

Council Coordination Committee Meeting

May 21 – 23, 2024

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Hosted by CFMC

Meeting Agenda and Materials

- National Councils Website : www.fisherycouncils.org
- <https://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccc-meetings/may-2024>

Highlights

- **Confidentiality rule**

- Needs closer look to provide flexibility on its implementation to avoid affecting fisheries across the nations; e.g., Alaska fisheries

- **NEPA**

- Final rule published in May 2024 and the NEPA WG will meet before October to address the development of the guidance to implement NEPA regulations

- **Sanctuary Regulations and Guidance**

- Involve councils in decision-making process in sanctuaries, additional discussion at next meeting

- **Budget – essentially flat funding for 2024**

- Council EDs will meet to develop strategies to deal with budget challenges and justify future petitions for increases.

- **Anti harassment**

- EDs will meet to consider best practices and seek funding for further training with NOAA fisheries

IRA Funding

- NMFS is still working to distribute funds
- Initial distribution (\$375,00) anticipated during June
- Next distribution expected Summer 2024
- No further RFPs are expected
- The project timeline cannot be extended due to the funding delays; all work must be complete by December 31, 2026.

MRIP-FES Evaluation and Calibration

- Pilot study underway & will continue through 2024
- Evaluation and calibration developed through 2025
- Final results and any revised estimates available April 2026

304f Governance Procedural Directive

- Addresses change in Council governance for new fisheries or shifts in fishery and stock distributions
- Updated in response to Council and other comments
- NMFS does not envision regular, ongoing reviews and tracking
- Improvements made to the transition plan if a governance change is needed
- Currently under review for the procedural directive process
- Anticipate completion Summer 2024

MOTIONS

- **Area Based Management - Approved**

Request that the CCC be directly involved in any process for evaluating Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) that were developed by the fishery management councils, pursuant to the IUCN/FAO guidelines for international reporting of OECMs

- **ESA/MSA Policy Directive - Approved**

CCC recommends that NMFS incorporate the minor revisions to the ESA-MSA Policy Directive identified by the CCC Working Group. With minor revisions being accepted, the CCC endorses the agency revision to the Policy Directive.

Next Meetings

- Fall 2024 CCC meeting
 - October 15 – 17, Washington DC
- Spring 2025 CCC meeting
 - May 13 – 15, New Bedford MA
 - 2025 Host: NEFMC