

**MEETING REPORT**  
**COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (CCC)**  
**May 14-16, 2019**  
**Charleston, SC**

The CCC met in Charleston, SC and an Executive Director was identified for each agenda item to stimulate discussion. Each ED provided a short paragraph, with any action items and/or follow-up identified, to be included in a Wrap Up list that the CCC reviewed briefly before the meeting adjourned on Thursday. Details are included as **Attachment 1**.

The items below track the final agenda (**Attachment 2**). Approved motions are included at the end of the report.

**DAY 1**

**NMFS Update & FY19 Priorities**

Chris Oliver highlighted the status of regulatory reform, MRIP and the modern fish act, along with staffing updates and other general messages:

- Mike Rubino is the new Senior Advisor for Seafood Strategy. Secretary Ross announced that Dr. Neal Jacobs would begin performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, basically the NOAA Administrator. Admiral Gallaudet had been serving in that role previously, and he will continue to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.
- Strategic Plan – National Plan incorporates Council input and the regional plans are being developed with involvement of the Councils.
- Deregulation actions by the Councils has been very well received.
- Modern Fish Act was signed and while it does not remove the ACL requirement, it does provide flexibility. There are a number of reports to be prepared.
- Wind energy is increasing in importance.
- The May status of stocks report indicated continual progress.

**Legislative Outlook & MSA Reauthorization**

Dave Whaley, Council Consultant, gave an overview on legislation of interest, prognosis and actions so far for MSA Reauthorization in the 116th Congress, and changes in Congress and Congressional committees of interest since the start of the 116th Congress. Dave reviewed legislation that became law in the 115th Congress and gave an overview of new legislation in the 116th Congress, hearings that have been held this year, hearings that will be held in the near future, and other current issues of interest. Dave also noted that the legislative working paper is important and helpful to congressional staff.

Regarding aquaculture legislation, he stated that the legislation introduced by Senator Wicker (R-Mississippi) in the 115th Congress has not yet been reintroduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. Legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Young (R-Alaska) to prohibit aquaculture permitting in the EEZ by either the Secretary of

Commerce or the Secretary of the Interior until legislation is enacted by Congress to authorize aquaculture permitting.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:

In light of potential Congressional action on the following issues, Dave suggested that each Council document what they currently are doing on a number of issues. The reason for having this information is to have it ready in the event requests for the information are received or legislation effecting these topics is introduced and Council input is requested on these topics. Dave requested that these 1-page summaries be prepared by each Council and sent to him in the next 2 weeks.

- Shifting Stocks and Changing Ocean Conditions - It would be helpful to have a document describing how each Council currently incorporates information on shifting stocks and changing ocean conditions into their decisions and actions, and the need for timely information to inform these decisions.
- Forage Fish. It would be helpful for each Council to document how their Council is addressing the management of forage fish, including which species are currently managed, which species are currently unmanaged, and what data are being collected, available, or analyzed on forage fish species in their region.
- Timelines for Amendments. It would be helpful for each Council to describe the process and average timeline for analysis and decision making including both Council actions and the approval process once the action leaves the Council until final implementation. Many congressional staff are unaware of the multi-step processes and timelines for approval of FMPs, FMP amendments, and other actions by Councils such as harvest specifications.

The CCC picked up on Dave's comment that Congressman Don Young, who was one of the primary authors of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act, is the only remaining member of the House who was in Congress when the Act passed. The CCC voted to send a letter to Mr. Young congratulating him on his longevity in Congress and thanking him for his continued efforts to ensure sustainable fisheries. **See Motion #1.**

**Legislative Work Group (LWG) Report**

Dave Witherell, Executive Director NPFMC, gave a report and requested approval of wording to 3 consensus statements: (1) topic 1 – stock rebuilding; (2) topic 14 – stock assessment and survey data; and (3) topic 19 – aquaculture. The Legislative Work Group also requested approval of a process to elect a chair and vice-chair of the Legislative Work Group.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:

- a. The CCC approved the LWG recommended consensus statements for topic 1, topic 14 with one revision (from 'should be provided' to 'may be needed'), and a revised consensus statement on aquaculture. **See Motions #4, #5, and #8.**

- b. The CCC approved the recommended LWG chair/vice chair process, and elected Tom Nies as vice-chair. **See Motions #2 and #3.**
- c. The CCC agreed with having the LWG continue to work on and revise the Legislative Working Paper, including approaches to address draft bills, such as the forage fish bill.

### **Aquaculture Updates**

Sam Rauch, Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Programs, covered questions on the lawsuit and other legal issues. Dr. Paul Doremus, deputy assistant administrator for operations, introduced Michael Rubino in his new role as senior advisor for seafood strategy.

The agency provided an update on the Eastern District Court of Louisiana's decision regarding the Gulf Council's Aquaculture FMP. The court decided that the Gulf Council did not have the authority under Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act to regulate aquaculture operations. The Solicitor General is evaluating whether or not to appeal the court decision.

An update on the seafood trade deficit was discussed and one priority of the agency is to broaden the seafood and marketing guidance nation-wide in an effort to help address the global imbalance. The agency stated that international affairs and seafood inspection plays a role in the seafood trade deficit for U.S. exporters. The AQUAA Act was discussed and the agency anticipates that this bill will be re-introduced to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

- 1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:
  - a. Consider developing a CCC consensus statement regarding future legislation via the Legislative Working Group

### **EBFM Regional Implementation**

Sam Rauch stated that in June 2018, NOAA Fisheries released nine draft regional Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) Implementation Plans for public comment (one plan for each region with the Mid-Atlantic and New England combined into a Northeast Region, one for HMS and one for Headquarters). The draft plans identify regional EBFM priority actions and milestones for the next 5 years to address six guiding principles established under the NMFS EBFM Policy Road Map. Public comment was available through September 30, 2018 and revised draft EBFM Implementation Plans that incorporated public comments were shared with regional management partner point-of-contacts in March 2019. NOAA Fisheries released the final implementation plans on May 13, 2019.

- 1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified: None

## **Electronic Technology Policies & Implementation Plans**

Brett Alger, ET Coordinator for Science & Technology, NMFS, provided the following information.

Background:

Policy Directive: In 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released an Electronic Technologies Policy Directive that provides guidance on the adoption of electronic technology solutions in fishery-dependent data collection programs. Electronic technologies include the use of vessel monitoring systems (VMS), electronic logbooks, video cameras for electronic monitoring (EM), and observer technologies, among other systems. The Policy Directive was due to be renewed in 2018.

Cost Allocation Procedural Directive: The Procedural Directive establishes a framework for allocating costs for EM programs in federally managed U.S. fisheries between NOAA Fisheries and the fishing industry, and a timeline for implementing the framework. In 2018, Councils reviewed and provided comments to NMFS on the draft EM Cost Allocation Procedural Directive.

Current Activities:

NMFS provided an update on the final Policy Directive and Cost Allocation Procedural Directive.

Data Storage Procedural Directive: NMFS is developing a procedural directive on EM data storage for EM video held by a third party, contracted by the fishing industry. The directive will consider the costs and benefits of storing video for various lengths of time, as well as the management, scientific, and enforcement needs of any EM program. NMFS will also consider different types of data storage to reduce costs to industry. NMFS will be publishing a draft procedural directive soon, so Councils will be provided adequate time to review and consider the directive at subsequent meetings.

NMFS is developing a new retention schedule for Federal records, including video and data collected from EM programs.

NMFS is developing guidance for updating the Regional ET Implementation Plans, which will include transition plans for implementing the Cost Allocation Procedural Directive.

### 1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:

- a. NMFS requests Councils comments on third party review and retention requirements when they become available as a draft Procedural Directive.
- b. NMFS requests comments on guidance and template for Regional Electronic Technology Implementation Plans.
- c. NMFS is available to attend Council meetings to provide briefings.

## **DAY 2**

### **South Atlantic Council Activities**

South Atlantic Council staff gave short presentations on the following topics; they met with interested individuals in the area outside the meeting room during the rest of the day: Fish Rules, MyFishCount, Charter Logbook, Citizen Science, Habitat/Ecosystem Web Services, Best Fishing Practices, Student Research & Evaluation of Managed Areas. The presentation is available from the following link: [Story Map Presentation](#)

### **Unique Trip Identifier**

Mike Cahall, ACCSP Executive Director, provided the following information.

Background:

In the Greater Atlantic Region, electronic vessel trip reports (eVTRs) are not universally required outside of the federal for-hire fisheries managed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The Council is considering similar requirements for its commercial fisheries and is actively looking to support use of eVTR reporting applications so that vessels can satisfy all of their reporting requirements via one tailored submission. A unique (universal) trip identifier would allow a clear link of trip information to other fisheries-dependent data such as dealer reports, observer data, and portside sampling. A unique trip identifier and related electronic applications could also be essential for streamlining reporting and integrating data sources across regions and agency systems. As such, a unique trip identifier would decrease the burden on vessel operators, reduce errors and redundancies, and increases the timeliness and accuracy of data collected.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified: None

### **Net Gains Alliance Update**

Dorothy Lowman (past PPMC Chair) and George LaPointe (past Director, State of Maine) provided the following information.

Background:

The Net Gains Alliance (NGA) is a coalition of industry, managers and other stakeholders working to spur fishery information systems modernization efforts. The NGA grants are meant to catalyze modernization efforts that are targeted and can be viewed independent of the national policy development component but are critical to regional needs.

They have a Leadership Team of five independent contractors and NGO representatives, and an Advisory Panel, which is made up of 10-11 industry, academic, and agency representatives. They are currently funded by a grant from the Walton Foundation.

Its goals are to:

- Strengthen relevant NOAA Fisheries policy and accelerate pace of data information systems modernization
- Support regional modernization projects
- Expand constituency in support of fisheries information system modernization

#### Current Activities:

NGA plans to fund 6-8 grants over next 2 years. The grants are not based on an open solicitation process, but are developed in conjunction with the Leadership Team members. Grantees can include Federal or state agencies, Councils, and industry. They hope to complement or leverage other available funds (e.g., FIS, NFWF). If additional funding is secured, more grants may be available in the future.

NGA is seeking to engage and support National policy and regional strategies, regional grantmaking, and Constituency building.

#### 1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:

- a. NGA would like additional input from the Councils on areas of importance, such as:
  - For-hire electronic reporting
  - Integrated fishery reporting
  - One-stop reporting
  - Pacific-wide pelagic data integration
  - Key impediments to critical data modernization needs
- b. NGA is offering help with development of Electronic Technology Regional Implementation Plans that might address data modernization related activities.
- c. NGA is interested in having informational sessions at Council meetings (e.g., evening sessions)
- d. NGA would like to have a point of contact for each Council.
- e. NGA would like the CCC to consider reconvening its “EM subcommittee” to include other information system modernization efforts, such as how data flow can be refined to be more responsive (in terms of both timing and substance) to management (and industry) needs.

#### **Implementing NS1/Update - Technical Guidance**

Alan Risenhoover (Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries) and Stephanie Hunt (Branch Chief, Policy and Guidance, NMFS) provided the following information. The National Standard 1 Guidelines were updated in 2016. NMFS has convened three working groups to develop technical guidance for implementation. This guidance is intended to augment, and not replace, the earlier guidance contained in Restrepo et al., 1998. The guidance documents are in various stages of development. NMFS intends to share drafts with the Councils before they are finalized. These are intended to be best practices documents, not prescriptive.

- a. WG #1: This WG is focused on status determination criteria. It will summarize research and lessons learned for the direct estimation of  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$ , proxies when these values cannot be determined, and additional considerations such as spatially explicit reference

points. A sub-group is also working on the best practices for catch accounting. While some details may be available for the November 2019 CCC meeting, a draft document may not be ready for review.

- b. WG #2: This WG will address carry-over provisions and the phase-in of ACL reductions. It will summarize examples from around the world and identify stock and management characteristics that affect the benefits and risks of the approaches. A draft document may be available within a few months.
- c. WG #3: This WG will address the use of the ACL framework for data limited stocks. Alternative approaches for data poor fisheries that comply with the MSA will be identified. Preliminary work is being reviewed by NOAA GC and may be available for the November 2019 CCC meeting.

Key questions and/or discussions points raised by the CCC are described below, with the NMFS response in italics.

- a. Will WG #1 address reference points in the context of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan?  
*Perhaps; the group is focusing first on the direct estimation of FMSY and B<sub>MSY</sub> and the use of proxies in a single-stock framework.*
- b. Will the catch accounting best practices document address accounting for research catches? *We will have to look into that, this WG is not far along.*
- c. Several CCC members noted they have activities planned that could benefit from the draft or final documents. NMFS asked that they be advised of these plans because it may help expedite completion of the guidance documents.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified: NMFS is willing to brief Councils or SSCs on the progress of these documents; contact Ms. Hunt to make arrangements.

### **NOAA Strategic Plan - Development of Geographic Plans**

The NOAA Strategic Plan has been already distributed. Chris Oliver stated that he expects the Councils to be involved in the regional strategic plan development in accordance with the NOAA National Strategic Plan, and that there will be flexibility by not prescribing the process for the development of the plans, and the interaction between the regional offices and centers with the council. Each region will have a point of contact serving as liaison with the Councils.

Paul Doremus (Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations at NMFS) stated that although this is not a “budget document” it may have guidance to identify course of actions and identification of amount of funds needed for carrying out the necessary activities to implement management actions. It is expected that the process will continue during the Summer of 2019, and a final document should be presented by October this year.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified: None.

### **Management and Budget Update**

Paul Doremus (Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations at NMFS) presented the budget outlook and administrative update. The Regional Councils and Fisheries Commission line

increased from \$35,871 million (FY2018 enacted) to \$40,175 million (FY2019 enacted). Congressional language directed that the increase be share equally between the Councils and Commissions; NMFS provided half the increase to the 8 Councils and half to the 4 Commissions. In the annual Council funding table, the Regional Council PPA increased from \$24,462 million to \$26,612 million. The Management, Programs and Services add on monies remained the same except that the \$1 million provided for deregulation/regulatory reform in FY2018 was not continued in FY2019. In the President's FY2020 budget, the NOAA Fisheries budget is reduced by \$182 million, however, the amount for Regional Councils was increased by \$1.198 million. This increase is meant to address deregulation and regulatory efficiency. There continues to be a large variance between proposed and enacted budgets while rising costs of doing business and increasing demands make for continued budget and policy uncertainty. The agency is addressing this through strategic alignment and program prioritization, optimizing use of base resources over time, leveraging organizational diversity and adaptability, exploring partnership opportunities, and stakeholder engagement.

A question was asked about why the \$1 million for deregulation/regulatory reform was not continued in 2019 since the NMFS budget did not decrease. Chris responded that the increase in the base PPA funding line item for the Councils was in part targeted for deregulation/regulatory reform. In addition, in the President's FY2019 budget, the Councils base PPA line item was increased to address deregulations/regulatory reform on an ongoing basis. The Councils are continuing to receive monies for deregulation/regulatory reform, just in different categories.

Concern was expressed about mixed messages in the President's FY2020 budget (e.g., reductions for surveys, fisheries management, etc.) and how some of the proposed reductions would make it difficult to achieve the objective of increasing domestic seafood production.

### **Shifting Distribution & Changing Productivity**

Dr. Cisco Werner (Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor) and Melissa Karp (Science and Technology) discussed shifting distributions and changing productivity with an emphasis on a framework for action.

At the March 2019 South Atlantic Council meeting, the three east coast Councils discussed this topic: NEFMC views were expressed by Dr. John Quinn (Chair), Terry Stockwell (Vice-Chair), and Tom Nies (Executive Director); MAFMC views by Mike Luisi (Chair), Warren Elliott (Vice-Chair), and Chris Moore (ED); ASMFC views by Bob Beal (ED); and SAFMC views by Jessica McCawley (Chair). There was a general discussion about the need for research/data systems to be ready to pick up new species and the need for a governance system that preserves each group's authority.

There was agreement to move forward with the following two groups/activities:

1. Science/Data – the Northeast and Southeast Fisheries Science Centers are leading this effort and a workshop is currently being scheduled. The Councils want to be involved in the workshop/discussions, in part to ensure ongoing fishery independent data collection programs continue (e.g., SEAMAP, NEAMAP, SEFIS, and State programs). The South Atlantic Council's



Citizen Science Program is exploring a mechanism for the public to act as an early warning system to report when new species show up in an area.

2. Governance – the CCC members of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic Councils and the ASMFC Executive Director will work to develop a way to manage these species that clearly identifies each group's roles/responsibility without any group losing any authority. This group should meet more frequently as needed via conference calls, webinars, and additional in-person meetings in conjunction with other meetings of the partners (e.g., NRCC meetings). The CCC/ASMFC group will designate staff from their respective organizations to evaluate the different approaches.

A question was asked about the planned workshop organized by the NEFSC and SEFSC. This is planned for the summer.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:

- Present to ASMFC – they are also dealing with this topic
- Need to coordinate on data collection in addition to research and survey efforts across adjacent jurisdictions

**Voting Recusal and Financial Disclosure - Proposed Rule**

Adam Issenberg (NOAA GC) reminded the CCC of the proposed rule to change regulations that address disclosure of financial interests by voting members of the US regional fishery management councils. The proposed rule has addressed many of the issues raised in prior CCC discussions, including a definition of “close causal link” and amending the regulations regarding the attribution principles when calculating if a voting member has a significant financial interest in a fishery. The rule draws a distinction between direct ownership and indirect ownership (i.e., a subsidiary), and that these two types of ownership should be treated differently. As proposed, a designated official will fully attribute ALL covered activity if the affected individual is employed by, or owns 50% or more of a company, because this ownership would be considered a controlling interest in the company. For ownership less than 50%, NMFS proposes to attribute the proportional level of interest to the owner.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified: NOAA GC Adam Issenberg clarified that they would not be able to answer questions or provide feedback on the proposed rule, other than noting that they received comments from three Councils and one member of the public. Consequently, the CCC members were only able to make statements about the proposed rule. Members expressed that they were eagerly awaiting NMFS response to comments regarding the inconsistency in the rule with respect to full attribution for company employees, but no attribution for consultants, paid industry representatives, or a director of an association or organization that have been explicitly formed to influence council decisions and whose director's annual compensation may be directly related to council decisions. In addition, the proposed rule assumption for direct ownership of 50% or more of a company having a controlling interest was questioned, given family ownership and the reality of controlling interest of minority owners who may own actually the quota that is fished by that company.

### **SOPPs - Timing of Review**

Alan Risenhoover (Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries) and Brian Fredieu (Fishery Management Council Liaison, NMFS) stated that the agency wants to fix the review process so that SOPPs are reviewed in a timely manner. They are open to input on how the Councils want to move forward.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified: After discussion of this issue, it was agreed that:

- NMFS will review the Procedure Directive for the reviewing and approving the council SOPPs to streamline the process.
- It was also agreed that the present system used to amend the SOPPs will continue as is. Councils will have the flexibility of having a handbook for administrative purposes or just keep and use the language in their SOPPs for all administrative matters, as in the MAFMC.

### **BSIA Guidance**

Dr. Cisco Werner (Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor) and Stephanie Hunt (Branch Chief, Policy and Guidance, NMFS) stated the agency reviewed the BSIA procedural directive that complements the NS2 guidelines. The goal of this directive is to increase clarity and transparency regarding BSIA and stock status determinations. NOAA Fisheries approves and makes a determination of BSIA in a decision memo. The agency recognizes that this general framework may not reflect regional Council differences and suggests that each region should develop a BSIA Framework tailored to its specific needs.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:

- a. Develop a regional BSIA Framework in the next 3-years in coordination with regional office(s), science center(s), and Council(s).
- b. Regions should determine if a single framework can be developed for the region or if each Council will develop a standalone BSIA Framework.
- c. Councils/regions should identify the lead for development of the BSIA Framework.

### **Consultation with FMC on Developing US Positions: Law of the Sea**

Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, gave an overview. In 2015, the UN General Assembly agreed to develop an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Negotiations are underway to develop a new legally binding convention for the “conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction” (BBNJ). There are four main themes of the new convention: 1) marine genetic resources, 2) “area-based management tools” including marine protected areas (MPAs), 3) environmental impact assessments, and 4) capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. Recommendations, proposals, and criteria for selecting marine protected areas in the open ocean

are synonymous with overtures from environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS , i.e. Pew, Greenpeace) encouraging the utilization of high seas closures through international efforts. Proposed criteria for selecting MPAs on the high seas disproportionately impact waters adjacent to US exclusive economic zones (EEZs). Developments in BBNJ may allow ENGOS an instrument to influence or develop international fisheries policies on the high seas that would otherwise not be tenable under regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) purview. Negotiations on BBNJ have included discussion on how existing legal instruments should not be undermined. However, the legal instrument for which BBNJ is under may supersede RFMO management authority. The US Department of State is leading negotiations at the UN on behalf of US interests, including international fisheries. The UN Committee on Fisheries has affirmed that it is the foremost forum for which debate and discussion on proposed actions regarding BBNJ should take place.

The CCC should have significant concerns with the development of the convention such that high seas closures could be imposed, override existing RFMO authority, and unfairly impact US fisheries under FMC management.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:
  - a. The CCC should make recommendations regarding BBNJ and develop proactive positions pertaining to similar conventions, should they be introduced in the future.
  - b. The CCC should recommend US State Department to consult with FMCs on a regular basis during the negotiation of the new BBNJ convention. **See Motion #6.**

### **DAY 3**

#### **Continued Council Member/Staff/NMFS Staff Development**

Tom Nies (Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council) presented the following information. Fisheries management is increasingly complex. Managers are faced with rapidly changing challenges (e.g. environmental change, shifting species distributions, aquaculture development, offshore energy development, etc.). Scientific advances are changing the tools that are used (e.g. management strategy evaluation, state-based assessment models, ecosystem based modelling approaches, etc.). Appointed Council members come from a broad range of experience and education and serve for three to nine years. Over that time span the issues before a Council can change dramatically. The only formal training Council members receive is an initial three-day orientation course sponsored by NMFS that is required upon initial appointment. With the exception of occasional presentations at Council meetings, there aren't any organized opportunities for Council members to improve their understanding of fisheries science and management after these initial introductions. The Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum (the Forum) provided opportunities for the professional development of Council members and staff, and the sharing of common experiences, for a ten year period (2008-2018), but has disbanded.

The CCC discussed whether a continued training program, similar to that offered by the Fisheries Forum, would be useful. There was agreement that the benefits to the Councils and NMFS justified committing to development of a program. NMFS was asked to consider financial support to the effort, but the Councils should expect their costs could be on the order of \$25K. The meetings are likely to be held every other year, alternating with the SCS meetings. NMFS did not commit to financial support but did indicate the agency would consider it and would consider participating in the planning effort.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified: The CCC formed a temporary workgroup which will prepare a Regional Management Forum proposal to be held in 2021 (**See Motions #7 & 9**). Their report will be presented for review and approval at the November 2019 CCC meeting. Bill Tweit agreed to chair the work group.

### **CCC Committees/Work Groups**

- Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS) – Chuck Tracy (Executive Director, PFMC) reviewed the report from the last SCS meeting hosted by the PFMC. John Carmichael (Deputy Executive Director, SAFMC) elaborated on some of the topics and recommendations from the meeting. John also mentioned that the next meeting will be hosted by the NPFMC in the summer of 2020, hopefully in Alaska. The three main areas are incorporating ecosystem indicators into the stock assessment process, managing interacting species in EBFM, and then how do you assess and manage species exhibiting distributional changes.
- Habitat Work Group – Roger Pugliese (SAFMC Senior Scientist) reviewed plans for the upcoming workshop on EFH consultation and regional innovations. The workshop will be held in Portland, Oregon, this August 20<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>. Attendance is focused on Council/NMFS staff and ways to improve the EFH consultation process.
- Legislative Work Group – David Witherell (Executive Director, NPFMC) and Gregg Waugh (Executive Director, SAFMC) reviewed the proposed changes to the Aquaculture Consensus Statement. **See Motion #8.**
- Council Communications Group – Kim Iverson (SAFMC Public Information Officer) reviewed the report from their last meeting in Sitka, Alaska, where they focused on communication and technology, promoting a regional Council system (e.g., fisheriescouncils.org), social media tools, the importance of individual communications with reporters and developing a strong working relationship with news media contacts, how advisory panels vary by Council, educational opportunities (e.g., MREP), and publications and outreach. The Communications Group and the CCC provided comments to NMFS on their website from our last May CCC meeting. NMFS continues to work on revisions and will give a report at the November CCC meeting.
- Re-establish the Electronic Monitoring Workgroup – Chuck Tracy (Executive Director, PFMC) raised the issue of re-establishing this committee to address some of the issues discussed earlier. **See Motions #10 & 11.**

### **Report on COFI**

Bill Tweit (Vice Chair, NPFMC) reported on his attendance as par of the U.S. delegation to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Fisheries. The meeting was held in Rome last July at the FAO Headquarters. 114 countries formally participated in the meeting, and so there were over 750 delegates and a fair number of observers, observers coming from fishing organizations, but also environmental groups and others, and so he was a formal member of the U.S. delegation, on behalf of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, and the delegation was led by the Department of State, and Deidre Warner-Kramer was our lead. Bill reviewed the topics covered and felt that there is a role for the Councils to take in providing input to the delegation.

1. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified – Bill strongly suggested that the CCC have an agenda item prior to COFI 34, which will be in the summer of 2020, and so actually, probably this fall's CCC meeting, to designate a representative on behalf of the regional fishery management councils and begin to provide some guidance to them.

### **Other Business**

1. CCC Meeting Schedule – Gregg Waugh (Executive Director, SAFMC) stated that the EDs met back in November, and talked about how the fall meeting moved into the winter, due to budget issues, and the result is the February and May dates are too close together, and then you've got a big gap, and so the EDs talked about moving it back to where it was originally, where there was a meeting in the fall and then one in the spring. The proposal is to change the meeting dates to the fall and spring (**See Motion #12**). The 2020 meeting dates are:
  - May 26-29, 2020 – WPFMC Host; May 2th is a travel day
  - September 22-25, 2020 – WPFMC/NMFS Host in DC area

### **Actions, Wrap Up & Next Meeting**

1. Gregg Waugh (Executive Director, SAFMC) briefly reviewed the approved motions.
2. A CCC Meeting report will be available shortly after the meeting and will include the motions from the meeting.
3. November 5-7 CCC meeting; November 3&4 travel days – the meeting will be at the Omni Shoreham, Washington, DC. Gregg reviewed a draft list of topics and the CCC added some topics. The revised list is included as **Attachment 3**.

**MOTIONS APPROVED AT THE MAY 14-16, 2019**  
**CCC MEETING IN CHARLESTON, SC**

**MOTION #1:** I MOVE THAT THE CCC SEND A LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN YOUNG THANKING HIM FOR HIS LONG SERVICE, HIS ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE ORIGINAL MSA AND HIS CONTINUED INTEREST IN IMPROVING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE US.  
APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #2:** ESTABLISH 2 YEAR TERMS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE WORK GROUP CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR. THE VICE CHAIR MOVES UP TO CHAIR AND A NEW VICE CHAIR IS ELECTED BY THE CCC.  
APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #3:** ELECT TOM NIES AS LEGISLATIVE WORK GROUP VICE CHAIR.  
APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #4:** ADD THE PROJECTED TEXT TO TOPIC 1 (STOCK REBUILDING)  
APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

*Under the rebuilding requirements currently in the Act, Councils determine the rebuilding schedule based on scientific information supplied by NMFS. Rebuilding timeframes balance the biology of the fish and the economic needs of those involved in the fishery to rebuild the fishery within the time limits allowed in the Act. There is often considerable uncertainty involved in the calculation of the rebuilding timeframe and, with changing ocean conditions occurring in some regions, rebuilding success can be even more uncertain. That is why the Act already requires that Councils assess rebuilding progress at regular intervals.*

*Requiring that a rebuilding plan meet an arbitrary goal (75 percent probability of success) if a rebuilding plan is not meeting the expected progress by the first assessment would almost certainly result in significant adverse impacts to fishermen and fishing communities. The experience of several Councils shows that this requirement could lead to closing fisheries, with severe impacts on communities. The suggested language would take away the flexibility that Councils currently have in balancing the need to rebuild overfished fisheries with the need to minimize the economic effects on fishing communities.*

*Often, changes to an assessment model can lead to an unexpected change in the understanding of stock status. Limiting a Council's ability to adapt to these changes because of a mandatory requirement would limit a Council's ability to modify the rebuilding program in light of the new information. As a result, fishermen and their communities would be penalized for improvements in science.*

**MOTION #5:** ADD THE PROJECTED TEXT TO THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF TOPIC 14 (STOCK ASSESSMENT AND SURVEY DATA) WITH THE FOLLOWING EDIT:

Should Congress insist on completion of these surveys, substantial increases in funding **should be provided** to NOAA Fisheries for this work

To....substantial increases in funding **MAY BE NEEDED** for this work

APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

*.... However, the CCC is concerned that requiring the Secretary to complete a peer-reviewed stock survey and stock assessments for all FMP species within two years is unrealistic.*

*Comprehensive stock surveys have not been done for coral reef and other areas because they would have been prohibitively expensive and would provide little benefit at great expense. While new emerging drone technology may reduce costs of some surveys, the CCC remains concerned about potential redistribution of survey and assessment resources from stocks with high commercial and recreational interest to those of lower concern. Should Congress insist on completion of these surveys, substantial increases in funding should be provided to NOAA Fisheries for this work.*

**MOTION #6:** The CCC should recommend US State Department to consult with FMCs on a regular basis during the negotiation of the new BBNJ convention. The CCC should request the State Department (and NMFS) to provide a briefing at the November 2019 CCC meeting on the reason for this initiative, the US position, Convention timing, etc.

APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #7:** The CCC establishes a temporary working group to develop a proposal for a Regional Fishery Management Forum. The CCC will review and consider approving the proposal at its November 2019 meeting.

APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #8:** REVISE TOPIC 19 (AQUACULTURE) CONSENSUS STATEMENT TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The CCC believes that Regional Fishery Management Councils have existing authority under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) to develop fishery management plans for aquaculture/mariculture, which is consistent with NMFS' longstanding interpretation. This authority allows the Councils to address in a public and transparent manner, major topics like permitting process and duration, approval of systems and siting, species that may be cultured, and record keeping and reporting. However, conflicting court decisions have caused confusion and specific mention of aquaculture/mariculture in the MSA would affirm the Councils' authority to manage such activities that impact existing fishery management plans.

APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #9:** APPOINT BILL TWEIT THE CHAIR OF THE REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT FORUM WORKGROUP

APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #10:** CCC TO REESTABLISH ELECTRONIC MONITORING WORKGROUP TO CONTINUE TO EXAMINE ELECTRONIC MONITORING ISSUES.  
APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #11:** APPOINT CHUCK TRACY THE CHAIR OF THE ELECTRONIC MONITORING WORKGROUP  
APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

**MOTION #12:** SET THE CCC MEETING SCHEDULE AS MEETING IN THE FALL AND SPRING. FOR 2020 THE DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. May 26-29, 2020. WPFMC host; May 26<sup>th</sup> travel day
  2. September 22-25, 2020. NMFS host in Washington, DC. September 22<sup>nd</sup> travel day.
- APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION



## ATTACHMENT 1

### Input from Executive Director's on Topics at May 14-16, 2019 CCC Meeting Charleston, SC

**Purpose:** Have one Executive Director identified for each agenda item to stimulate discussion. Each ED would provide a short paragraph, with any action items and/or follow-up identified, to be included in a Wrap Up list that we will go over briefly before we adjourn on Thursday.

#### DAY 1

NMFS Update & FY19 Priorities	Kitty
Legislative Outlook & MSA Reauthorization	Dave
Legislative Work Group Report	Dave
Aquaculture Updates	Carrie
EBFM Regional Implementation	Chris
Electronic Technology Policies & Implementation Plans	Chuck

#### DAY 2

Unique Trip Identifier	Chris
Net Gains Alliance Update	Chuck
BSIA Guidance	Carrie
NOAA Strategic Plan - Development of Geographic Plans	Miguel
Management and Budget Update	Gregg
Shifting Distribution & Changing Productivity	Gregg
Voting Recusal and Financial Disclosure - Proposed Rule	Dave
SOPPs - Timing of Review	Miguel
Implementing NS1/Update - Technical Guidance	Tom
Consultation with FMC on Developing US Positions: Law of the Sea	Kitty

#### DAY 3

Continued Council Member/Staff/NMFS Staff Development	Tom
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#### Format for short paragraph:

1. Topic and presenter
2. Brief statement of major points addressed, and any big issues discussed
3. Action Items and or Follow-Up Identified:
  - a. Item #1.
  - b. Item #2.

**ATTACHMENT 2. CCC AGENDA**

**FINAL AGENDA**

**COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Francis Marion Hotel  
387 King Street  
Charleston, SC 29403  
May 14-16, 2019**

**Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion Item</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter(s)</u></b>
1:30 – 1:50	Welcome/Introductions	Jessica McCawley Chris Oliver
1:50 – 2:10	NMFS Update & FY19 Priorities	Chris Oliver
2:10 – 3:10	Legislative Outlook & MSA Reauthorization	David Whaley
	Legislative Work Group Report	David Witherell
3:10 – 3:30	<b>Break</b>	
3:30 – 4:10	Aquaculture Updates	Sam Rauch Paul Doremus Michael Rubino
4:10 – 4:30	EBFM Regional Implementation	Sam Rauch
4:30 – 5:15	Electronic Technology Policies & Implementation Plans	Brett Alger
5:15	<b>Adjourn for the day</b>	

**Dinner on your own**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion Item</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter(s)</u></b>
8:30 – 9:15	South Atlantic Council Activities Fish Rules, MyFishCount, Charter Logbook, Citizen Science, Habitat/Ecosystem Web Services, Best Fishing Practices, Student Research & Evaluation of Managed Areas (short presentations with opportunity to discuss outside meeting room during breaks all day)	Council Staff
9:15 – 10:00	Unique Trip Identifier	Mike Cahall, ACCSP
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 – 10:45	Net Gains Alliance/Update	Dorothy Lowman George LaPointe
10:45 – 11:05	Implementing NS1/Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Guidance</li> </ul>	Alan Risenhoover Stephanie Hunt
11:05 – 11:40	NOAA Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Geographic Plans</li> </ul>	Paul Doremus
11:40 – 1:30	<b>Lunch on your own</b>	
1:30 – 2:30	Management and Budget Update	Paul Doremus
2:30 – 3:00	Shifting Distributions & Changing Productivity Technical Memo	Cisco Werner Melissa Karp
3:00 – 3:30	Voting Recusal and Financial Disclosure Proposed Rule	Adam Issenberg
3:30 – 3:45	<b>Break</b>	
3:45 – 4:05	SOPPs – Timing of Review	Alan Risenhoover
4:05 – 5:00	BSIA Guidance	Cisco Werner Stephanie Hunt
5:00 – 5:30	Consultation with FMC on Developing US Positions: UN Convention on Law of the Sea	Kitty Simonds
5:30	<b>Adjourn for the day</b>	
	<b>Dinner on your own</b>	

**Thursday, May 16, 2019**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion Item</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter(s)</u></b>
8:30 – 9:15	Continued Council Member/Staff/NMFS Staff Development	Tom Nies & CCC NMFS
9:15 – 10:00	CCC Committees/Work Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS)</li> <li>• Habitat Work Group</li> <li>• Legislative Work Group</li> <li>• Council Communications Group</li> </ul>	John Carmichael Roger Pugliese David Witherell Kim Iverson
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 – 10:35	Report on COFI 33	Bill Tweit
10:35 – 11:05	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC Proposed 2020 Schedule/Kitty Simonds May 26-29, 2020 – WPFMC Host; May 26th travel day September 22-25, 2020 – WPFMC/NMFS Host in DC</li> </ul>	Jessica McCawley
11:05 – 12:00	Actions, Wrap Up and Next Meeting CCC November 5-7, 2019/Washington, DC	Jessica McCawley
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>	

**ATTACHMENT 3.**

**COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Omni Shoreham  
2500 Calvert Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC  
November 5-7, 2019

November 3 & 4 - travel days

**Draft Topics:**

1. NMFS Update & FY 20 Priorities
2. Public Comment
3. Legislative Outlook & MSA Reauthorization
4. Update on NS1 Technical Guidance Workshops
5. Response on Council Research Priorities
6. Policy Document System – website and spreadsheet for Council use to know what policies are open for comment/what actions are needed
7. Legislative Work Group Report
8. CCC input for COFI 34
9. BBNJ
10. SOPPS Update
11. NOAA Geographic Strategic Plan
12. Management and Budget Update
13. CCC Committees/Work Groups
14. Other Business
15. Actions, Wrap Up and Next Meeting