

**CCC REPORT
COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Holiday Inn Capital – Washington, DC

February 27-28, 2018

The agenda and briefing materials (presentations) are available from the following site:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/2018-february-council-coordination-committee-meeting>

1. Welcome/Introductions and NMFS Update & FY 19 Priorities – Chris Oliver & Dan Hull
Dan Hull, PFMC Chair, welcomed the CCC.

Chris Oliver – been on job 8 months and getting better understanding of process; input on NOAA Fisheries Priorities and Annual Guidance for 2018 – added important wording to the three strategic goals (Goal #1 “Maximize fishing opportunities” while ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and fishing communities; Goal #2 Recover and conserve protected species “while supporting responsible fishing and resource development”; Goal #3 Improve organizational excellence and “regulatory efficiency”). Considers the Councils a real partner in the process not a constituent. We raised the issue of the delay in review after final Council action and offered to work with Chris and the Region to improve timeliness while improving regulatory efficiency.

2. Aquaculture Initiative Updates – Paul Doremus & Michael Rubino

Paul Doremus – administrations goal is to increase seafood production to address balance of trade; sustainable wild production; large potential to increase seafood production through aquaculture.

Michael Rubino – gave the presentation and explained the large potential increase in seafood production through aquaculture. This topic generated lots of questions:

- Chris stated there is no intent to deregulate aquaculture; looking for ways to ease concerns about recreational and commercial fishing.
- Paul – understand the need for funding to implement but if there is no additional funding, need to see how we can use existing capabilities; best if had additional money but tough time and there is no guarantee additional funding can be provided at this time.
- Charlie – just heard no funding to help Councils develop Aquaculture FMP and the SAFMC has a request from NC. Paul – no good answer; we are all being asked to do more with existing resources; will be advocating for additional resources and what we could do better with more funding
- What is the ask of the Councils? Paul – regional input; integrated view of seafood industry; lacking legislation, will need Aquaculture FMPs developed by the Councils for aquaculture in federal waters (not state waters).
- Senator Wicker is developing a draft bill that could only provide a comment role for the Councils.
- Given the large emphasis from the administration, cautious optimism that additional funds may be available in the future.
- Charlie – go after low hanging fruit (shellfish); states drive regulations (inter-state seed transfer, gears/season); aquaculture keeps infrastructure operational for wild caught species; need ongoing baseline on ocean acidification.

- Continue this discussion at May CCC meeting; learn from the Gulf Council; map what regional FMPs would look like.
3. **Regulatory Reform Update** – continuing to work to reduce unnecessary regulations; looking to receive input from the Councils in June.
 4. **Legislative Outlook** – S 1520 will be marked up this week and eventually paired with a more comprehensive bill; Wicker aquaculture bill being drafted; MSA Reauthorization – looking for bill that doesn't create work for Councils if not needed; minimize legal issues; modest changes to improve some aspects; status quo and only fix what needs fixing; aquaculture – had a productive hearing on aquaculture, diversify seafood production, and can Federal actions align regulatory process for offshore aquaculture. Aquaculture legislation would work outside the Council process but with a robust discussion from Councils; interested in Councils' views on this approach.
 5. **MSA Reauthorization & CCC Legislative Committee Report** – Gregg Waugh/Dave Whaley
 - Gregg gave an overview and Dave Whaley said the response on the hill to the Councils' Working Paper has been great; well received; regional perspectives very helpful. HR 200 is the House vehicle; once filed we will have the amended version and they are waiting on more cosponsors. S 1520 represents the views of the recreational community. Senator Wicker is drafting a substitute amendment (no public yet) that will reauthorize the MSA and address other issues as well. Shark finning, red snapper and some other fishery-related bills could come together as an amendment to MSA legislation. Next step in the House is the House floor. Senate, no more hearings; once bill is ready it will be posted for comment and then go to mark-up. Aquaculture (Wicker draft bill): (a) new office of aquaculture in NMFS, (b) aquaculture office in every region, (c) 3 places Councils mentioned but only consultation, (d) permits for aquaculture will not be considered fishing under MSA, and (e) provides \$350M over 5 years. CCC may want to discuss aquaculture and prepare a white paper on role of Councils.
 - Chris Oliver – hopeful we will take an agency position on MSA Reauthorization; developing views on HR 200 and try to get them through review process; one issue MSA/NEPA intersection; part of HR 200 would bring NEPA provisions within MSA; what about wording that actions taken deemed to be in accordance with NEPA.
 - Dave – ongoing negotiations and if this language remains in bill, the wording about meeting NEPA will be added.
 - The Legislative Committee could develop Council positions on aquaculture.
 6. **RDML Timothy Gallaudet** – NOAA Update & Administration Priorities
Stand by Chris and Councils 100%; some regions working better than other, and his role is to expand what works.
 7. **Proposed National Offshore Oil & Gas Leasing Program** – BOEM; gave presentation and looking for comments from the Councils
The Councils tried to get a letter from the CCC but views were very divergent and decided to let each Council comment separately.

8. **FOIA Guidance** – Adam Issenberg/Mark Graff gave presentation. Council staff costs to prepare materials in response to a FOIA request can be included in the cost estimate; not clear in past.
9. **Management & Budget Update** – Brian Paulak gave presentation. \$60B was added to non-defense items in budget; don't know how this will be addressed with respect to NOAA/NMFS. It requires 30 days to make money available after the budget is approved. Funding for 2018 looks good for level funding; looks positive for the additional add-ons given what is in the House/Senate bills. Bottom line is that CY 2019 looks like level funding for the Councils. Wait to see what 2019 and 2020 look like.
10. **Recusal Policy Update** – Adam Issenberg. Their goal is to have a proposed rule available prior to the May CCC meeting. They are addressing two items raised by the Councils: (a) partial share ownership with respect to the 10% threshold and (b) close causal line – benefit and Council action. Each Council will have an opportunity to review the proposed rule at a Council meeting. The SAFMC will address at the June 2018 meeting.
11. **Electronic Monitoring Policy Development** – Cisco Werner/Brett Alger; presentation on Draft Procedural Directive on EM Cost Allocation. Industry will pay for portion of cost (see presentation for details); NMFS will not implement program if funds are not available. Comments received at February CCC meeting, individual Councils review in spring (SAFMC at June 2018 meeting), and finalize directive in fall.
12. **EBFM Regional Implementation** – Cisco Werner/Brett Alger; nothing is mandatory, these are goals. We mentioned the need for NMFS to address basic data collection programs across the 3 East Coast Councils and Dr. Werner agreed.
13. **MRIP Regional Implementation** – Ned Cyr; re-estimation process will be complete July 1, 2018 and new catch time series available. It would be up to the SEFSC and SERO to do back calibrations for comparison to recreational ACLs.
14. **BSIA Guidance Update** – Cisco Werner, Rick Methot and Stephanie Hunt; we provided additional input based on John Carmichael's and Michelle Duval's review. Additional feedback prior to May CCC meeting would be best. SAFMC will send in a letter after the March 2018 meeting so provide any comments by Wednesday of next week.
15. **NS1 Technical Guidance Update** – Alan Risenhoover; Council staff are welcome to participate on working sub-groups; the groups will produce a Technical Memo as their output. SAFMC guidance on whether you want us to participate; coordinate who on staff will participate and let Alan know (copy Erin) after our March 2018 meeting.
16. **Other Business**
 - a. Review of CCC Committees
 - i. **Communications Group** – meeting in May in Sitka, AK and report to the CCC at the end of the meeting. Kim Iverson, Cameron Rhodes, and Amber Von Harten will participate via webinar.
 - ii. **Habitat Committee** – looking at what additional work they can do.
 - iii. **Science Coordination Committee** – just held a workshop and producing proceedings.
 - iv. **Legislative Committee** – need Vice Chair to replace Gregg as chair beginning January 2019; continue to work on MSA Reauthorization; update working paper; and track aquaculture (Councils will develop regional and consensus positions on aquaculture for approval by CCC at May 2018 meeting.).

- b. **National SCS Workshop** – Chuck Tracey, PFMC Executive Director, said the recent SSC National meeting was a success and they are preparing the proceedings.
- c. **SAFMC Penalty Increase for Non-reporting** – we reviewed the SAFMC request to increase the penalty for non-reporting. The other Councils were not interested in pursuing this as a National issue and it was suggested that more rigorous use of fines for late reports would be effective.
- d. **Fish Rules App** – we gave a short presentation on the app and there was considerable interest. The PFMC is interested and were considering developing such an app. The other Councils were not interested in pursuing this on a National level but agreed that this provides a very useful tool.

17. Wrap Up and Next Meeting

- a. **May 22-24, 2018 CCC** – Hosted by NPFMC in Sitka, Alaska; draft topics include:
 - i. Aquaculture – report from the GMFMC on their experience
 - ii. MSA Reauthorization
 - iii. Oil & Gas
 - iv. Budget Update
 - v. Proposed Rule for Recusal
 - vi. EM Policy
 - vii. EBFM
 - viii. Research Priorities
- b. **February 2019 CCC** – Hosted by NMFS in DC area
- c. **May 13-16, 2019 CCC** – Hosted by SAFMC in Charleston, South Carolina at the Francis Marion Hotel. Arrive on 5/13/19, meet 5/14-16/19, and departure on 5/16/19.