

AP ADMIN ISSUES

DIANA EVANS, JUNE 2025



1. Meeting protocols
2. June meeting agenda
3. Update on B reports including national discussions
4. AP handbook revisions
5. Announcements



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NPFMC MEETINGS

Participants in the Council process are expected to participate in a manner that is professional and respectful of Council members, staff, advisors, committee members, and the public. Harassment will not be tolerated. All Council participants are responsible for holding each other accountable to the following ground rules:

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Listen and seek to understand differing views or opinions.
- Represent information honestly and openly.
- Refrain from using offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language.
- Personal or organizational attacks or insults will not be tolerated.

Reports of inappropriate behavior will be taken seriously and followed through to resolution per the Council's [Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures](#), which also includes the NPFMC policy on addressing allegations of harassment.

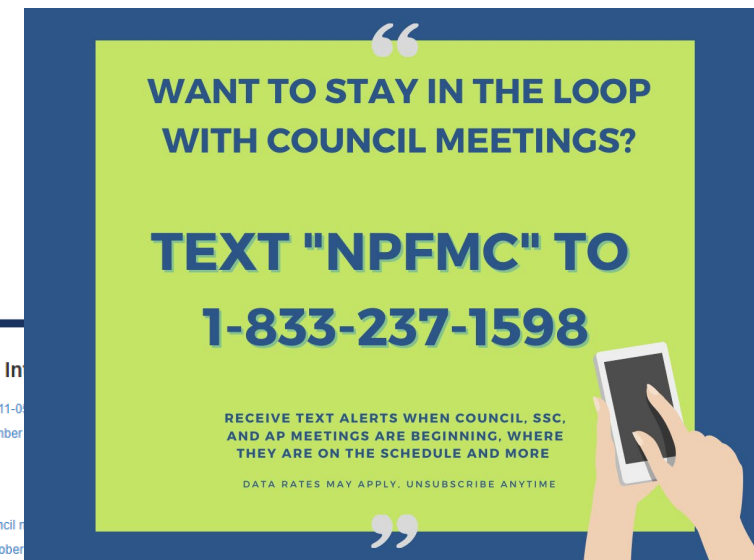
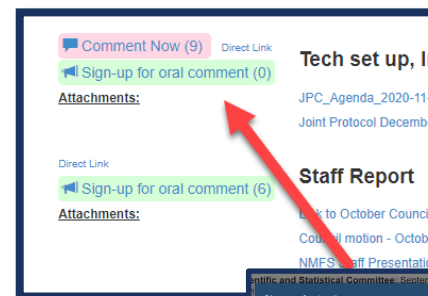


PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY, TEXT ALERTS

- Testimony by topic, under each agenda item
- 5-minute timer for oral testimony

1. Sign up through the eAgenda, next to the agenda item you want to testify on
2. Fill out the form with your personal details
3. Attach handouts or ppts if desired. (Contact staff if you want to project a handout.)
4. Identify whether remote or in-person.
 - If remote, please ensure a strong internet connection and be in a quiet area.
 - If calling from a phone, use that number on the signup form so we can unmute you

**Meeting is
being
recorded!**

A screenshot of a web form titled "Sign up for testimony". The form has fields for "Agenda Item" (with "Economic SAFE" selected), "Name", "Organization", "Email Address", and "Phone". There is an "Attachments" section with a "Choose Files" button and a note: "At the Council meeting, public comment is limited to groups/organizations". There is also a checkbox for "I'm not a robot" and a "Privacy - Terms" link.

Need help? Use Q&A feature in zoom program, or email npfmc.admin@noaa.gov

JUNE MEETING

- **AP meeting:** 4 days, Monday – Thursday (6/2 to 6/5)
 - C1 Review Observer annual report for 2024, preliminary NMFS reccs for 2026 ADP
 - D4 BSAI Pacific cod LAPP discussion paper
 - C4 crab arbitration initial review
 - C3 Pelagic trawl – final action on revised gear definition; discussion paper and research updates on pelagic trawl gear innovation work
 - C2 Recommend crab harvest specifications (ABC/OFL for AIGKC) – *not until SSC finishes C2*
 - D1 AFA Program Review report
 - D4 Blackspotted rougheye rockfish accountability measure options
 - D6 next steps following SSC HCR workshop - *Thursday*
 - E Staff tasking - *Thursday*



COUNCIL ITEMS NOT ON THE AP AGENDA

- **Recommendations on NPFMC actions in support of EO 14276 (Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness)**
 - AP members are welcome to provide individual testimony to the Council; short description of national discussions provided in following slides, for context
- **D2 CGOA Rockfish Program Review Report**
 - AP reviewed this item in April, and your recommendations are included with the Council's materials
- **D5 Guidance for subarea apportionments**
 - Council is providing guidance for Plan Teams and SSC regarding how to distinguish between a "true ABC" and how that ABC value is spatially apportioned during harvest specifications process. AP will receive an update in October through the Groundfish Plan Team report.
- **D6 SSC HCR workshop**
 - AP will receive an update from staff on the workshop on Thursday 6/5, and any next steps that the SSC recommends



HIGHLIGHTS FROM B REPORTS *more info on Council [eAgenda](#)*

B1 Executive Director's Report

- **Updates from the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting – forum for leadership of 8 regional fishery management councils and NMFS to discuss issues
- Alaina Plauche is providing a briefing on her Council oral history project
- Scott Goodman is giving a short presentation updating the Council on BSAI crab research

B2 NMFS Management Report

- Discussion paper reviewing regulations
- Personnel changes

B4 AFSC report

- Survey update

***more slides to follow on this topic*



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 1st. 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)

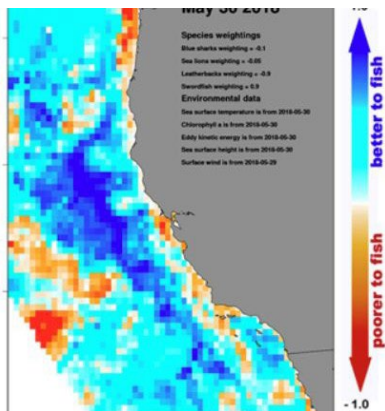
Based on this definition of conservation and management, and other relevant Magnuson provisions, a Council should consider the following non-exhaustive list of factors when deciding whether additional stocks require conservation and management:

- (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.

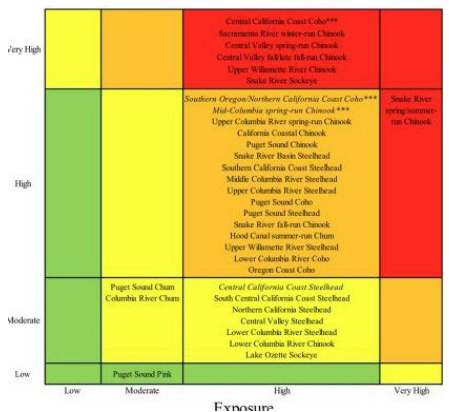


Potential Factors to Consider

Biomass/
healthy
age
structure

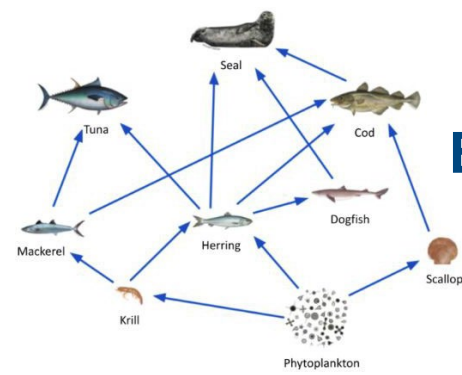


Current/
Forecast
Ecosystem &
Socio-
economic
conditions



Climate
vulnerability

Top
commercial/
recreational
species at
national/
regional level

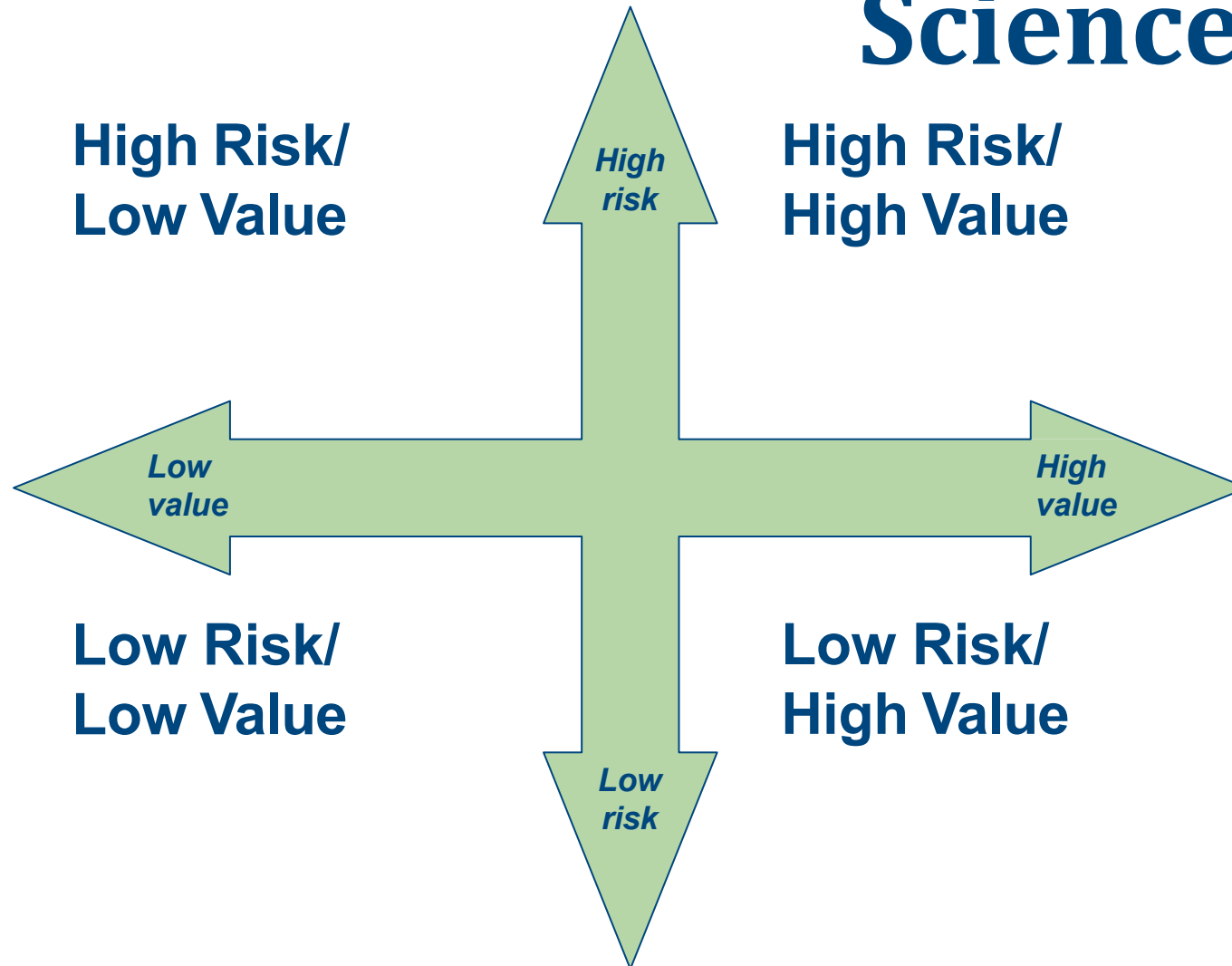


Ecosystem
Role



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



AP HANDBOOK REVISIONS

Revised handbook posted to eAgenda in track changes; Council will review on Friday.

- Clarifications throughout to reflect current practices or improve wording. Highlights:
- 3.2 more specificity re nomination materials, appointment process, term limits,
- 3.3 code of conduct for NPFMC meetings, AP member standards of conduct
- 3.4 note that remote participation should be exception
- 3.5 public elections
- 4.1 switch from 5 to 4 meetings /year, YouTube recordings
- 4.4 additional clarity regarding process of agenda items, NPFMC version of Robert's Rules; new 3/6 min public testimony timing; voting mechanism; best practices for motions
- 4.5 request for brief bullet points in the rationale, clarification regarding citations. AP may want to discuss continued use of minority reports.

chapter 5 - partial day webinar compensation, tighter application of travel rules



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AP members have catered lunch scheduled** for Monday and Tuesday only
 - Wednesday and Thursday you are on your own
- Tuesday, 6/3: **AP group picture** during morning break
- Wednesday, 6/4: **Newport OR fleet fishing gear demonstration**, anytime 4-7pm, Newport Intl Terminal
- Thursday, 6/5: **Council reception**, 5.30pm-8.30pm, Yacht Club

- *Contact npfmc.admin@noaa.gov with any problems or questions*

