap Analysis Framework workplan and provide feedback on whether the plan addresses all the process and products the Council wants included. A report from the EEJC will be given under this agenda item.

Council Action:

- 1. Review and discuss the NMFS West Coast Equity and Environmental Justice Regional Implementation Plan. Provide comments to NMFS, as appropriate.**
- 2. Review and approve the Draft Gap Analysis Workplan. Provide any feedback to the EEJC on whether the plan addresses all the processes and products the Council wants included.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1: NMFS West Coast Regional EEJ Implementation Plan (*Electronic Only*).
2. Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2: Draft Gap Analysis Workplan (*Electronic Only*).
3. Agenda Item C.2.b, EEJC Report 1.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.2 Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) – Gap Analysis Framework and Regional Implementation Plan
- a. National Marine Fisheries Service
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Adopt the Gap Analysis Framework and Provide Guidance on Next Steps; Discuss the Regional EEJ Plan

PFMC
08/27/24