



**Council Coordination Committee Meeting
Final Recommendations**

**May 27 and 28, 2020
Hosted by the
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council
Web-Conference**

The 2020 annual Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting, hosted by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, was held on May 27-28, 2020 via web conference. Below are the final recommendations as approved by the CCC.

Regarding the CARES Act

The CCC recommends that if additional funds are provided to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the fishing industry (commercial, for-hire, recreational, subsistence, or traditional), distribution of those funds should take into account the use of other relief programs. Some entities may have additional opportunities to access programs through the Small Business Administration, US Department of Agriculture, Paycheck Protection Program, etc. As a general principle, entities that receive support from other programs should be given lower priority than those that do not. The funding allocations should consider lost revenue during the actual period of loss and the loss should be directly related to COVID-19.

Regarding EO 13921 on Promoting Seafood

The CCC expresses its appreciation to Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries Chris Oliver for his unwavering support of fishing related industries and his efforts to work with the President and his administration on Executive Order 13921 Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth. The purpose of which is to strengthen the American economy, improve the competitiveness of American industry, ensure food security, provide environmentally safe and sustainable seafood, remove unnecessary regulatory burdens, and establish an Interagency Seafood Trade Task Force. Each Council will be developing responses to the EO in the coming months.

In response to Chris Oliver's May 19, 2020, letter sent to the Councils on behalf of Secretary Ross, the CCC reiterates the statements and recommendations it has made in its May 16, 2017, letter to Commerce Secretary Ross and Interior Secretary Zinke; its June 27, 2016, letter to President Obama; and its May 24-26, 2017, Outcomes Statement and Recommendations regarding Marine National Monuments. The CCC agrees to expeditiously submit these by letter to Secretary Ross in advance of individual Council recommendations.

Regarding the Status of Policy Directives and Prioritization Development

The CCC requests NMFS continue to develop and implement a mechanism for notifying and tracking the development of all Policy Directives, Procedural Directives, and associated Supplements (such as regional implementation plans).

Regarding NS1 Technical Guidance Workgroups

The CCC is concerned that a Tech Memo addressing data gaps and alternative management may not provide adequate guidance to resolve conflicts that arise between scientific advice and constraints imposed by current laws and policies. The CCC is also concerned that the guidance may not adequately address the need for status determination criteria for model-resistant stocks.

Regarding NMFS Guidance on Changing Stock Status from Known to Unknown

The CCC welcomes the opportunity to review and comment on the draft “Procedural Guidance for Changing Assessed Stock Status from Known to Unknown.”

Regarding Funding for Basic Surveys

The CCC requests NMFS to provide more information on plans and strategies on how NMFS will deal with the delays in the NOAA ship and chartered surveys and on any alternative use of unused funding from FY2020.

Regarding Fishery Management and Services PPA

The CCC recommends NMFS support use of one PPA with three activities for the Councils: 1) Stock Assessment Support (SAS) (former “Expand Annual Stock Assessments”); 2) Peer Review Support (PRS) (former “Council Peer Review”); and 3) Council Management Programs. In addition, the 2019 values for (SAS) and (PRS) should not change, but with one exception. The SAS and PRS should be allocated at the 2019 dollar values with the remainder of PPA allocated using the established Council formula. This approach should be revisited if total PPA declines by more than 10% from the 2019 total amount (i.e., less than ~\$28. million).

Regarding the Report on Legislative Outlook and MSA Authorization

The CCC requests NOAA provide statutory assistance for clarifying aquaculture authorities.

Regarding the Legislative Work Group Report

The CCC approves the CCC Working Paper as revised including a stand-alone Executive Summary, reformatting of the issues into three major topic categories, updates to the Council comment letters section, addition of the dates when the CCC consensus is approved and perspectives modified, and inclusion of a new issue “Timing for FMP Revisions” and its associated consensus statement.

Regarding CCC Work Groups

a. Habitat

The CCC approves the habitat partner engagement letter and approves sending the letter. The CCC further approves conducting the Fisheries Science Center Engagement Webinar.

b. Council Member Ongoing Development

The CCC approves the Terms of Reference and approves the topics for the 2021 CMOD training as proposed by the steering committee.

Regarding Administrative Matters

a. Update on Voting Recusals

The CCC requests that NOAA GC Regional Offices brief councils on details of the final rule on voting recusals.

b. Freedom of Information Act

The CCC requests that NOAA GC provide guidance on how costs are estimated for FOIA requests, as well as a point of contact for follow-up questions.

Regarding Other Business

The CCC agrees to continue holding monthly calls with NMFS.