

D.2 Council Response to Executive Orders and Administrative Updates

Council Task:

1. Identify the actions that meet the EO goals.
2. Provide guidance on the factors to consider when identifying priorities.
3. Provide guidance on the process to respond to the EO.

Szumylo Motion as Amended:

I move that the Council offer the following, unprioritized list of ongoing and upcoming regulatory actions that meet the EO goals as a preliminary list, to be finalized at the September meeting. The Council should prioritize actions that reduce regulatory burdens on the fleet while maintaining stock health and conservation objectives.

In progress (on YAAG and previously recommended to NMFS for implementation; not in priority order)

IRA/Special Projects

- Decision-Making for Stronger Communities
- Flexible and Adaptive Management
- New Fishing Opportunities within Bycatch Allowances

Groundfish

- Cordell Banks

- LEFG Follow On
- Groundfish Specifications Flexibility
- Groundfish Stock Definitions
- Inseason Management
- Exempted fishing permits
- Biennial specifications cycle
- Whiting Treaty Implementation
- Independent evaluation of our stock assessment process (addressing items mentioned in [Agenda Item E.7a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#))

CPS

- Sardine stock definitions including reviewing use of parameters (like Emsy, distribution) in the harvest control rules
- Exempted fishing permits
- Annual harvest specifications

Highly Migratory Species

- HMS Roadmap
- Exempted fishing permits
- International Management
- Biennial Harvest Specifications

Salmon

- Updating conservation objectives
- Inseason management
- Annual season setting process

Pacific Halibut

- Catch sharing plan and annual regulations for recreational and commercial fisheries
- Inseason management

Planned (from past prioritization efforts, or anticipated actions)

Groundfish

- Trawl Follow On Actions (particularly those that reduce cost to industry - cost recovery, EDC, observer coverage requirements)
- Midwater rockfish EFP into regulation

CPS

- Science and management priorities identified at the [April 2025 Council meeting](#)
- Near term inseason catch accounting for sardine

Cross FMP

- EFP streamlining across all FMPs with COPs
- Relevant elements from Council's recent process refinement efforts
- Marine planning to manage current and future impacts to fisheries (offshore wind, aquaculture, seabed mining, oil and gas)

Moved by Aja Szumylo

Seconded by Christa Svensson

Motion as amended passes unanimously

Amendment to the motion

To include language regarding international management for Salmon, CPS, and Halibut as needed.

Moved by Christa Svensson

Seconded by Aja Szumylo

Motion passes unanimously

Szumylo Motion 2: (Withdrawn)

I move that the Council task staff to use the following guidance to explore additional opportunities to stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures. In addition to the list below, staff should look to ideas from recent NOAA guidance documents (e.g., National Seafood Strategy), and events (e.g., Managing our Nation's Fisheries) for ideas. For items identified as national and international, task ED with coordination through the CCC. Include an assessment of both staff workload and potential impact to industry according to the EO metrics.

Regional

- Cost reduction measures for industry. Examples include:
 - VMS efficiencies (turn off VMS, declaration changes at sea)
 - Cost recovery regulations at regional level
 - Monitoring and reporting requirements
- Data collection improvement/expansion
 - Evaluate ways to incorporate fisherman-collected data or data from citizen science into stock assessments, looking to approaches from other regions (e.g., [South Atlantic Region Citizen Science Program](#))
 - Data collection innovations already included in the Council's Research and Data Needs priority list ([Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1, June 2025](#)).
- Evaluation of all regulations established more than two decades ago
- Evaluation of hatchery program production to see if science is matching initial program goals
- Evaluation of the Council's approach to scientific uncertainty and risk
 - Evaluation of risk of overfishing
 - P*sigma
- Evaluation of timing/frequency of stock evaluation processes (e.g., increasing frequency of catch-only projections)
- Evaluation of the Council's approach to management uncertainty
 - Evaluation of management uncertainty buffers framework across FMPs
 - Fishing level recommendations for preventing overfishing could be established for multi-year periods (e.g. rolling average of catch versus ABC).
- Additional measures to provide flexibility across fishing activities

National

- MSA evaluations
 - Cost recovery provisions
 - Revisions to National Standard Guidelines to support EO goals
- Create support of domestic infrastructure
 - Port infrastructure
 - Processing infrastructure
 - Fleet recapitalization
 - Programs (education, loans) to bring young fishermen into the fleet
- Market/industry support mechanisms

- Access to USDA programs for food producers/farms for fishermen, such as grants, insurance and access to capital.
- Stronger NOAA Fisheries marketing of primacy of U.S. fisheries management, and how that contributes to a superior product
- U.S. seafood commodity marketing support (similar organizations to Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers)
- Support for product diversification/business incubator products (like Hatch, Positively Groundfish)

International

- Leveling the playing field for our international products
 - Equitable tariffs and quotas
 - Foreign fisheries impact on US production
 - Engagement with Seafood Trade Task Force
- Improve nation-wide communication to USDC Seafood Inspection Approved Establishments when there are seafood export changes.

Moved by Aja Szumylo

Seconded by Christa Svensson

Motion withdrawn

CDFW Motion: (Withdrawn)

I move the Council recommend to NMFS that it not prioritize review, development or issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) outside of the Council process to the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative to process whiting south of 42 degrees North latitude in response to Executive Order 14276: Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness. Prospective applicants should continue to use established on-ramps for Council consideration of new groundfish EFPs via either the groundfish workload and management measure prioritization process, the Preliminary EFP agenda item shown on the proposed November 2025 Agenda (Agenda Item C.6, supplemental attachments 4 and 6), or open public comment.

Moved by Marci Yaremko

Seconded by Marc Gorelnik

Motion withdrawn

Ridings Motion:

I move the Council adopt the Advisory Body reports under this agenda item for refinement and application of criteria to the identified Council actions to determine their alignment with the EO and the prioritization thereof, as outlined in the situation summary for this agenda item and further Council action in September.

Moved by Corey Ridings

Seconded by Rebecca Lent

Motion passes unanimously