

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

Under this agenda item, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to adopt their final priorities in response to Executive Order (EO) 14276, Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness (Attachment 1). At the June meeting, the Council received a presentation from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on EO 14276 and other administration updates. 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 14275 states that identified actions should stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures. The EO directs the Council to commit to a work plan that specifies dates for final Council action and subsequent NMFS implementation. Identified actions are anticipated to appear in the Office of Management and Budget's Unified Agenda, which notices all regulatory actions and exempted fishing permits expected to be issued within a six-month period.

NMFS requested the Council prepare a response to the EO by September 1, 2025 using the NMFS template necessary to meet the EO deadline of October 14, 2025 (Attachment 3). NMFS leadership latter indicated flexibility with the September 1 deadline, while indicating that flexibility did not exist with the EO deadline of October 14th. The Council response is scheduled for submission immediately following the September Council meeting.

In June 2025, the Council had a far-reaching discussion on priorities, including previously scheduled agenda items on the Year at a Glance and anticipated future actions. Two motions were adopted to establish a preliminary set of priorities, and staff were directed to evaluate which measures best meet the EO criteria and to recommend how those priorities should be communicated to the Administration (Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1). The Council also directed the Executive Director to coordinate with the NMFS West Coast Region and Science Centers to align the resources needed to advance the Council's priorities.

Staff recommends that the Council submit a letter to NMFS identifying overarching priorities and common issues across the Fishery Management Plans (FMP, e.g., establishing specifications, inseason adjustments, routine exempted fishing permit (EFP) process). The letter would also note several actions that align with the EO criteria but are still in early development and therefore lack projected dates for final Council action or NMFS implementation. The matrix would be reserved for upcoming regulatory actions, FMP amendments, and EFPs that directly align with the EO workplan requirement. Attachment 4 provides the draft letter to NMFS and Attachment 5 contains the matrix, organized alphabetically by FMP (i.e., not in priority order) for Council consideration.

Additionally, Council members Jaime Diamond, Rebecca Lent, Corey Ridings, Christa Svensson, and Aja Szumylo propose the Council send a letter to Secretary Lutnik communicating priorities beyond EO 14276. The proposed letter is contained in Agenda Item H.2.a and notes that seafood competitiveness requires broader federal support beyond the deregulation actions requested in the

EO and outlines a series of additional actions the agency can take to support the industry. The Council should determine whether to send the letter and provide any edits to the draft letter, as appropriate.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Determine Council priorities in response to EO 14276 and provide further guidance as necessary (Attachment 4 and Attachment 5).**
- 2. Consider the Council Member Report (Agenda Item H.2.a) and determine whether to send the letter and provide any edits, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1: EO Federal Register Notice; Executive Order 14276 of April 17, 2025: Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness.
2. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 2: EO Federal Register Notice; Executive Order 13921 of May 7, 2020: Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth.
3. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 3: Letter from Eugenio Pineiro-Soler to the Regional Fishery Management Councils requesting that each Council respond to Section 4 of EO 14276 including the Action Template.
4. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 4: Draft Council Letter in Response to EO 14276.
5. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 5: Proposed Council Priorities (NMFS Matrix).
6. Agenda Item H.2.a, Council Member Report 1, Proposed Letter to Secretary Lutnick.
7. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.2 Council Response to Executive Orders and Administration Updates Kelly Ames
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Priorities for Executive Order 14276, Provide Other Guidance, as Appropriate

PFMC
08/26/25