



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

May 6, 2025

Dear Executive Directors,

On April 17, 2025, the President signed [Executive Order 14276 Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness](#). EO 14276 is similar to the previous EO 13921 *Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth*, which the Councils responded to by providing a ‘prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries’ in November 2020. We are requesting information from you to comply with EO 14276.

Section 4(a)(i) of EO 14276 includes the following specific language pertaining to 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.

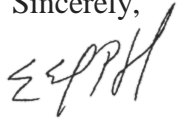
The Office of Sustainable Fisheries (OSF) will be collecting each Councils’ updated recommendations pursuant to Section 4(a)(i). Please use the attached template to submit your recommendations. If needed, OSF is happy to provide each Council a copy of its initial recommendations under EO 13921, upon request. We encourage coordination with your respective NOAA Fisheries Regional Office to align such recommendations and associated actions with other EO implementation efforts (e.g., EO 14192). In order to comply with the 180 day timeline set forth in Section 4(a)(i), the deadline for submitting updated recommendations will be September 1, 2025.

We plan to issue a *Federal Register* notice soliciting public comments responsive to four additional sections of EO 14276 (Section 4(a); 4(a)(ii); 4(a)(iii); and 4(c)) within the next 30 days. While we do not anticipate a protracted comment period, we highly value the input of the Councils and encourage the Councils to comment on the notice to the extent possible within the timeframe. Given our direct engagement with the Councils per Section 4(a)(i), we will provide an update on the public comments NMFS receives to inform our collective efforts to implement the EO.



We will be prepared to provide additional information at the upcoming Council Coordination Committee meeting. If you have any questions on this request, please contact Kelly Denit, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, at (301) 427-8517 or kelly.denit@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Pineiro-Soler', written in a cursive style.

Eugenio Pineiro-Soler
Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries

| Council(s) | Priority Number | Action type (e.g. Changes to Regulations, Orders, Guidance Documents, Other Similar Agency Actions) | Relevant CFR Citation under Title 50 (if applicable) | Updated description of recommended action(s) | Rationale of how the recommended action(s) stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures | Proposed plan and schedule for implementation |
|----------------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Example - XFMC | 1 | Regulation | 50 CFR 622 | This regulation would modify provisions for Fish A vessels transiting through cold weather closed areas with Fish A on board in federal waters. The proposed action would allow trawl doors in the rack (cradle), nets in the rigging and tied down, and trawl net on the deck during transit. Currently, Fish A vessels transiting cold weather closed areas with Fish A on board are required to stow a trawl net with a mesh size of less than 4 inches below deck. Fishermen have requested a change to these transit provisions as vessel design changes have limited access to below deck storage, the need to disassemble the trawl gear prior to stowing nets below deck in rough conditions is a safety at sea concern, and some fishermen have avoided transiting the closed areas entirely. | Because of safety at sea concerns caused by shoals in state waters off State B, federally permitted Fish A vessels from states north of State B that operate off of State B during cold weather closures, but have been unable to store fishing gear according to the current transit regulations, have been forced to land their catch in State B rather than at their homeport. The proposed changes would make it easier for these vessels to comply with the gear stowage requirements and, as a result, more easily return to their homeport with Fish A on board, thus improving access. | Rulemaking requested by X Council at June meeting. Proposed rule anticipated to publish by (timeline if known). |
| Example - XFMC | 2 | Guidance Document | n/a | Revise guidance document to increase process efficiencies. | Removing unnecessary time lags in the process may reduce start up cost for the producers as well as may allow facilities to more easily start production. | Plan to engage in discussion with NMFS on possible revision to timing and text at upcoming Council meeting (month, year if known). |