



B1 Executive Director's Report

June 2020

Action Memo

LCDR Yang's Last Meeting

This is LCDR Yvonne Yang's last Council meeting, as she is headed down to San Francisco as the Incident Management Division Chief where she will be in charge of oil and pollution response in the Bay Area. She has spent the last four years in Juneau being involved in the Council process and hopes to return to Alaska as soon as she can. Best wishes in your future endeavors Lieutenant Commander Yang!

LCDR Yang will be replaced by LCDR Jedediah Raskie, who is an experienced fisheries officer reporting from Alameda, CA

Plan Team Nominations

The AFSC has nominated Ms. Erin Fedewa to serve as a member on the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Plan Team. Ms. Fedewa is currently a Research Fisheries Biologist at the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center studying Bering Sea crab body condition, energetics, growth and trophic dynamics in relation to environmental conditions.

The Alaska Region has nominated Mr. Scott Miller to replace Ms. Sally Bibb on the Social Science Planning Team. Council staff analyst and social scientist Dr. Kate Haapala should also be considered for the Social Science Planning Team, to fill the vacancy created with the departure of former NPFMC staffer Dr. Elizabeth Figus.

Nomination letters and resumes are attached. The SSC will review these nominations, and the Council will discuss the appointments in Executive Session.

CCC Meeting

The CCC held its first virtual meeting, hosted by the WPFMC, on May 27-28. The agenda, presentations, and background papers can be found here: <http://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccc-meetings>
The CCC approved two letters as well as consensus recommendations on a suite of issues. A news release noting the major decisions of the CCC is attached.

At the request of the CCC, NMFS HQ is seeking a review by the fishery councils of the new policy directive on stock status determination in situations where there is 1) a new management unit, 2) an aging stock assessment, 3) an assessment with insufficient information, and 4) an assessment that deviates from the status determination criteria specified in the FMP. I have requested the SSC, perhaps through a small subgroup as has been done previously, to provide me with review comments to forward back to NMFS prior to the July 1 deadline. The draft policy directive can be found here:
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56c65ea3f2b77e3a78d3441e/t/5ec73242c42df26a6867badc/1590112836230/CCC_%281%29+Draft+Procedural+Directive_K2U_15May_for+CCC_508.pdf

New Executive Order

On May 7, the President issued a new Executive Order to strengthen the American economy; improve the competitiveness of American industry; ensure food security; provide environmentally safe and sustainable seafood; support American workers; ensure coordinated, predictable, and transparent Federal actions; and remove unnecessary regulatory burdens. The four major components of this EO include 1) reducing regulatory burdens and increasing wild capture output, 2) combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing 3) outlining a collaborative processes in mapping out areas for potential aquaculture operations, and to reduce barriers for those seeking permits, and 4) establishment of a multi-agency seafood trade task force to focus on trade-related interests of the sector as a whole.

The EO can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-promoting-american-seafood-competitiveness-economic-growth/>

Of immediate importance, the EO requires each Regional Fishery Management Council to submit, within 180 days of the date of the order, a prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries. The Council will also need to develop a proposal for initiating each recommended action within 1 year of the date of the order. Recommended actions may include changes to regulations, orders, guidance documents, or other similar agency actions. Attached is a letter from Chris Oliver, NOAA Fisheries Administrator, requesting the Council to provide recommendations by November 2.

At the recent CCC meeting, NOAA Fisheries leadership provided additional guidance on the Executive Order. Mr. Oliver expressed that the EO provides a great opportunity to expand the vigor and value of fisheries through aquaculture, streamlining regulations, and international seafood trade issues. Deputy Administrator Mr. Sam Rauch noted that most everything the Councils already address in normal operations reduces burdens on fishermen and/or increases production as well as efficiency and value of the fisheries. He stated that the intent of the EO is not much different that the previous request for deregulation, but the EO prioritizes these efforts. Mr. Oliver encouraged the Councils to cast a broad net for any recommended ideas and actions for consideration. He stated that these recommendations can also include actions outside of the authority of NOAA Fisheries, including legislation (NOAA GC clarified that Councils are allowed to lobby an executive agency, but not Congress directly).

The Council should discuss how to address this request for a prioritized list of recommended actions that reduce burdens on fishing and/or increase production, efficiency, and value of North Pacific fisheries.

Longtime NMFS Region Employee Retires

Sally Bibb retired from NMFS on June 1, 2020. Sally started her career in fisheries in 1978 while she was still in high school, as a clerk-typist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Juneau. She worked for ADF&G in various capacities as a clerk, fisheries technician, and research analyst until 1986. During that time, she received a B.S in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Oregon State University. Her first interaction with the Council process was in 1983, when she conducted interviews of halibut fishermen in Sitka as part of research related to the development of the IFQ Program. She went on to get an M.A. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Washington State University in 1991, and then spent a year in Bergen, Norway at the Institute of Fisheries Economics. In 1992, she returned to Alaska and worked for one year on Council issues with LGL Alaska Research. At the end of 1992, she was hired by NMFS as an Industry Economist.

During the 1990s, Ms. Bibb worked on several foundational regulatory programs. She was the lead analyst on one of the Council's highest priorities in the early- to mid-1990s – developing the regulatory

structure to weigh catch processed at sea. The ability to more accurately weigh catch at sea was needed to support the inshore/offshore/CDQ allocations of pollock that were implemented in 1992. Sally worked with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Observer Program to develop the three-part scale certification and testing process that is still in use today. These requirements were first implemented in the pollock CDQ fisheries and then expanded when other groundfish and PSC were added to the CDQ Program in 1998. This regulatory structure now supports all of the North Pacific's groundfish catch share programs, except the IFQ Program. During this time, Sally also coordinated NMFS's role in management of the CDQ Program and worked with the Council on many FMP and regulatory refinements to that program until the 2006 MSA amendments reduced the role of the Council, State, and NMFS in management of the CDQ Program. She traveled to many CDQ communities in those years and attended many CDQ group board meetings. Sally and Lauren Smoker received a NOAA Bronze Award for their work on the CDQ Program. She also was recognized for her work by the CDQ groups in 2002, at the 10-year anniversary celebration for the program.

In 2010, Ms. Bibb was appointed Deputy of the Sustainable Fisheries Division. In that role, she focused more on internal SF Division issues, recruitment and hiring, and supervising staff that support the regulatory process. She helped coordinate several joint Council-NMFS staff meetings aimed at improving the analytical process and providing staff an opportunity to get to know each other better on a more personal level. During this time, she also continued to work on analysis and regulatory issues related to the Observer Program, the CDQ Program, salmon bycatch, catch monitoring in general, and recordkeeping and reporting.

She was also recently awarded the agency's Distinguished Career Service award, for continued, outstanding contributions to the conservation and management of living marine resources over 26 years of service to NOAA.

On behalf of the Council, I will be sending Ms. Bibb a Council plaque commemorating her efforts to develop and maintain sustainable fisheries in the North Pacific. Good luck with your retirement plans – we will miss you, Sally!

Events this week

On Wednesday morning June 10, from 8:30-9:30, the Council will meet in Executive Session to discuss the plan team nominations and address other administrative issues.