



## B1 Executive Director's Report

April 2021

### Action Memo

#### E.O. 14008 - The 30 by 30 Initiative and Resilience to Climate Change

Executive Order 14008 (Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad) requires the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the heads of other relevant agencies, submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. The E.O. can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

In December, the Council directed staff to prepare a comment letter to the Secretary of Interior and request an opportunity to be involved in the implementation of the E.O., in determining how 'conserving' the marine environment is defined and measured, and to share detailed information about conservation areas established by the North Pacific Council to ensure they are properly categorized. The Council comment letter can be found here: [https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/022421\\_SOI\\_EO14008\\_Section216a.pdf](https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/022421_SOI_EO14008_Section216a.pdf)

The Council Coordinating Committee also sent a comment letter, available here: [https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/031221\\_CCC\\_EO\\_14008.pdf](https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/031221_CCC_EO_14008.pdf)

I recently learned that the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center is actively working with NOAA on the 30 by 30 initiative, and some ENGO groups have been pushing to use the MPA Inventory as the to measure progress towards this goal. After reviewing the list of MPAs included in NOAA's MPA Inventory, and the definition, criteria, and guidelines used by the MPA Center, I prepared a letter highlighting my concerns with their approach. Note that under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) definition of MPAs used by the MPA Center, an area is not defined as an MPA based on the basis of activities prohibited, but instead based on the stated management objectives; i.e., whether 'conservation of nature' (i.e., biodiversity) is stated as the primary objective of the area. Off Alaska, for example, the database does not include the vast majority of closure areas established by the Council and NMFS, because the MPA Center asserts (incorrectly, in my opinion) that these types of closures were not set aside to provide any "conservation of nature". MPAs for Alaska under the new criteria consist of National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, National Monuments, or National Estuarine Research Reserves. See the MPA map viewer:

<https://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/dataanalysis/mpainventory/mpaviewer/>.

My letter can be found here: [https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/031921\\_MPACenter\\_IUCNguidelines.pdf](https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/031921_MPACenter_IUCNguidelines.pdf)

The E.O. also requires that, within 60 days of the E.O. signing, a stakeholder process will be initiated by the NOAA Administrator to collect input from fishermen, regional ocean councils, fishery management councils, scientists, and other stakeholders on how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change, including changes in management and conservation measures, and

improvements in science, monitoring, and cooperative research. On March 3, NOAA requested written input from interested parties on how best to achieve the objectives described in the E.O. (see <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-03-03/pdf/2021-04137.pdf>) Interested persons were invited to submit comments by email by April 2, 2021. NOAA Fisheries also hosted three national stakeholder calls; two for all partners and stakeholders and one is specifically for state and tribal governments. Note that we have been assured by NOAA Fisheries Leadership that input will continue to be accepted after the formal comment deadline. The Council's letter with initial comments can be found here: [https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/032421\\_NPFMCcomment\\_EO14008Section216.pdf](https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/032421_NPFMCcomment_EO14008Section216.pdf)

Under Agenda Item B-2, Mr. Sam Rauch, the NOAA Fisheries Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, and/or other NMFS staff will provide a presentation on the NOAA's stakeholder process, and provide additional information about the E.O.

## Update on Cultural Awareness Training

At the February 2021 Council meeting, the Council made nine recommendations to enact processes that provide effective rural and Alaska Native community engagement.<sup>1</sup> One recommendation is that Council staff and Council members undergo a cultural awareness training. Based on the Council's direction in February 2021, Council staff have contacted First Alaskans Institute (FAI) to coordinate a cultural awareness training for Council staff and Council members. What follows is a short update on ongoing work to provide a cultural awareness training for Council staff and Council members. This update aims to create transparency on how staff are working to achieve this recommendation, and it provides an opportunity for the Council to give feedback on its preferences for next steps.

- **The Council should consider whether it prefers to participate in a virtual cultural awareness training in 2021 or an in-person cultural awareness training in 2022.** Although the anticipated timeline for an in-person training will be delayed, staff recommend hosting in-person cultural awareness training as it will likely be more productive and effective, particularly in terms of relationship building, than a virtual training. If an in-person training is the Council's preference, Council staff will evaluate the feasibility of hosting both Council staff and Council member's training at staff offices in Anchorage, AK.
- The Alaska Native Governance and Protocols training from FAI is primarily educational (as specified in the Council's February 2021 motion), and **it will take approximately nine hours to complete.** FAI recommends this course be completed in two distinct four or five hour sessions held on back to back days. It is possible for the sessions to be spread out, but FAI recommends the sessions occur no more than one week apart. The Council previously specified its preference for a shorter training (i.e., approximately four hours), but a cultural awareness training of this length is unlikely to be sufficient to deal with the complexity of issues and topics covered in a cultural awareness training.
  - If the Council moves forward with a training with FAI, it will need to consider scheduling and when members would be available for four to five hours on two days. For example, it is possible that an in-person training could be completed following the close of April 2022 Council meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Council motion D1 Community Engagement Committee, February 2021: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=2c4a513f-889d-4647-9bea-29ed4bde660f.pdf&fileName=D1%20Motion.pdf>

- **Council staff recommends that staff participate in a cultural awareness training prior to Council members to allow staff to provide feedback on their experience.** It may also be valuable to have staff and Council members participate in separate trainings to help foster trust among participants in real time and be mindful of the potentially sensitive questions or conversations that might be had. Although staff see value in having peer groups participate in trainings together (e.g., Council staff, Council members, and potentially in the future the SSC or AP), staff, and primarily the Rural Fishing Community and Trial Liaison, can help to find synergies for agency partners that are also interested in a cultural awareness training.

## Recent Council and Staff activities

- Mr. Jim Armstrong attended the Net Gains Alliance' "For-hire ER Roundtable" on Mar 10. This roundtable discussed strategies for the successful implementation and refinement of ER programs for federally permitted charter/for-hire (CFH) sector.
- Mr. Steve MacLean participated in the NOAA Alaska Seabird Working Group meeting, March 10 & 11.
- Dr. Diana Stram gave a joint presentation on the North Pacific Council's EBFM initiatives, with Dr. Janet Duffy-Anderson, to a Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans Working Group.
- Dr. Diana Stram participated in a special session of the YRDLA off-season teleconference which was organized specifically to discuss NPFMC management of salmon bycatch. She also provided presentations on salmon bycatch to the following federal subsistence regional advisory councils: Seward Peninsula RAC, Western Interior RAC and the YK Delta RAC.

## Committee Meetings

The Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence (LKTKS) Taskforce met on March 16-17 to continue working on the tasks and associated actions identified in the December 2020 Council motion and the LKTKS Workplan: <https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/membership/LKTKS/LKTKSworkplan.pdf>

The IFQ Committee met on March 25-26. The committee will provide its recommendations under Agenda Item D-4.

The Enforcement Committee met on March 31 to review the RQE Funding Mechanism Discussion Paper.

The Executive Committee will meet on April 9 to complete a performance review for the Executive Director, approve the AP and SSC Handbooks, discuss the Council meeting recording/archive policy and other administrative issues.

## CCC Scientific Subcommittee to Meet

The NPFMC will host the 7<sup>th</sup> national meeting of the Council Coordination Committee's Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS7) in August 2021. The meeting will be held virtually the week of August 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be focused upon three theme topics: 1) How to incorporate ecosystem indicators into the stock assessment process? 2) Developing information to support management of interacting species in consideration of ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM). 3) How to assess and develop fishing level recommendations for species exhibiting distributional changes? Additional information and a detailed agenda will be available soon.