

D-1 Council Motion
Community Engagement Committee
February 8, 2021

The Council recommends the following actions relative to improving rural community engagement resulting from the Community Engagement Committee's (CEC) work. These are iterative actions that may require Council Executive Director, Executive Committee, or Finance Committee input prior to implementation.

- Provide cultural awareness training for Council members and Council staff. The Executive Director will determine the contract and timing, with the primary objective being educational training.
- The Executive Director should assign responsibilities of a Rural Fisheries Community/Tribal Liaison position to staff. The primary duties would be to 1) serve as a first point of contact in the Council office for rural communities and Tribes to navigate the Council process; 2) provide outreach on Council actions; 3) facilitate presentations from rural and/or Alaska Native communities or Tribal organizations to the Council on Council issues of particular concern or with a direct or significant effect on such entities; and 4) account for and measure the impact of its engagement strategies over time.
- Continue and re-constitute the Community Engagement Committee with its charter to identify and recommend strategies for the Council to enact processes that provide effective rural and Alaska Native community engagement. The Chair and ED should determine terms of reference and meeting frequency, and solicit membership (no more than 9 public members) to include representatives of small rural fishing communities and/or the Alaska Native or Tribal entities associated with those communities in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska.
- Explore ways to improve opportunities for public testimony, including allowing remote testimony, that can be accommodated within the Council's agenda and budget.
- Clarify the Council process to allow any member of the public to waive questions by Council members during public testimony.
- Review current Council meeting requirements in the SOPPs and additional IT requirements that may be needed to support remote access to Council meetings. Support holding in-person Council meetings in rural and Alaska Native communities that can meet these requirements.
- Work with NMFS to receive and understand results of Tribal Consultation meetings as early in the process as possible, preferably prior to Council final action.
- Continue current outreach practices, including the new practices implemented after initial CEC recommendations, and continue to explore ways to improve information delivery and strategies to foster two-way engagement.
- Support FEP taskforce efforts to create processes and protocols through which the Council can identify, analyze, and incorporate Traditional Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and subsistence information into Council decision-making processes to support the use of best available scientific information.