

# CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June (1/10)

## EO 14276: Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

### Section 3 Policy:

1. To promote the productive harvest of our seafood resources;
2. To unburden our commercial fishermen from costly and inefficient regulation;
3. To combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
4. To protect our seafood markets from the unfair trade practices of foreign nations.

### Section 4: other actions for Sec. of Commerce

- solicit direct public comments for ideas to improve fisheries mgmt./ science within requirements of MSA & other law, and directly support supply chain needs
- Use less expensive tech for stock assessments, expand EFPs, modernize data collection/ analysis
- Develop America First Seafood Strategy
- Assess seafood competitiveness issues / unfair trade practices, incl. IUU fishing and use of forced labor
- Improve the Seafood Import Monitoring Program
- Open marine national monuments to fishing

### RFMC-specific action:

- Section 4a: Secretary of Commerce (SoC) will identify the most heavily overregulated fisheries, and take appropriate action to reduce the regulatory burden on them, in cooperation with RFMCs.
- Request to the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs):
  - provide SoC with updated recommendations from those submitted in 2018 on EO 13921, with intent to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production.
  - identify actions that should: stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures.
  - commit to a work plan and a schedule for implementation to ensure these actions are prioritized.

# CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June (2/10)

## ■ Relevant discussion points at CCC from NMFS:

- EO 14276 recommendations are not just for reducing the burdens on domestic fishing, but also to increase production (different from 2018). Statistic quoted that average US landings were 9.5 billion pounds in the years before 2020, and are 8.5 billion since; administration is looking to increase landings.
  - Will likely need to look to Alaska to achieve that goal
- EO 14192 (unleashing prosperity through deregulation): the majority of fishery actions are considered deregulatory. This EO should not affect most routine fishery management actions, strictly deregulatory actions, or actions in response to statutory requirements. But if the Council pursues discretionary actions that create regulations, that will require higher level of NMFS HQ scrutiny, as the agency figures out how to “pay” for those actions under the 10:1 and annual net deregulatory accounting (which occurs at the DOC, not the NMFS level).
  - Council may want to consider implications for actions currently under consideration
- We may also be able to draw on other EOs in rationale supporting Council actions – eg, administration priority to reduce the cost of living for American citizens (eg actions that reduce cost of fish for consumer) or reduce anti-competitive regulatory barriers (eg actions supporting entrepreneurship)



# CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June (3/10)

## 1. Develop NPFMC recommendations in response to NMFS letter on EO 14276

- **Timing:** NMFS letter requests each RFMC provide recommendations by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline is extended to 9/30, but doesn't cover October meeting. Discussion at CCC indicated that we could augment preliminary recommendations close to the 9/30 final deadline if necessary.
- **Source of recommendations:** Original NPFMC 2018 recommendations prioritized then-ongoing actions, support for removing unnecessary recordkeeping and reporting requirements, and support for incentive-based non-regulatory tools. NMFS has prepared an updated discussion paper (attached under B2) that looks at in-progress Council actions that align with this EO, and other potential ideas. Public comment letters and testimony in June may highlight additional actions.
  - Note that while including actions on the list highlights Council priorities for NMFS, the Council will most likely still have to follow normal rule-making process to make changes (i.e., still require alts and analysis)
- **Proposed NPFMC process:** 1) Compile letter to send after June Council meeting; 2) encourage public also to comment directly to Secretary of Commerce; 3) if necessary, Council could have a follow-up discussion during B reports (Thurs 10/2) at the October Council meeting to add to letter.
  - NMFS FR notice soliciting direct public input will be published soon

## CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June (4/10)

### **2. CCC discussion between RFMCs and NMFS about aligning priorities in face of fewer resources / new administration's priorities**

- Messages:
  - Agency can't continue to do stock assessments for 500 species, needs to reorganize
  - Councils/SSCs need to get comfortable with more risk
  - Proposed evaluation rubric looking at value and risk for each stock
- See slides from NMFS presentations (excerpts follow):  
<https://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccc-meetings/may-2025>



## Alignment With Management

How will NOAA Fisheries Science align with Management to ensure support for statutory requirements (e.g., frequency of assessments, surveys, data collection and warehousing, socioeconomic impact analyses, etc.)?

- Cannot plan for a sustained current science and management of the numerous stocks/stock complexes we have (**need for change**) e.g., simpler approaches
- Changing how we manage our fisheries will have impacts (positive and negative) to our staff, fisheries and fishing communities
- We want to balance national consistency and interoperability with regional flexibility while maintaining accountability
- Science and Management engagement with Councils will be critical to success here
- Changing how we co-develop a new science and management framework will require a balance of requirements, resources, and risk
- Increased uncertainty should (can) not automatically equal decreases in harvest

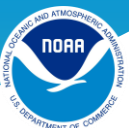
# Assumptions

- We cannot continue to manage the 500+ stocks/stock complexes we have in FMPs
- There will be impacts to our staff, fisheries, and fishing communities to changing how we manage our fisheries
- We want to balance national consistency and interoperability with regional flexibility
- Engagement internally, with Councils and Commissions, and stakeholders will be critical to success
- We are likely going to need to take increased risk and strategically choose where we take that increased risk

# National Standard Guidelines (preamble)

Based on this definition of conservation and management, and other relevant Magnuson provisions, a Council should consider the following non-exhaustive list of factors when deciding whether additional stocks require conservation and management:

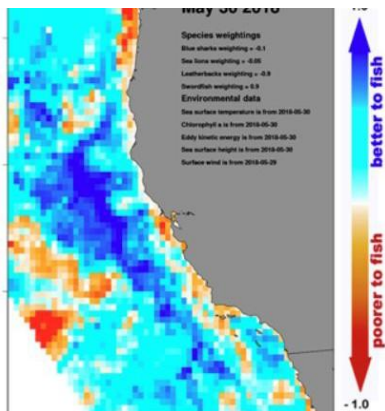
- (i) The stock is an important component of the marine environment.
- (ii) The stock is caught by the fishery.
- (iii) Whether an FMP can improve or maintain the condition of the stock.
- (iv) The stock is a target of a fishery.
- (v) The stock is important to commercial, recreational, or subsistence users.
- (vi) The fishery is important to the Nation or to the regional economy.
- (vii) The need to resolve competing interests and conflicts among user groups and whether an FMP can further that resolution.
- (viii) The economic condition of a fishery and whether an FMP can produce more efficient utilization.
- (ix) The needs of a developing fishery, and whether an FMP can foster orderly growth.
- (x) The extent to which the fishery is already adequately managed by states, by state/Federal programs, or by Federal regulations pursuant to other FMPs or international commissions, or by industry self-regulation, consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law.



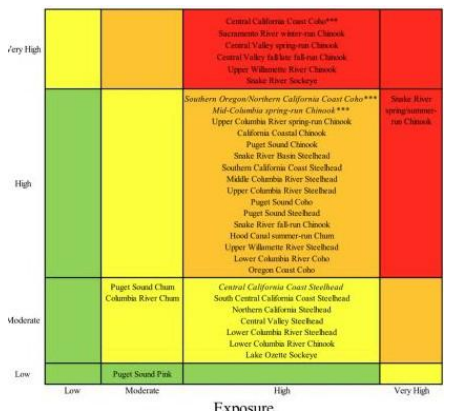


# Potential Factors to Consider

Biomass/  
healthy  
age  
structure

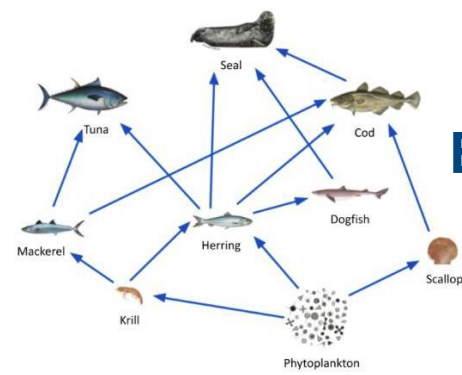


Current/  
Forecast  
Ecosystem &  
Socio-  
economic  
conditions



Climate  
vulnerability

Top  
commercial/  
recreational  
species at  
national/  
regional level



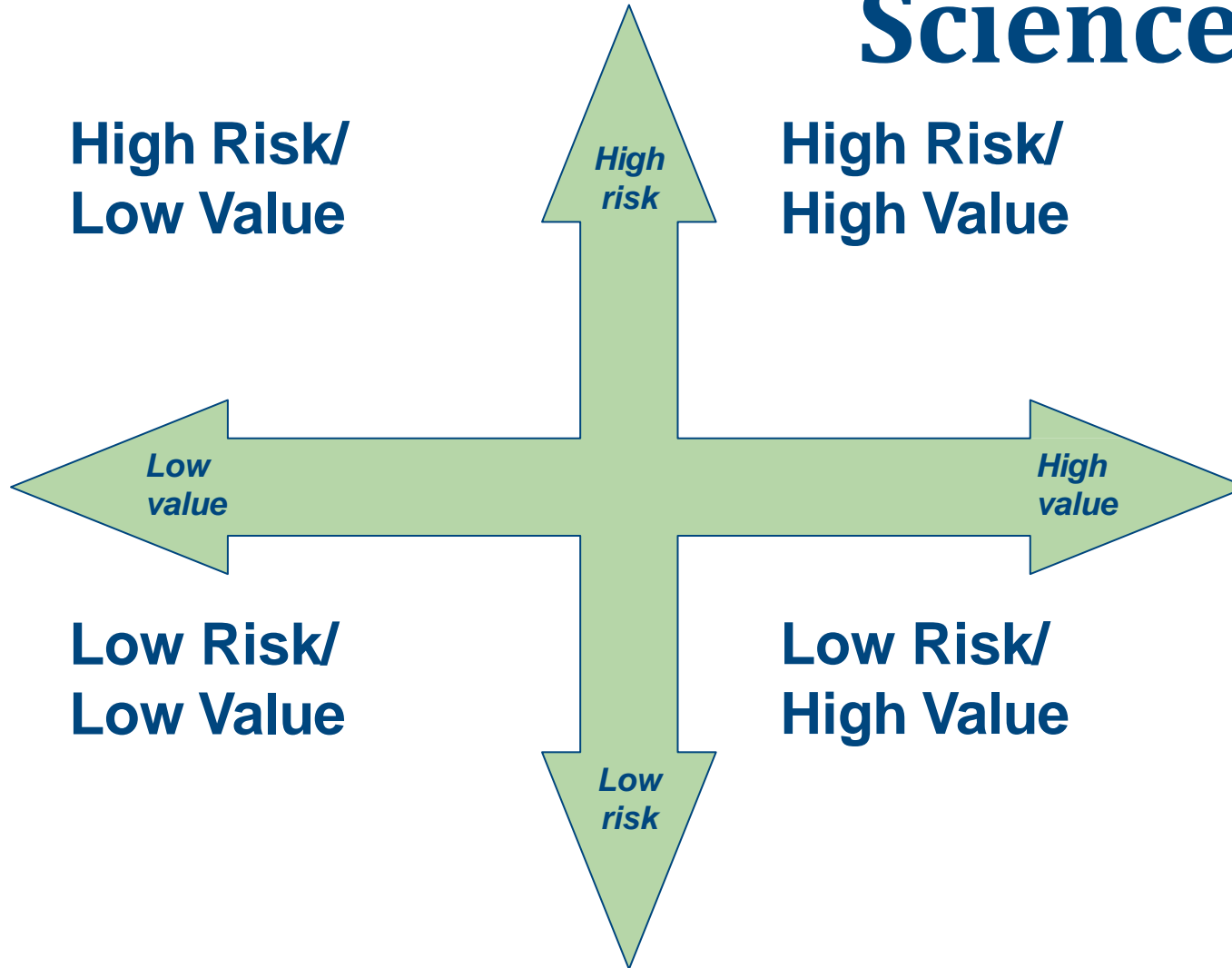
Ecosystem  
Role



Social/  
culturally  
important  
stocks



# Prioritization of Stocks/Complexes for Science and Management



## Value Categories

- Commercial
- Recreational
- Social

## Risk Categories

- Ratio of Catch:ACL
- Biomass/ Rebuilding Status
- Ecosystem Role
- Current / Forecast Ecosystem & Socio-economic conditions

\*These proposed categories are revised from SAIP importance factors and may need to be refined.



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

## CCC Discussion – Tasks for NPFMC in June *(10/10)*

### 2. RFMCs and NMFS need to align priorities in face of fewer resources / new administration priorities

- CCC action: RFMCs created a workgroup of executive directors to come up with RFMC core priorities to discuss with NMFS at the October CCC meeting
- **How does the NPFMC want to engage in this process?** Ideas:
  - Wait and see what transpires through RFMC workgroup, and what is NMFS' direction specifically to NPFMC/fisheries off Alaska
  - Proactively initiate a discussion paper to evaluate and communicate what are NPFMC core functions and priorities; and/or to evaluate our assessed stocks to see where they rate on proposed rubric (AFSC stock prioritization analysis may have much of this info?)
  - RELEVANCE IN JUNE: SSC is holding an HCR workshop to come up with recommendations for future work to respond to environmental change – this context may help to shape the Council's next steps resulting from that workshop

