



B1 Executive Director's Report

June 2025

Action Memo

Plan Team Nominations

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center has nominated **Dr. Meaghan Bryan** as a member of the GOA Groundfish Plan Team. Dr. Bryan is a Research Fishery Biologist at NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center in the Status of Stocks and Multispecies Assessment Program. Dr. Bryan has led several age-structured stock assessments for groundfish in the BSAI and GOA. Dr. Bryan holds a PhD in zoology with a focus in quantitative stock assessment modeling from the University of British Columbia.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has nominated **Dr. Caitlin Stern** for appointment to the BSAI Crab Plan Team. Dr. Stern is a Biometrician with ADF&G and is the lead author on the Norton Sound red king crab, St. Matthew Island blue king crab, and Gulf of Alaska demersal shelf rockfish stock assessments. She received her PhD from Cornell University in 2012 in Behavioral Ecology and a B.A. in Biology from Harvard University in 2005.

The SSC will review the nominations and provide a recommendation to the Council.

ODFW Director to Attend

Dr. Debbie Colbert, Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will be attending the Council meeting on Saturday and Sunday and would like a few minutes to address the Council.

Mr. Doug Vincent-Lang, the Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, will also be in attendance.

Oral Histories Project

Our Alaska State Sea Grant fellow, Ms. Alaina Plauche, is working on an oral history project for the Council as we plan to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the North Pacific Council in 2026. She has been interviewing a number of people involved in the Council process, including current and former Council, AP and SSC members, and public about their perspectives on the council process. She has added a video component and intends to compile snippets from interviews into a few shorter videos on emergent themes. In addition, the interviews will be added to NOAA Voices—an oral history archive documenting national projects surrounding fisheries and coastal communities—as well as the UAA/APU Consortium Library Archives. This

project allows us to go beyond written words, connecting the experiences of people and place them in a broader historical context.

Alaina will provide a brief report on her progress. She is working hard to complete the work prior to the end of her fellowship in September.

CCC Meeting

Ms. Drobica, Mr. Tweit, Ms. Evans and I attended the Council Coordination Committee meeting, held in New Bedford, MA on May 13-15. The agenda focused on budget challenges and uncertainties, and aligning Council and NMFS priorities. The agenda, presentations and background materials, and a report of the meeting (when completed), are posted here: <https://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccc-meetings>.

One agenda topic was the new Executive Order “Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness”. Section 4 of EO 14276 specifically provides for input from the Regional Fishery Management Councils:

- (i) The Secretary of Commerce shall request that each Regional Fishery Management Council, within 180 days of the date of this order, provide the Secretary of Commerce with updates to their recommendations submitted pursuant to Executive Order 13921, to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production. Building upon the earlier goals, identified actions should stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures. The Regional Fishery Management Councils will commit to a work plan and a schedule for implementation to ensure these actions are prioritized.

A letter ([attached](#)) from the new NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator Eugenio Pineiro-Soler provides instructions on how the Councils will provide input. For reference, the Councils recommendations on the previous EO 13921 (Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth) can be found [here](#).

Recommendations are due September 1, but NMFS staff indicated that they would still consider council comments through the first few days of October. Thus, the Council may wish to send an initial letter of recommendations by the deadline, and provide any updates as needed during the October Council meeting. The Council may wish to discuss preliminary recommendations at this time or decide on a process to develop these recommendations.

The CCC also received presentations from NMFS staff regarding budgets and future planning. Of particular interest to the Councils was the discussion about moving forward with fewer agency resources and working with the councils to align science and management priorities.

Ms. Diana Evans will provide a short presentation on these issues. Additional information relative to the Executive Order and agency priorities will be provided in the NMFS Management report under B-2.

CMOD Workshop

Our council hosted the second CCC Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD) workshop, held April 30-May 1. A total of 38 participants from across the Councils attended. The theme for this year's workshop was "*Understanding climate-related vulnerabilities, risk, and uncertainties*," successfully tying to the topic of last year's SCS8 meeting. Even though the Council regions are all in different phases of developing and applying risk and uncertainty tools, the workshop identified several commonalities among the regions. High-level discussion themes included science needing to keep pace with the rate of experienced change, and strategies to communicate needs, balance short- and long-term actions, and step back to simpler approaches where appropriate. The workshop also included a skills training focused on science communication, in which participants broke down approaches for how to communicate about risk, uncertainty, and other topics. The Pacific Council is planning to host the next CMOD, at the earliest in 2027, however planning is currently on pause pending resolution of budget uncertainties.

North Pacific Council members who participated in this year's CMOD (Ms. Drobnica, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Tsukada, and Ms. Vanderhoeven) may wish to offer their perspectives, insights, experiences, and lessons learned.

Potential Outreach Opportunity

The Tribal governments of the Yukon-Koyukuk Subregion have extended a formal invitation to the Council to engage in an in-person government-to-government consultation during the summer of 2025, to be held in the community of Galena, Alaska. A resolution unanimously adopted by the Yukon-Koyukuk Subregional Advisory Board on March 6, 2025, formally requesting this consultation, is [attached](#).

While the Council does not have the authority to engage in a government-to-government consultation, this may be a potential outreach opportunity to consider relative to the chum salmon bycatch analysis.

Council Written Comment Policy

At every meeting, staff reports publicly to the Council on any comments removed from the commenting system, and the rationale for removal, so that we can monitor and revise the process as needed to address unanticipated events. The June meeting comment period was open from May 9 to May 30. No submitted comments were removed.

Recent Staff and Council member activities

- Diana Evans participated virtually in an Alaska SeaGrant site review on April 9, presenting about the Alaska Sea Grant fellowship program.
- David Witherell, Nicole Schmidt, and Diana Evans participated in a NOAA grants site visit at the Council offices on April 15-16.
- Anita Kroska presented at the final workshop for the AKSCI Coral and Sponge Initiative on April 29.
- Sara Cleaver and Diana Stram participated in the CMOD workshop on April 30 – May 1.
- Angel Drobnica, Nate Pamplin, Diana Evans, and various AP and SSC members participated in the 2025 MREP workshop in Kodiak, April 28-May 2.
- Several staff participated in a MSC recertification evaluation virtually on April 29.
- Bill Tweit attended the FishSCORE2030 workshop on Approaches to Climate Resilient Marine Fisheries May 6-8. Bill has written the [attached](#) summary of the workshop and may wish to speak to his experience.
- Several staff participated in the citywide cleanup on May 21.
- Rachel Baker and Diana Evans participated in a series of virtual National MREP Steering Committee meetings in late May.

Committee and Plan Team Meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings have occurred since the April meeting:

- A Cook Inlet Salmon Stock Assessment Modeling Workshop was held on May 19-20 to review assessment methods and status determination criteria.
- The Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) met on May 12 to review the annual report and discuss EM approaches for GOA rockfish trawl fisheries.
- The Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Plan Team met virtually on May 12-16, to discuss assessment models in preparation for its September meeting.
- The Pacific Northwest Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) met on May 27 to discuss the BSAI crab arbitration analysis.

Other Meetings or Events this Week

The Council will meet in **executive session** on Friday, June 6 from 1-5 pm, to review the Council's SOPP and discuss other administrative matters. Any proposed revisions to the SOPP will be posted to the E-1 agenda for public comment, and the Council may wish to formally adopt a revised SOPP at this meeting.

The Midwater Trawlers Cooperative is hosting a **pelagic gear demonstration** on Wednesday June 4 from 4-7 pm. A flyer is [attached](#).

The Pacific Northwest fishing industry is hosting a **reception** on June 5 from 5:30-8:30. A flyer is [attached](#).

Crab Research Update

The Council has requested that it receive regular updates on BSAI crab research. The crab research presentation to the Council under this agenda item will include updates on recent and

ongoing research presented by NOAA (Dr. Mike Litzow), ADF&G (Ms. Katie Palof), and BSFRF (Mr. Scott Goodman). The updates will cover three primary areas: 1) ongoing field work and large-scale plans over the next several years, 2) summary of a few key crab publications research topics and 3) additional research that has been prioritized to continue improving crab research and management during the crab crises. A few specifics will cover summaries of seasonal distribution surveys and tagging-movement work, modeling efforts to blend available information to improve spatial-temporal understanding, brief updates on genetic research, AKCRRAB pending research, and how this research fits within overall Council research priorities and overall strategy.