




CCC Recommendations

May 2021



3. NOAA Fisheries Science Update



- Dr. Cisco Werner provided an update on survey plans for 2021 and Dr. Evan Howell provided an overview of COVID impacts on recreational catch estimation
- The CCC questioned whether potential revisions to 2020 MRIP estimates would impact their use in ACL and stock status evaluations
 - The Agency indicated that current estimates are considered BSIA and should be used, and that any revisions will likely be minor.
- The CCC recommended that resuming data collection activities should be a priority as the agency resumes normal operations.

4. Legislative Outlook



- The CCC approved the Legislative Workgroup's proposed aquaculture consensus statement.

5. Integration of ESA Section 7 with MSA

- The CCC requested strengthening the relationship between NMFS and Councils on ESA consultations for fisheries by:
 - Updating the ESA Policy Directive to improve the process and timing for Council involvement in ESA consultations
 - Requiring more direct communication from Protected Resources Division to the Councils early in the process to ensure effective and meaningful Council involvement
 - Providing draft BiOps and draft RPMs/RPAs to Council staff for input in advance of these drafts being made available to the public
 - Developing a process for NMFS to work with the Council on ESA issues through the normal Council process rather than through RPMs and RPAs resulting from consultations
- The CCC also requested NMFS coordinate with Council staff from each region for the interagency working group on ESA consultations for fisheries

6. Recent Executive Orders

- EO 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
 - The CCC established a CCC Area-based Management Subcommittee to develop a common understanding among the Councils of area-based management measures, and assist the regional councils in coordinating with NOAA to achieve the goals set forth in the EO and report to the Climate Change Task Force
 - The Subcommittee would develop a report on Area-based Measures in the U.S. EEZ
 - A comprehensive evaluation of all existing EEZ Federal fishery area closures and other area-based measures in the U.S.
 - A discussion of the pros and cons of area-based
 - Contrasting management objectives and expected benefits of area-based management tool for the diversity of ecosystems under Councils' jurisdictions
 - The Subcommittee will produce a journal article on the conservation benefits of area-based measures for marine fisheries in the U.S.

- Eric Reid will chair the Subcommittee

7. Offshore Wind Development



The HWG 2021 priorities will become secondary to that of the ABM CCC subcommittee.

In 2021, if resources are available, they should continue to meet and focus on the development and sharing of BMP's related to offshore wind issues.

They should not plan on a habitat science forum this year.

The CCC will provide further guidance to the HWG at the October meeting.

8. NS1 Draft Technical Memorandum on managing with ACLs for data-limited stocks

- Marian MacPherson presented an overview of the memo
- It was noted that some portions of the document still need more work to provide effective guidance and to ensure there is a clear distinction between guidance and requirements.
- The CCC requested an extension of the comment deadline on the draft Technical Memo to allow time to schedule, review, and develop comments.
- NMFS indicated that they would try to accommodate an extension to early October, 2021

9. CCC Committees



- Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)
 - The CMOD Steering Committee reported the first CMOD workshop is scheduled to occur in person during the first week of November.
 - Scoping is underway to refine the agenda, which focuses on the theme of “new approaches to EBFM/EAFM”.
 - The Steering Committee will be reaching out to Presenters within the Council family and elsewhere.
- NEPA Subcommittee
 - The CCC recommended NMFS consider the report of the CCC NEPA Subcommittee and conduct the proposed workshop to consider development of Agency guidance on implementation of the new CEQ NEPA regulations and procedures for functional equivalence of MSA actions.
- SCS-7
 - The 7th national SSC meeting will be postponed until summer 2022, so it can take place in person. NPFMC asks for assistance from NMFS to approve a no-cost extension through 2022 of existing funds intended to support the workshop.

10. Seafood Competitiveness, Marketing and Economic Growth

- Dr. Doremus requested comments/feedback from the Councils on working waterfronts, work force development, sustainability, resiliency, marketing, supply chains, and young fishermen's education programs.
- The NEFMC noted the Councils may be unprepared to answer these difficult and multi-dimensional issues at this time, and that perhaps Councils' focus should be on a sustainable supply of fishery resources for the American public.
- The WPFMC noted that the supply chain and for inferior imported tuna products was a large issue for the WPFMC.
- The WPFMC also requested removal of Monument Closures via the E.O. that were put in place via the Antiquities Act

11. Electronic Monitoring

- Brett Alger/NMFS provided an overview of a draft procedural directive on applying information law to electronic monitoring data.
- The Directive will establish requirements for EM programs to address data confidentiality, Federal Records Act, and FOIA issues.
 - The draft should be released to the Councils by early June with comments due by July 15
 - The NPFMC requested an extension until October 2021.

12. Policy and Procedural Directives on Guidance for Financial Disclosures and Recusals

- Attorney Adam Issenberg gave an overview of draft Policy Directive 01-116 and Procedural Directive 01-166-01. Both provide guidance on Fishery Management Council Disclosure and Recusal requirements
- Questions were raised about the role of Executive directors to identify potential recusal issues and to report all discussions about recusal.
 - Mr. Issenberg agreed to investigate and report back on those issues.