

Successor to Fisheries Forum?

What benefits did Fisheries Forum convey?

- Cross-regional exchange - Councils/fishery management is a small community, opportunity to connect with others in same situation
- Opportunity to dialogue in a neutral environment – can discuss issues in general without needing to take sides/represent constituencies
- Training, professional development on current fisheries topics (management, science, and law)
- Opportunity for strategic thinking, exploring emerging issues
- Opportunity to understand national context – especially how NMFS' perspective on regional issues may be based on circumstances occurring in other regions
- Networking/building connections in an informal, intimate setting - opportunities for establishing relationships both in and outside of the meeting (e.g., organized breakfasts, dinners); in a manner not afforded by large national meetings (e.g. Managing our Nation's Fisheries)
- Many of these benefits are available to Council Chairs/Vice-Chairs from attending CCC meetings; this extends the opportunity to other Council members

How might we continue those benefits?

Councils as a group

- Add Fisheries Forum website link to RFMC website (or host it if necessary)
- Continue to sponsor periodic forums
 - Organize through CCC? (National SSC meeting as model re choosing forum topics)
 - Rotate planning among Councils
 - Annual would be great, but every other year perhaps more feasible
- Consider organizing virtual webinars for interim years
 - Select cutting edge topics
 - Consider virtual conference technology – virtual breakout rooms
- Evaluate cross-staff as well as cross-Council member opportunities
 - Or regional variants: MidAtlantic with New England; Gulf of Mexico with South Atlantic; North Pacific with Pacific
- Produce cross-Council report on mutual issue(s)
 - Eg review of Councils since implementation of MSA Reauthorization (in the style of the Managing our Nation's Fisheries proceedings)
 - Write a grant to hire someone to organize/write
 - Opportunity for networking across regions to develop report

NMFS

- Consider setting up an ongoing training/professional development meeting for Council members rather than only for new Council members
 - Topics could include refreshers on Roberts rules of order, how to run a meeting, as well as timely national topics such as EBFM, allocation, etc.
- Invite former Council members to new Council member training to act as mentors

Individual Councils

- For those who have attended fishery forums, maintain your own personal network
- Institute formal mentorship program for new members?
- Send Council members to other Council meetings
 - Send in pairs to increase dialogue and discussion; perhaps pair Council member and staff person for both perspectives?
- Develop a roster of Fisheries Forum 'graduates' – foster a network of Council experts

Notes from Fisheries Forum – October 2018: Learning, Evaluating, Planning

Improve transparency regarding how Council process operates re setting the agenda, tasking

- Explain to public what the process is for new tasks
 - How to get the Council to take up a new project
 - How the Council prioritizes existing tasks
- Publish list of standard agenda items by meeting, and tracking of periodic items (program/ allocation/ management measure reviews, etc.)
- Reorganize 3 meeting outlook by fishery/topic
 - Can see at a glance where Council's focus is
 - Color coded?
- Council member individual survey prior to staff tasking, to set priorities for all tasks; staff show aggregate results during staff tasking
 - Used by SAFMC
 - Has benefit of allowing each Council member opportunity to provide 'anonymous' input on real priorities, and to identify what are key priorities across all (voting?) members
- Consider developing annual list of what the Council has accomplished
 - Gfish objectives annual review already serves this purpose for gfish; extend to other fisheries
 - Opportunity to prioritize tasking for upcoming year?
- Website
- Updated Navigating the Council Process
- Website
- Staff tasking
- Newsletter
- Staff tasking prioritization
- Annual agenda item

Improve transparency regarding how is Council guided in decision-making

- Develop a strategic plan or mission statement
 - Used by MAFMC: 11 page document
 - Identifies Council's core values to public (start with MAFMC's?)
 - Opportunity to state to public that groundfish (PSEIS) goals/management approach are applied by Council in all actions? (esp halibut, for which we have no goals/objectives)
- If no strategic plan, then amalgamate Council goals and objectives in one place
 - Include FMP goals, policy statements external to FMPs (e.g. enforcement, ecosystem), and as appropriate, action-specific statements of policy from problem statements

Other ideas

- Develop a Council history page on the website
 - Pull the MSA booklet stories onto our website in a section labeled Council oral history
 - Graph of NPFMC history – as discussed at meeting:
 - 4 periods: entrepreneurial (race to domesticate); overcapitalization; restructuring (LLP, rationalization programs – big fisheries); refocus on small fisheries and communities, and industry self-governance through cooperatives/SeaState programs (current)
 - EAFM in earlier time periods coming up to EBFM now
 - Change in Council makeup from big company reps to smaller fishery reps
- Explore use of story maps – SAFMC doing so in addition to the newsletter
 - Look at opportunities for following the arc of an issue across Council meetings?
- Look for opportunities to meet up with the PFMC – staff level, possibly Council
 - Eg climate change is good topic that is similar for us both? Committee?

Onboarding ideas for new Council members

- Many (most?) Councils invite new Council members to the Council office for an orientation with all Council staff. Opportunity to highlight:
 - who works on what
 - what are key topics Council is currently dealing with
 - logistical issues with travel, salary, etc.
 - Council policies, etc.
- One-time invitation to the Chair's briefing on Council topics
- Develop series of FAQs, online webinars, or 101 science classes
 - E.g. Stock assessment process, EFH, allocation
- Guidance on how to write motions, Roberts rules
- Assign mentors for new members
 - Informally accomplished through placement of person around the Council table
 - Could also formally pair new member with former Council member
- Make sure these ideas are applied not only to new appointed members, but also State designees and alternates
- Additions to new members packet
 - Handout on the gfish PSEIS, and groundfish goals and objectives (statement that applies generally to Council management)
 - Other management policies (ecosystem, enforcement, etc.)
 - Graph of Council history? Adapt from brochures...

Miscellaneous reflections

- Periodic reviews are more effective than annual reviews.
 - Eg, fatigue issue with annual PSEIS/gfish mgmt. objectives review
- PFMC gfish program review. Was organized to address checklist provided for such reviews. They also did a survey of how people thought program was working.
 - Perhaps would have been more effective to organize the review around the sociological information, and line the data up to support/refute the way people thought program was working – make it more relevant?
 - Other valuable part of program review: documenting how things developed, and rationale for choices made
- Brian Friedieu gave talk to SF about difference between managing and leading – follow up?
- Peter deFur talked about difference between evaluation (based on metrics) and review (reflection on how things went)

Message to CCC

- Persuasive reasoning of value of opportunities that have heretofore been supplied by Fisheries Forum
 - High value for low cost
- There is precedent for CCC to employ people w specialized skills (Dave Whaley) – facilitators to help organize such activities around the Councils