

# Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)

## Draft Terms of Reference, 5/12/20

Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD) meetings will be organized and planned by the Council Coordination Committee. These meetings will foster the professionalism and expertise of Council member and staff in the federal fishery management process. They are not decision-making meetings, and there will not be any policy decisions or recommendations made by attendees. The meetings will be designed to accomplish the following:

1. Provide a policy-neutral setting that will promote the exchange of information on management challenges and accomplishments by attendees from the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils and National Marine Fisheries Service personnel.
2. Educate attendees on developing fisheries science and management issues. Each meeting will typically focus on a small number of such issues so that attendees can thoroughly explore and discuss topics in detail.
3. Improve skills identified as important for effective decision-making in the public policy arena used by Fishery Management Councils.

### Operational Guidelines

- The first meetings will be held in 2021; subsequent meetings will be held no more frequently than every other year.
- Attendees will be limited to 42; four from each Council, one from each NMFS region, and five other NMFS employees.
- The meetings will be held in central locations to equalize travel burdens among Councils to the extent practicable. Each Council will pay travel and per diem for their own attendees.
- The meetings will be facilitated by an outside contractor, to be managed by a lead Council on a rotational basis. The contractor shall plan, organize, and run the training workshop based on guidance received from the lead Council. The contractor will provide a written summary of the meeting to the lead Council within 45 days of the meeting's conclusion.
- The CCC, or at its direction the CMOD steering committee, will assist the lead Council in selecting topics and providing advice, but the contractor will work directly only with the lead Council. The CCC will coordinate the dates for the meeting, while the lead Council will arrange and contract with a venue.
- Cost for the contractor and meeting facilities will be shared between NMFS (50%) and the Councils (6.25% each). For the 2021 meeting, NMFS' shared cost will be \$55,000.
- The CMOD program will be reviewed by the CCC after the first two meetings to determine the effectiveness of the program, if the costs are reasonable and sustainable, if these TOR need to be revised, and if the program should continue. The review committee should be (largely) independent of the CMOD steering committee.

Further context and description of CMOD meetings is outlined in the [CMOD proposal](#) discussed by the CCC in November 2019.