



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## B1 Executive Director's Report

June 2023

### Action Memo

#### General Announcements

We need to break early on Friday (at 3:30pm for Executive Session in Aspen Hotel) and Saturday afternoon (at 4 pm), so the room can be rearranged for the Sitka music festival.

#### New Council Member

The MSA (section 302(c)) specifies the non-voting membership, including the Executive Director of the Marine Fisheries Commission for the geographic area concerned, who shall be the Executive Director or his designee. As a reminder, non-voting members (USCG, USFWS, State Dept. and Marine Fish Commission) do not go through an appointment process that is required for voting members.

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) Executive Director Barry Thom has named Mr. Chris Oliver as his designee, beginning on June 1, and replacing Dr. Dave Hanson who stepped down from this position in April. Most of you know Mr. Oliver from his 16 years serving as Council Executive Director and 4 years serving as Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, so he needs no introduction from me. Chris most recently served as Government Affairs Advisor for American Seafoods Co., from May 2021 through May 2023.

In anticipation of being the NPFMC Parliamentarian, I am confident that Mr. Oliver has brushed up on his Roberts Rules prior to this meeting. Welcome back to the Council process, Chris!

#### Chairman Kinneen's Last Meeting

This will be Council Chair Simon Kinneen's last meeting as a Council member. Simon started his participation in the Council process as an Advisory Panel member from January 2005 through December 2010. He was appointed to the Council in August 2014 and has served as Chair since October 2018. We all have appreciated Chairman Kinneen's steady and calm approach to running a meeting.

In addition to serving on the Council and AP, Mr. Kinneen has served on numerous regional advisory committees, including the NPFMC Non-Target Species Committee, Community Engagement Committee, Legislative Committee, Finance Committee, the Council Coordination Committee, as well as the Bering Sea Fisheries Advisory Board, North Pacific Research Board Advisory Panel, and other boards relating to state and federal fisheries. Mr. Kinneen has worked for Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) for the many years in various roles, including Norton Sound fisheries research and development director, CDQ manager, chief operating officer, and most recently, vice president and quota acquisition manager.

We wish to thank Mr. Kinneen for his nine years of service to the North Pacific Council and his efforts to improve fisheries in the North Pacific. Simon, we wish you the best in your future endeavors, and hope you stay involved in the Council process. As Maverick says in the movie Top Gun, from here on out, “it’s just a walk in the park Kazansky.”

## Plan Team Nominations

The NMFS Alaska Region has nominated **Mr. Steve Whitney** for appointment to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plan Team (replacing Ms. Mary Furuness) and **Ms. Abby Jahn** for appointment to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team (replacing Mr. Obren Davis). Nomination letters and resumes are attached. The SSC will review the nominations and provide a recommendation to the Council.

## Potential Changes for Future Council Meetings

In April, the Council Executive Committee requested the staff provide an expanded discussion paper to consider changes in the annual number of council meetings, and their location and timing. The Council will receive this report as part of the B-1 presentations, hear public testimony under both B-1 and E-1, and potentially take some action during Staff Tasking. An opportunity for input is also being provided to the SSC and Advisory Panel.

## MREP Workshop Held

The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) hosted the first MREP workshop for the North Pacific in Juneau on April 17-21. MREP is an education program - tagline "for fishermen by fishermen" – for participants to learn about the management process (primarily focused on the Council) and the science supporting it (primarily focused on stock assessment).

Twenty-eight people participated in the MREP workshop, including several AP members as well people new to the council process (active fishermen, processor employees, fishing interest and tribal representatives). The workshop included numerous presentations from NMFS and Council staff and others, as well as a tour of the AFSC, fishermen's science demonstrations, and a mock-Council meeting exercise. Here is the [website](#) if you are interested in seeing the MREP presentations.

## Council Coordination Committee meeting

The Council Coordination Committee (CCC) met May 23-25, 2023 in Key West. The meeting was hosted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Tweit, Ms. Evans, Dr. Stram and I attended in-person. Several important topics were discussed, including Council and NMFS climate change initiatives, America the Beautiful area-based management, the 7<sup>th</sup> Scientific Coordination Subcommittee report, National Standard guidance, and other topics. The meeting agenda, and a report of the meeting will be posted here when available:

<https://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccc-meetings/may-2023>

The CCC was informed about several agency initiatives, and you will be receiving a report of these items as part of Agenda item B-2 from Dr. Mike Ruccio and Dr. Rick Methot. The first initiative is the agency’s **Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** for revising the Guidelines for National Standards 4 (allocation of fishing privileges), 8 (fishing communities), and 9 (bycatch). The ANPR can be found here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/15/2023-10294/fisheries-of-the-united-states-magnuson-stevens-fishery-conservation-and-management-act-national>. While comments are due by

September 12, the CCC formally requested that NMFS extend the comment period to October 15. Should the extension be granted, my intent would be to draft a letter based on your comments and input at this meeting, and then post the draft letter for full public review and council input in October.

Also at the CCC meeting, Dr. Rick Methot (NMFS) provided an overview of the draft **Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Reference Points and Status Determinations** that they have been working on for the last several years. A draft of the guidance is posted here:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56c65ea3f2b77e3a78d3441e/t/64597481618d725bfe39c4ff/1683584129906/14b.+NS1\\_Tech\\_Memo\\_BRP\\_5\\_5\\_2023\\_CCC\\_clean.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56c65ea3f2b77e3a78d3441e/t/64597481618d725bfe39c4ff/1683584129906/14b.+NS1_Tech_Memo_BRP_5_5_2023_CCC_clean.pdf)

Comments on the draft are due by August 31, 2023. I have asked the SSC chairs to assemble an SSC workgroup to review the document and prepare comments for the Council to forward to NMFS prior to the deadline.

## **National SSC Coordination Committee Meeting Report**

The Scientific Coordination Subcommittee convened the 7th national meeting of the CCC's Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS7) August 15-17, 2022 in Sitka Alaska. The meeting, "Adapting Fisheries Management to a Changing Ecosystem," was focused upon various aspects of addressing Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM), including ecosystem indicators, multi-species modeling and addressing distributional shifts in managed stocks. The three primary themes of this meeting were: 1. How to incorporate ecosystem indicators into the stock assessment process? 2. Developing information to support management of interacting species in consideration of EBFM. 3. How to assess and develop fishing level recommendations for species exhibiting distributional changes?

A [summary](#) of the meeting was recently produced and is posted to the eAgenda. If the Council is interested, we could schedule a presentation on the report and the CCC response for a future meeting.

The SCS has also identified the theme for the 8<sup>th</sup> national meeting, which will take place in Portland, Maine, August 2024: Applying ABC control rules in a changing environment. A more detailed proposal is attached to the eAgenda.

## **Community Profiles report for Akutan and Dutch Harbor**

Updated fishing community profiles of Akutan and Unalaska prepared by Dr. Mike Downs (Wislow Research) with input from Anna Henry (NPFMC staff) are published on the [Council website](#). These profiles are built upon a series of profiles and other community characterizations compiled over the last 30 years for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. This update grew out of fieldwork undertaken in 2019 to support social impact assessments of proposed amendments to the BSAI groundfish fishery management plan. Profiles include information through 2019 supplemented by data from the 2020 decennial census, providing a pre-Covid-19 pandemic baseline comparison for post-pandemic conditions analyses.

## **Ed Dersham Obituary**

Ed Dersham, a Council member from 2008 to 2015, recently passed away. His obituary is [attached](#).

## Revised SSC and AP Handbooks

At this meeting, the Council will approve the AP and SSC Handbooks. Changes have been made to bring them in line with the recent Council-approved changes to the SOPP, as well as updates to reference the Council's anti-harassment policy, updates to the SSC and AP appointment processes, more accurate descriptions of the SSC financial disclosure requirement and the AP report development process, and some travel and housekeeping updates. Track changes versions are posted to the eAgenda under B1 Executive Director's report. The SSC and AP will have had the opportunity at this meeting to review the proposed changes, and will provide any additional input at the beginning of their June meetings.

## Council Written Comment Policy

At every meeting, staff reports publicly to the Council on any comments removed from the commenting system, and the rationale for removal, so that we can monitor and revise the process as needed to address unanticipated events. The June meeting comment period was open for 23 days, from May 12 to noon on June 2. No submitted comments were removed.

## Recent Staff and Council member activities

- In April, Mr. Mezirow served his final North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) as the Chairman's designee. **Mr. Mezirow may wish to take this opportunity to review the research that has been funded during his 5 years serving as NPRB Chair.**
- Several staff (Evans, Haapala, Cleaver, Witherell), as well as several Council/AP/SSC members presented or participated in the MREP workshop on April 17-21 in Juneau.
- Ms. Sarah Marrinan participated in the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Economics Workshop, March 25-26 in Tampa, Florida.
- Ms. Nicole Watson attended Fishery Management Process Training in April in Silver Spring.
- Ms. Sarah La Belle and Ms. Diana Evans gave a virtual tutorial on navigating the Council website in May.
- Ms. Sarah La Belle and Ms. Maria Davis provided an overview of bycatch information available on the Council website to the State of Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council on May 23.
- Mr. Kinneen, Mr. Tweit, Ms. Evans, Dr. Stram and I attended the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) May 23-25 in Key West.

## Committee Meetings

The following Committee and Plan Team meetings have occurred since the April meeting:

- The **Fisheries Monitoring Advisory Committee** met on May 10-11 to review the draft ADP and discuss other issues. You will receive the committee report under Agenda Item C-2.
- The **Ecosystem Committee** met May 8 to discuss a P&N and alternatives for a Programmatic EIS. You will receive the committee report under Agenda Item D-2.
- The **BSAI Crab Plan Team** met May 15-17 in Juneau, to review stock assessments and recommend harvest specifications. You will receive the Plan Team report under Agenda Item C-1.

## **Other Activities this week**

NOAA Fisheries is hosting a public Q&A session on the NOAA Fisheries response to the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit in the Centennial Hall Auditorium from 5:30-6:30 on Wednesday June 7. A flyer with more information is [attached](#).

There will be a reception at the Sitka Golf Course to recognize and celebrate the contributions of outgoing Chair Simon Kinneen on Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. We have arranged for shuttle buses to and from Harrigan Hall. A flyer with more information is **attached**.