



D1 Community Engagement Committee Report

February 2021 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Steve MacLean
Action Required: 1. Review Final Committee Report
2. Action as appropriate

BACKGROUND

The Community Engagement Committee was authorized and formed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in June 2018 to identify and recommend strategies for the Council to provide effective community engagement with rural and Alaska Native communities. The committee was formed after review of a discussion paper requested by the Council in April 2018 that presented an assessment of ideas for improving engagement by rural and Alaska Native communities in the Council process. The discussion paper had been tasked by the Council after they heard requests to either reconstitute the Council's Rural Outreach Community or develop a new ad-hoc committee to consider community engagement strategies.

Committee meetings

The committee met five times in 2019 to develop recommendations for the Council, until the COVID-19 pandemic forced the committee to stand down. The intention was for the committee to meet again in person to finalize recommendations for the Council, but the ongoing pandemic necessitated a virtual meeting to complete the committee's business.

Committee Recommendations

The recommendations from the committee are identified here, numbered as in the Final Report. Rationale and other discussion are included in the final report.

- 3.1 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council add a full-time Tribal and Rural Community Liaison position to Council staff.
- 3.2 Recommendation: The committee recommends that all Council members and Council employees should receive cultural awareness training, and further recommends that First Alaskans Institute provide that training. The committee recommends that Council members and Council employees should be prioritized for training, but that AP and SSC members should also receive cultural awareness training, when possible. The committee endorses the list of topics identified in the discussion paper, but also recommends that the Council add additional priorities, as necessary, to meet the Council's needs.
- 3.3 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council formalize a process to solicit presentation and co-presentation from Alaska Native communities, organizations, and co-management bodies on actions that may affect rural and Alaska Native communities.

- 3.4 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council establish a standing Community Engagement or Tribal Advisory Committee that can provide continued recommendations regarding the Council's engagement efforts.
- 3.5 Recommendation: The committee recommends that:
- a. The Council form a working group to address the issue of Tribal Consultation inputs into their process and request that NMFS staff participate in those efforts. This should include recommending a process for ensuring that Tribal Consultation is used to the best, highest, and intended effect and is regularly and meaningfully included in the Council process.
 - b. The Council request that NMFS engage in Tribal Consultation on issues related to the Council in a regular and ongoing fashion.
 - c. Council staff participate in relevant NMFS Tribal Consultation meetings.
- 3.6 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council:
- a. Provide an opportunity during B reports for public comment on any agenda item.
 - b. Allow public comment via teleconference or videoconference.
 - c. Summarize oral public comment in committee meeting minutes.
- 3.7 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council provide scholarships or funding for Tribes to participate in Council meetings.
- 3.8 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council:
- a. Continue holding Council meetings in rural and Alaska Native communities.
 - b. Encourage Council members to visit rural and Alaska Native communities.
- 3.9 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council develop qualitative and quantitative metrics through which the Council can measure the impact of its engagement strategies.
- 3.10 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council continue current outreach practices and improve them to include information delivery and strategies to foster two-way engagement.
- 3.11 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council encourage co-production of knowledge and incorporate LK and TK, and information from Tribal Consultation, and results from outreach and engagement with Alaska Native communities meaningfully in analyses, recommendations, and data so that they are clearly factored into Council recommendations and decision-making.
- 3.12 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council work with NMFS Alaska Region to:
- a. Establish a dedicated Tribal Liaison position at NMFS.
 - b. Recommend that AFSC increase non-economic social science staff, particularly with expertise working with Alaska native communities and their knowledges.
- 3.13 Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Council include indigenous representation from each region (GOA, BS, Arctic) on the AP, and indigenous representation on every Council body (SSC, AP, etc.).