

## PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

On April 17, 2025, Executive Order (EO) 14276, Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness, was published in the *Federal Register* (Attachment 1). The EO mandates the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) incorporate advanced technologies and cooperative research into fishery assessments, aiming for more responsive management aligned with real-time ocean conditions. The EO calls for the development of a comprehensive seafood trade strategy to combat unfair foreign trade practices, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and forced labor in seafood supply chains. The EO orders a review of all existing marine national monuments to assess the potential for opening them to commercial fishing activities.

Section 4 of the EO requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit a prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production of sustainable fisheries. Building upon EO 13921 from 2020, Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth (Attachment 2), EO 14276 specifies that identified actions should stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures.

On May 6, 2025, NMFS sent a letter to the Council Executive Directors providing further guidance and requesting a response to the EO by September 1, 2025 necessary to meet the EO deadline of October 14, 2025 (Attachment 3). In subsequent conversation at the Council Coordination Committee, NMFS leadership indicated that the September 1 deadline was flexible, while the President's EO deadline of October 14<sup>th</sup> was not. The letter also included a template for developing the recommendations (Attachment 4). This document requests that for each recommended item, the Council provide:

1. Priority Number
2. Action type (e.g., Changes to Regulations, Orders, Guidance Documents, Other Similar Agency Actions)
3. Relevant CFR Citation under Title 50 (if applicable)
4. Updated description of recommended action(s)
5. Rationale of how the recommended action(s) stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures
6. Proposed plan and schedule for implementation

Several presidential actions and additional executive orders may also be of interest to the Council, including the following (not a comprehensive list)

- [Presidential Action](#) Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects (January 20, 2025)
- [Presidential Action](#) Putting People over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California (January 20, 2025)
- [EO 14192](#) Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation (January 31, 2025)
- [EO 14285](#) Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources (April 24, 2025)

Under this agenda item, the Council will receive a presentation from NMFS on administration updates with a focus on EO 14276. This is the opportunity for the Council and Advisory Bodies to gain clarity on the task for the Regional Fishery Management Councils necessary to generate the Council's response.

Under Agenda Item D.2, the Council is expected to identify actions that support the EO 14276 goals—such as stabilizing markets, improving access, enhancing economic profitability, and preventing fishery closures. In addition, the Council should offer guidance on how to prioritize these actions. Items previously prioritized are listed in the *Year at a Glance* (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1, June 2025), the groundfish workload and management measures priorities adopted in March 2025 ([Table A](#)), and coastal pelagic species (CPS) science and management priorities adopted in April 2025 (bottom of the [CPS Fact Sheet](#)).

Identifying appropriate tasks and their priority may be best enabled through the development of criteria that aligns with the EO, and the application of said criteria to Council priorities. The Council is also expected to recommend a desired timeline for implementation.

To meet the deadline for EO responses, the Executive Director proposes the following approach:

- At the June 2025 Council meeting, the Council should identify actions that meet the intent of the EO (these actions may be new, planned, or ongoing).
- Also at the June 2025 meeting, the Council should provide any relevant guidance on the factors to consider when prioritizing these actions.
- Over the summer, refine and apply criteria to the identified Council actions to determine their alignment with the EO and the prioritization thereof.
- Coordinate with NMFS West Coast Region and Science Centers to align resources necessary to achieve the Council's priorities. Additionally, the Executive Director will coordinate with the Region to align the recommendations with other EO implementation efforts (e.g., EO 14192).
- Finalize recommendations and the Council's EO response at the September Council meeting.

The Council should consider this proposed approach and provide appropriate direction.

### **Council Tasks:**

- Tasking done under Agenda Item D.2

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 1: E.O. Federal Register Notice; Executive Order 14276 of April 17, 2025: Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness.
2. Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 2: E.O. Federal Register Notice; Executive Order 13921 of May 7, 2020: Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth.
3. Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 3: Letter from Eugenio Pineiro-Soler to the Regional Fishery Management Councils requesting that each Council respond to Section 4 of EO 14276.
4. Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 4: NMFS EO 14276 Recommended Action Template.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.1 Presidential Executive Orders and Administration Updates
- a. National Marine Fisheries Report
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. Council Discussion

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05/22/25