

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
(Via Webex)

Annapolis, Maryland
Thursday, May 19, 2022

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (9:00 a.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN LUISI: I call this meeting to
4 order today is day three of our May 2022 Meeting
5 of the Council's Coordination Committee. We are
6 here at Annapolis and we have a half day planned
7 for everyone today. I do want to mention a couple
8 things before we start. There is a -- we will be
9 taking a break as indicated on the Agenda around
10 10:30 or any time near that when we conclude with
11 our International Affairs discussion so that folks
12 that need to check out can check out. So, if you
13 haven't checked out already, you'll have time to
14 do that.

15 Secondly, I just want to mention, you
16 know, I've mentioned before, I work here in
17 Maryland as the Acting Fisheries Director and
18 there is a press release that is going out this
19 morning dealing with our blue crab fishery which
20 is a major fishery for our state as well as
21 Virginia and the Potomac River. And so I might
22 have to step away from the table from time to time

1 to try to push the media away until I can clear
2 the decks here today and get home and deal with
3 that so, I apologize in advance if I have to step
4 away and Chris or Wes can moderate if that ends up
5 happening, but I'm hoping that we'll be able to
6 wrap up and I'll be able to get home before that
7 starts to hit with the media.

8 So, okay, the first thing we have today
9 on the agenda, we have an hour for a discussion on
10 Environmental Justice. We have a presentation,
11 Archie, from the Western Pacific Fishery
12 Management Council. He's the Chair. He's going
13 to go through a presentation on equity and
14 environmental justice so Archie, if you're ready
15 to go I'm going to turn the mic over to you and
16 take it away.

17 MR. SOILAI: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
18 good morning to our CCC Family as well as our
19 federal partners. Happy to be here this morning.
20 I want to wish a warm talofa (phonetic), aloha,
21 buenas and tirow (speaking native language) from
22 my colleagues that are listening from Marianas,

1 how are you, in America Samoa? I have a very
2 brief presentation this morning, Mr. Chair, but as
3 you recall last year and doing the CCC meeting
4 that was held in October, two councils, the North
5 Pacific and the Western Pacific were asked to
6 present on EEJ Management within the regions and
7 Kitty presented during that meeting on how the
8 Pacific Ocean connects the land to our people and
9 the oceans.

10 And so, we have reciprocal relationships
11 with our marine environment that shaped our
12 cultures and traditions for several millennia and
13 the Council's mission and challenges were
14 discussed by Kitty at the time and we have
15 continued to draw heavily from the Pacific Island
16 way of doing things and blending our ocean values
17 of our region with contemporary science to form
18 our own distinctive paths. And since last year,
19 our Council has been planning with equity and
20 environmental justice across all we do including
21 our open and inclusionary council process. And
22 so, I will be talking about the EEJ planning

1 within our region and our recent workshop that we
2 held just last month. Now next slide, please.

3 So, while EEJ has always been a priority
4 for the Western Pacific Council, we've been
5 discussing in how our region can capitalize on
6 Biden's Administration's EEJ directives and
7 institutionalize advancing that within the region
8 and for our people. And so, we think of it as a
9 four-man canoe for each paddler represents the
10 categories of equity which are procedural,
11 structural, distributional, and generational
12 dimensions of equity.

13 And we received a lot of feedback from
14 our communities that participated in the workshop
15 and over the last and we framed these concerns
16 across these dimensions and I want to highlight
17 the concerns that were shared within generational
18 equity on the bottom left of the slide here.
19 These impacts have and have the potential to
20 impact the cultures and traditions of our Western
21 Pacific communities for generations. And just
22 some of the ones that we wanted to highlight are,

1 you know, the geographic isolation and distance
2 from the seat of government here in D.C. We have
3 15 hours at the most time differences between D.C.
4 And some of the territories.

5 The exorbitant costs of getting goods to
6 the islands as compared to other locations, the
7 heavy dependence on marine resources for our
8 island communities; American Samoa for instance,
9 their GDP is 95 percent dependent on the tuna
10 (phonetic) industry. Cultures and traditions are
11 structured on the ocean resources, but traditional
12 governance, traditional knowledge versus current
13 science and protocols sometimes come into
14 conflicts. The inherent importance of access to
15 marine areas for cultural practices and sometimes,
16 there are policies and laws that inhibit cultural
17 take and that always comes into conflicts with
18 local customs. Next slide, please.

19 So, last month in April we had a
20 workshop that brought together indigenous council
21 members, advisory panel members and NOAA regional
22 staffing leaders to work on EEJ issues and the

1 group talked about how we can incorporate and
2 integrate EEJ with the council work that we do
3 within the region and on that slide here, this is
4 a large scribe, our panel discussion, you'll see
5 this, it's also in the hallway that we work
6 together and we share it with CCC today, and the
7 council's EEJ impacts and contributions globally,
8 regionally, and for our communities within fishery
9 management. Next slide, please.

10 We focused on the four tools of
11 organizational change which are fund,
12 empowerments, implement, and advocate and here are
13 the thoughts that are around how we want to strike
14 good EEJ momentum for our region. Participants
15 included outreach and engagement, building local
16 capacity, bolstering the bottom up approach,
17 funding community impact, collaborating with local
18 agencies and supporting self- governance. Next
19 slide, please.

20 And lastly, Mr. Chair, moving forward,
21 we will capture the dialogue and to address
22 strategy that will be presented sometime in the

1 near future remaining steadfast to continue a
2 voice for the community in the federal process and
3 respect cultural values within decision making,
4 modeling the change and being the change using the
5 Council as our EEJ tool and getting together again
6 this summer to finalize our draft strategy. And
7 we look forward to working with NOAA to advance
8 our imports of EEJ for our communities in the
9 Pacific. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thank you very much
11 Archie. Let me see if anyone at the Council
12 around the table has any questions or wants to
13 make any comments regarding Archie's presentation.
14 Janet?

15 MS. COIT: Thank you. Just wanted to
16 offer appreciation for the work that you presented
17 and that you, Kitty, and others have done is
18 really impressive and meaningful and I think the
19 way you presented it, I think that was visual and
20 very accessible so it looks like really fine work.
21 I appreciate it.

22 MR. SOILAI: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Bill Tweit?

2 MR. TWEIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
3 thanks, Archie, this really is a really grabbing
4 presentation. I'm really chewing about the under
5 federalization, just that it gives us a voice and
6 I'm wondering if you could just speak a little bit
7 more about what you were hearing in that when
8 people say that it gives us a voice because I
9 think that's something we're really struggling
10 with as a council as well is how to be that.

11 MR. SOILAI: I think the feedback that
12 we were getting from the participants in the
13 workshop is that sometimes there are federal
14 decisions and policies that are made without
15 effective and meaningful collaboration with the
16 local communities, particularly within the island
17 group areas and that really came out as one of the
18 items that they wanted to highlight is that more
19 council involvement to make sure that, you know,
20 the voices are heard and decisions are filtered up
21 to the federal level making sure that, you know,
22 their customs and values and traditions are taken

1 into consideration. Many of the policies are
2 made. And I think one of the examples that we use
3 is the coral reef habitat (phonetic) designation
4 that was made without effective consultation with
5 the local communities and that we are still
6 pushing back on for American Samoa, Guam and CNMI.

7 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, thanks for that,
8 Archie, appreciate that. Any other questions or
9 comments before we move on? Okay, seeing none,
10 our next presentation on this item on the agenda
11 is the CCC Environmental Justice work group report
12 and let me ask Kitty to -- would you mind
13 introducing your staff who is going to give this
14 report?

15 MS. SIMONDS: Right, so the Mid-Atlantic
16 Council, and our Council Co-Chair of this group
17 and that included representatives from all over
18 the councils. So, Maria and José were going to
19 present this together, but I think José wasn't
20 feeling well and so, Maria is going to present for
21 the entire group. So, she's on and it's 3:00 a.m.
22 In the morning, something like that in Hawaii so,

1 have at it Maria. Hope you've had your coffee.

2 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Yeah, Maria, thanks for
3 getting up early and being available to present
4 this report to us. I think there probably were a
5 few people around this table that might have been
6 up at 3:00 this morning, but I have a feeling
7 you're in much better shape than those folks. So,
8 Maria, if you want to do a quick sound check and
9 then I'm going to turn things over to you for
10 presentation. And we do, José is online as well.
11 He was not feeling well and so he's not with us
12 here today, but he is online so any questions that
13 are asked, any comments we certainly be taking
14 notes. Maria?

15 MS. CARNEVALE: So, thank you for that.
16 There are other members of the working group as
17 well so, thank you for that and see what the
18 others are like. So, aloha, I will be sharing
19 some of the good efforts with you today. Thanks a
20 lot to the meeting so, next slide.

21 So, I will be starting off with a bit of
22 background, provide an overview of the meeting

1 schedule, our process, some highlights of our
2 report and talk about some of the potential next
3 steps that the CCC could consider, next slide.

4 At the October 2021 Meeting the CCC made
5 a motion regarding equity and environmental
6 justice efforts. The Executive Director provided
7 further guidance towards the development of a
8 report containing specific details and those are
9 there on the slide. The identification of the EEJ
10 problem and an initial discussion rooted in MSA.
11 The group working on this, like Kitty has
12 mentioned, has representatives from each of the
13 Councils and several from NOAA SF [sustainable
14 fisheries] Headquarter Staff. The Mid-Atlantic
15 and the Western Pacific, so José and myself have
16 served under the guidance of Chris and Kitty as
17 the Co-Chairs and so, mahalo for that. Next
18 slide.

19 So, we met eight times; most meetings
20 were two hours and some of them were actually
21 three so grateful for folk's time. The first two
22 focused on the development of a workshop and

1 discussions around that. And then, the rest of
2 the meetings focused on the reports. The group
3 used a digital white space to share about
4 documents, resources, share meeting links, and
5 agendas and all, so we were just practicing, just
6 real accessibility there. The meetings were
7 organized with intentionality that focused on
8 inclusivity and collaboration. So, these values
9 went into producing the report. We strove for
10 consensus, ways forward, but we also captured
11 regional distinction as much as possible. We held
12 further reviews and we discussed as a group how
13 best to incorporate and adjust comments; next
14 slide.

15 So here are some important key terms and
16 definitions that were included in the paper and
17 for example these, equity and environmental
18 justice, they have multiple applications,
19 interpretations, and real meaning. The group
20 spent a lot of time throughout these last few
21 months exploring and then reexploring the
22 application of these terms to fisheries management

1 and then, how they relate to each other and that
2 was the bulk of our conversation. The report
3 attempted to capture and clarify when possible,
4 but it remains really broad and fluid when the
5 group felt necessary. Next slide.

6 So, at the last CCC Meeting, NOAA's
7 three guiding questions and they are going to be
8 on this slide upcoming. And the CCC, well in our
9 group to spread dialogue about EEJ. The CCC and
10 NOAA Fisheries were really being responsive to
11 these policies and directives so we are including
12 all these executive orders and some from the
13 current administration. That's on the bottom
14 there. Next slide.

15 So, this is what we'll get into, really
16 rooting our work in MSA. So, the MSA requires a
17 transparent and collaborative process in the
18 development of the fishery management plans and
19 championing the participation of affected
20 community and populations. Let's just go through
21 this. In the NS1 [National Standard] and some of
22 the key elements that balance that management

1 would strike amongst resource use and users. NS3
2 stipulates that that a stock of fish be managed at
3 the unit throughout its range and that management
4 unit to be defined according to the focus of the
5 FMP Objectives, may be organized around
6 biological, geographic, economic, technical,
7 social, or ecological perspectives. NS4 prohibits
8 discrimination between residents of different
9 states and requires that allocations be fair and
10 equitable, promote conservation, and prevent
11 excess shares. NS8 requires considering the
12 importance of fishery resources to the fishing
13 communities. The MSA requires a fair
14 representation of council and advisory panels in
15 membership to provide a balanced representation
16 across various interests, commercial,
17 recreational, other interests, and geographical
18 areas. And then it must recognize the special
19 role of tribes and indigenous peoples, and the
20 development and implementation of fishery policies
21 acknowledged in the MSA. Next slide.

22 Now, we're going to talk a little bit

1 about the different opportunities council has had
2 to support EEJ. This conversation highlights the
3 regional diversity within EEJ- related work and
4 initiatives, as well as the importance of the MSA
5 design which allows for each region to take steps
6 and actions that are relevant to it while working
7 in an open public process.

8 I just want to remind you that these
9 conversations are ongoing, these actions are
10 long-ongoing. So, just to reflect back in the
11 summer of 2021, the Office of Sustainable
12 Fisheries met with staff and leadership of each
13 council and the three fishery commissions to
14 understand their current approaches to engage in
15 underserved communities and a summary of those
16 discussions was presented at the last October's
17 CCC Meeting. So, here are those three questions
18 that NOAA posed to the group that helped guide our
19 work. In addition, one Council since has also
20 sent a letter to the Administration regarding the
21 EOs 13985 and 14031 and that Council, as Archie
22 just said has been working with the advisory

1 bodies and the community of an EEJ programmatic
2 assessment and the development of a strategy.

3 Next slide.

4 So, the working group decided to use and
5 there was a bit of discussion around it these six
6 thematic areas developed by the NMFS EEJ National
7 Working Group and that framed a few key sections
8 of the body of the report. So, they are showing
9 here in red, and basically, what the Council has
10 done and then, some challenges. Next slide.

11 So, this is a word association. There's
12 a lot with several highlighted examples. A full
13 listing is available in Appendix 2 of the report.
14 There are several common areas and these match
15 with most of the larger repeated language in the
16 section so you see some words really sticking out
17 like communities, engagement, process, membership,
18 educational. And one highlight is that two-way
19 education between decisionmakers like the Regional
20 Councils and members of the public is important
21 for meaningfully adjusting equity in EEJ.

22 The Council's work to improve

1 communication and relationships via diverse
2 educational and outreach efforts in various ways
3 including cultural awareness training for council
4 members and staff, educating stakeholders on the
5 council process, supporting the Marine Resource
6 Education Program events, the MREP. And hosting
7 and participating in educational activities for
8 high school, college, and graduate students,
9 community engagement. In addition to routine
10 engagement activities the Councils have developed
11 regionally-specific engagement strategies for
12 two-way communication and engagement, especially
13 with underserved communities in their region.
14 High-level examples of these are listed in the
15 lower-left hand on this slide over in pink. So,
16 identifying staff needs for engagement and
17 outreach like hosting events of council bodies and
18 local communities outside of council meetings,
19 hosting meetings across an extensive area or in
20 rural communities to increase opportunities for
21 engagement with the council process.

22 Several councils have worked to reduce

1 communication barriers, and this is up in the
2 righthand corner of the slide. Many councils
3 provide multilingual documents on an as-needed
4 basis, accommodate video presentations, and
5 provide translation services.

6 Councils have also taken a flexible
7 approach to providing information and materials in
8 a way that is responsive to tribal and stakeholder
9 needs such as providing information in hard-copy
10 format which continues to be really important for
11 some regions.

12 The Councils have taken several actions
13 to facilitate the use of the scientific
14 information available up to the lower-right hand
15 corner. The restructuring management plans for
16 archipelagic ecosystem base, such as in my region,
17 the Western Pacific, or island-based as in the
18 Caribbean. Incorporating local knowledge and
19 traditional knowledge in fishery management and
20 developing and using NOAA fishery community social
21 vulnerability indicators.

22 All councils have created policies that

1 prevent harassment and discrimination and then,
2 councils have taken steps to build local capacity
3 for engaging in fisheries management, recognize
4 and support the diversity among local fisheries,
5 and have been hesitant to limit access to
6 fisheries.

7 And then, all councils engage, and I
8 can't stress this enough, through the open public
9 process structured around inclusionary practices
10 and consideration. Next slide.

11 So, you see here another word
12 association but looking at the challenges in the
13 report. So, I believe in the Western Pacific they
14 have already heard from their communities as
15 Archie just mentioned, as many of these bullets
16 are listed Western Pacific have the front end of
17 the (phonetic) bullet so, hence why that language
18 is so large. You will notice that there is also a
19 lot more unassociated work in this graphic which
20 might indicate really that these challenges are
21 quite regionally-specific. I'm not for sure but
22 could indicate. So, just kind of highlighting a

1 few, I'll go clockwise on this slide here.

2 So, adequate knowledge of underserved
3 and disadvantaged communities is necessary for
4 program evaluation to account for and adapt to
5 mitigating EEJ-related impacts. Time and
6 resources to meaningfully integrate EEJ
7 considerations into day-to-day work. Those
8 language and geographic areas that you've heard
9 about like time zone differences, considering
10 public process components like comment time limits
11 that can constrain individuals and associations
12 and governments, and in particular, when English
13 is their second language. There is a limited
14 pipeline of diverse and qualified candidates.
15 Reliance on Census-level characteristic data that
16 does not necessarily reflect fishing community'
17 vulnerabilities. They're not one and the same.

18 In the context of climate change and
19 more broadly, there is a need and challenge to
20 understand the connections across adaptive
21 fisheries policies, resilient fisheries, and then
22 EEJ considerations altogether.

1 Lack of certain regional investments and
2 then the existence of some data-poor fisheries.
3 And then, some also felt that MSA can tend to
4 preserve or lean towards the status quo. Next
5 slide.

6 So, here's our conclusion. So, in the
7 report we share that understanding and advancing
8 equity and environmental justice in the context of
9 federal fisheries management took a lot of careful
10 thought and a lot of discussion. This report
11 required nimble thinking from the work group, it
12 required us to understand not only the federal
13 directives and policies related to equity and
14 environmental justice, but you know, the ability
15 to view fisheries management from new angles, and
16 an understanding of the various paradigms and
17 regional perspectives at play.

18 The collaborative approach used to write
19 this support was a useful start to sharing
20 information and regionally-specific approaches
21 toward directing EEJ across all Councils and NOAA
22 and having NOAA fisheries and the Councils

1 contribute to this report and take part in the
2 supporting dialogue is definitely a step forward.
3 Or, you know, equity and environmental justice
4 within federal fisheries management. And it is
5 clear that while some challenges exist for
6 meaningfully advancing equity and environmental
7 justice, all Councils are beginning to capture
8 these issues and considerations in their work.
9 Next slide.

10 The Councils, through the CCC and NOAA,
11 have an opportunity to set a collective tone on
12 EEJ, particularly through the narrative of public
13 process created by the MSA. The MSA allows for
14 regional diversity. This feature of the MSA is
15 important as it allows councils to forward the EEJ
16 strategies that are meaningful and specific to
17 their regions while also allowing the Councils to
18 learn from each other.

19 There are several opportunities for
20 advancing EEJ across the regions. Some common
21 themes include capacity building via the Council
22 and staff training, reimagining outreach

1 strategies, increasing and simplifying
2 communication materials as a start. This report
3 is also just a really good first step to better
4 understanding applications of EEJ directives to
5 U.S. fisheries management. Next slide.

6 And here are potential CCC next steps
7 that we talked about as a group. We felt that the
8 dialogue around these issues and all those
9 meetings that we held and across the Councils was
10 of high value in and of itself for the topic at
11 hand. So, using the CCC as a kind of natural
12 structure to continue these learnings in some
13 fashion is the intention and kind of ideal with
14 this first bullet. And if you recall, it is
15 comprised of both NOAA and Council staff so, we
16 discussed how we could coordinate our efforts and
17 resources, especially within EEJ planning efforts.
18 So, like some ideas are listed and the group noted
19 a workshop may prove helpful to initiate this
20 cohesive work of that second bullet. Next slide.

21 And in just a few months, February, you
22 know, through May, the group really produced a

1 report that focused initially on that EEJ
2 guidance. There is room to continue to synthesize
3 some elements such as incorporating additional
4 regional community feedback, and better connecting
5 barriers with some remedies. For example, the
6 group could better explore funding needs and
7 regulatory reforms. The CCC could also identify a
8 subset of potentially EEJ-related action. And
9 lastly, the group noted that the CCC may choose
10 to, you know, formally develop a working to
11 achieve its next steps.

12 So, that's all I have, and it was
13 mentioned I know José, our Co-Chair, is also on
14 the line as are other members for any questions.
15 Yep, but this is all we have prepared so far, so,
16 thank you, and I'll pass it back to you, mahalo,
17 Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thank you very much,
19 Maria. Before we ask -- before I look around the
20 table for questions, José, if you're online with
21 us now, is there anything that you would like to
22 add before we go around the table to see if anyone

1 has any thoughts or questions?

2 DR. MONTAÑEZ: No, thank you for asking.
3 Great job, Maria.

4 MS. CARNEVALE: Oh, thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Excellent job, Maria.
6 Does anyone have any questions for Maria or want
7 to make any comments regarding the presentation?
8 Janet?

9 MS. COIT: Good morning, Maria and José.
10 Thank you, wow, that was amazing. I haven't had a
11 chance to read the report yet. I'm really looking
12 forward to it, but the work that you presented is
13 -- and I know that Danica (phonetic) and Abby
14 (phonetic) who helped -- who led our strategy have
15 also been in touch and learned from you. You
16 really are advancing the ball in a way that is so
17 meaningful. And I think it's an example, Sam
18 Rauch is about to present on our EEJ strategy. It
19 really dovetails very nicely around many of the
20 same themes. I think it's an example of work
21 that's going on in parallel that can feed into and
22 strengthening the final results. And as each look

1 for input from the folks who really have something
2 to say about this, where we have a lot to learn.
3 It would be great to try to coordinate that in
4 some way, but I'm really impressed, and thank you
5 for the presentation.

6 MS. CARNEVALE: Sure. Thank you, Janet.

7 CHAIRMAN LUISI: All right, thanks for
8 that. Anyone else at the table? Just for the
9 webinar, Manny, I do see your hand, but I'm going
10 to wait until after Sam's presentation and then,
11 we'll have an opportunity. I think we still have
12 some time on the Agenda. We will have an
13 opportunity to go to the members of the webinar
14 for questions and comments so, if you just leave
15 your hand up, I will call on you in just a bit.

16 Next, I'm going to go to Sam Rauch to
17 give us an update on NOAA fisheries and
18 environmental justice initiatives. Sam, when
19 you're ready.

20 MR. RAUCH: Yeah, thank you, and let me
21 say at the very outset apologize for the slides
22 because these are the same slides we used for our

1 -- the main (phonetic) fisheries advisory
2 committee meeting last week and I have not
3 tailored them to the Council so, I'm not
4 requesting public comments from you all, but I am
5 seeking your input so before you complain about
6 that these are the generic slides that we use for
7 everybody. I apologize. It was my fault, but I
8 have not had time to tailor them for the Council.
9 We do understand the great work that the council
10 has done and we are looking for more of a
11 partnership on this issue.

12 All right, so if we can, move on and I
13 think that the two prior speakers really expressed
14 why this is important work for all of us. It is
15 something that we have been, you know, the
16 Councils have been doing this for a long time. We
17 have been doing this for a long time. I don't
18 think either one of us with maybe the exception of
19 Western Pacific and the great work that they've
20 been doing, have taken a step back and looked at
21 it strategically like we are doing now. At least
22 for the Federal Government, we've had an

1 environmental justice mandate since 1994.

2 The equity mandates are new, but it does
3 a lot with what we and you all do all the time.
4 And it does provide an avenue though, to look at
5 how effective that's been. Can we improve? Where
6 can we improve? Where can we build on some of
7 this good work that we've been doing? And there
8 is clearly I think, both -- everybody has
9 identified different ways that we can invest in
10 this process and get better outcomes so that's
11 what we'd like to do. If I could, have the next
12 slide, oh, the next one. Forgot to advance.

13 All right, so, we used the term -- so,
14 we did just issue our draft equity and
15 environmental justice strategy a couple weeks ago.
16 I'm going to talk about the process that we intend
17 to go through to finalize that at the end. And
18 some of these slides will start to look familiar
19 because they're very -- I think they are exactly
20 the same in terms of what the CCC used in their
21 work group. The term equity, and this comes from
22 the executive orders. I am not going to reread

1 this but it is looking at -- it is tied in in the
2 administration's mind with the provision of
3 benefits. We all control access. We control --
4 at least we have input in terms of where we
5 allocate our science and other resources. There
6 are equity implications about that, about where we
7 are doing that, how we looked at the impacts on
8 underserved communities. And I'll talk a little
9 bit about that more in a minute. If I could, go
10 to the next slide?

11 So, this is the definition of
12 environmental justice which is from the EPA which
13 is also the same one that the CCC was using. The
14 Commerce Department does not have a definition but
15 the EPA has been using this definition for years.
16 It works well for them, and we propose to adopt
17 this for -- at least, the National Fisheries
18 Service, in the strategy. And it looks at it at
19 equity in environmental justice. I think when
20 people think about environmental justice they
21 think of the classic case where you're putting a
22 toxic waste facility in an underserved community

1 because they don't have a participatory right to
2 sort of argue on their own behalf.

3 And then there's, you know, there's
4 natural rationalization about all these kind of
5 things that can go on, but that's what ends up
6 happening. But it is not just the negative. It
7 is also looking at it in the positive in terms of
8 the benefits that I just talked about.

9 Environmental justice is also -- are we even
10 unintentionally denying the benefits of the
11 Federal Government to certain communities for
12 various reasons, and can we stop that? The
13 President has talked about in the future trying to
14 direct 40 percent to those federal benefits where
15 we can towards underserved communities so they
16 call that the Justice 40 Initiative. If I can,
17 have the next slide, please?

18 So, the underserved communities'
19 terminology comes from the Executive Order, and
20 this is the definition from the Executive Order.
21 Quite a number of different examples -- they're
22 all communities that have systemically been denied

1 a full opportunity to participate in economic,
2 social, and civic life for various reasons.
3 There's a number of groups listed, but then at the
4 end, there's a very catchall persons otherwise
5 adversely affected by persistent poverty or
6 inequality.

7 So, there's a great deal of things to
8 look at that and one of the things that we deal
9 with different types of fishing communities out
10 there and you all talked about National Standard 8
11 and your equity and environmental justice strategy
12 talks a lot about National Standard 8 and the term
13 communities, and the different ways that you can
14 look at communities under the Magnuson Act and
15 that matches very well with the underserved
16 community issues here.

17 So, when we were doing this, we looked
18 at how to categorize this. And I know Archie
19 talked about the four pillars and the four-man
20 canoe. I've seen recently last week sort of a
21 three-pillar discussion. At one point, I was
22 looking at 12 different ways to do this. There

1 are a lot of different ways to look at equity in
2 environmental justice to try to get a handle on
3 what that means and how to -- there's no right
4 way. And you can bend or unbend any of these
5 comments. This is our way, but we are proposing
6 it. If there are better ways to look at and there
7 are certainly different ways to look at it. We
8 can do that, but one of the things that we were
9 looking at, the first one is do we know who the
10 underserved communities are? That is a difficult
11 question. They are often underserved because they
12 don't have the capacity to participate to
13 self-identify. We also want to be cautious though
14 about sitting there and identifying it on our own
15 because if we're not a particularly diverse
16 organization, we may not realize that either so,
17 this is a tricky issue on both ends.

18 We do have a social indicators working
19 group which you mentioned in your policy which is
20 designed to look at the various different economic
21 and social ways that we can consider that. And we
22 use that, you all use that when we are doing

1 fisheries management decisions, when we're trying
2 to get at if we close an area, what is that effect
3 going to be. But there are limitations in that
4 and there's better ways that we can do that. One
5 of our budget initiatives is to invest in that
6 with an equity environmental justice lens to see
7 if we can't make that more useful to that. But
8 step one, do we know who these communities are?

9 It is hard to actually improve equity in
10 environmental justice without that, but that is a
11 very difficult issue. It's not an easy question.
12 For some people it is, for some communities it's
13 easy, but for others, it's not.

14 Are there structural barriers? There
15 clearly have been historically structural barriers
16 to underserved communities. Are we intentionally
17 or not creating structural barriers with some of
18 our Magnuson Act programs? And I have heard a lot
19 about, you know, we've done a lot in terms of
20 limited-entry programs, but one of the things of
21 limited-entry programs do have a tendency to do is
22 to create barriers to entry. How can we work on

1 that? Is that a problem with communities that
2 traditionally fished that now cannot because of
3 the way that we have done that?

4 There are other kinds of things that we
5 should look at and so, I know that we try to do
6 that when we develop our management measures,
7 fisheries management measures. And have we done
8 it well? Can we improve that? Certainly, going
9 forward can we do that? Are there ways if we have
10 seen historical issues, once again unintentionally
11 or not, but we, you know, we constantly look back
12 and look at the effects of what we've done, and
13 occasionally, we find out that there are effects
14 that we didn't know were going to happen that did
15 happen and we want to change, how can we go and
16 maybe change some of those things?

17 And I also, barriers to accessing
18 services, you know, we talked about linguistic
19 barriers. There are other barriers, a lot of the
20 federal grant programs, very complex. You need to
21 get the language right. They are -- it's not just
22 applying for federal grants though, you know.

1 When we look at how we have allocated the science
2 historically, we've usually looked at where is the
3 most significant fishing impacts to the economy.
4 And sometimes, that has resulted in us focusing
5 our scientific resources or our regulatory
6 resources to certain areas and underserving other
7 areas.

8 As Kitty will tell you, you know, we
9 have been for years trying to get the
10 Administration to support a territorial science
11 initiative to sort of correct some of this
12 imbalance, and I am pleased that last year in the
13 budget the President did include money, for the
14 first time ever, for a territorial scientific
15 initiative. Congress didn't choose to fund it,
16 but it is in the budget again, and so, we
17 hopefully will get money to do that. That will
18 start to correct some of that imbalance because
19 while it may not be important in the gross, you
20 know, these national economic parameters, it is
21 critically important to the U.S. citizens that
22 live in these places and we need to make sure that

1 we serve them adequately.

2 System complexity, the Council System is
3 very complex to navigate if you don't know how to
4 do that. The laws are complex. That creates an
5 issue with many folks. How can we do that? Gaps
6 in expertise, this is capacity building. We
7 talked about, you know, do these communities have
8 the capacity to represent themselves? Do we have
9 the expertise to actually talk about in equity in
10 environmental justice? The CCC document talks
11 about training our own staff to be more attune to
12 these things and from the NOAA fisheries
13 perspective that's true, too.

14 This is something that we need to invest
15 in. We're not -- we can't just assume we all know
16 how to do this and that will magically create
17 answers. We have to intentionally invest in these
18 kinds of things. And not just on us, but in
19 various communities to try and make sure that they
20 can participate.

21 And finally, representation; I think
22 this is one of the most obvious ones. When you

1 look at the Federal System, if you don't have a
2 seat at the table, if you have don't have a voice
3 at the table, you're not going to be able to
4 secure the benefits on your own, but there are
5 difficulties when we talk about coastal
6 communities. In Alaska, you know, they can't go
7 to every council meeting, so, how do they
8 participate in that issue, you know? We talked
9 about the difficulties of going in the Western
10 Pacific with those huge distances and how can
11 those communities participate? Those exist
12 everywhere. It's not just a territorial issue,
13 but there are communities that depend on fishing
14 up and down the coast that, you know, may not be
15 the common people that we see at meetings, and I
16 know the Councils struggle was how to get those
17 people to participate so that they can articulate
18 on their own what their needs are.

19 So, these are all questions that we've
20 asked. These are things that we're looking at.
21 These are not necessarily the only way to bend
22 these and maybe, you know, my group

1 representation. I might have missed something
2 important. We have a lot of good people that are
3 working on it so that they can help correct that.
4 So, we want to get all that led into the strategy;
5 get the draft strategy.

6 It is a national strategy so, the one
7 thing that you may look at is where is my regional
8 specific issue? It's likely not there because
9 this is a draft strategy and it's also not a
10 Magnuson Act strategy. It is a strategy for all
11 of the National Fisheries Service issues, so it
12 incorporates our Magnuson Act issues, but it is
13 broader than that. So, I'm very happy that the
14 Councils are working -- the CCC is working on a
15 strategy that we can work together on that. Our
16 national strategy includes the Endangered Species
17 Act, other kinds of communities that we deal with
18 that are not necessarily Magnuson Act-focused.

19 We were looking at stepping it down to
20 the regional level. It's working with our
21 partners in the region to more tailored what needs
22 to be done, taking a national overview, getting to

1 specifics about what needs to be done, thinking to
2 remove the barriers, and promoting equity.

3 I will say something about the budget.
4 This is a strategy that builds on what we're doing
5 so, it incorporates a lot of what we're doing, but
6 it is ambitious about where we want to go. Some
7 of the things we've asked for in the President's
8 Budget for '23 that we won't be able to do; some
9 of the things in the future are going to need more
10 commitment of resources than even that to do, but
11 we thought it important to lay it out, to set a
12 framework for where we want to go, even if we
13 can't do it right now with current resources, but
14 there are some that we've asked for. And we'll
15 need to get that in order to carry out some of the
16 things we've like to do.

17 All right, so the strategy basically has
18 a series of actions at the national level that we
19 are proposing to take and to continue to take, but
20 it also, fundamentally asks us to ask ourselves
21 several questions in designing what we're doing.
22 Who are the underserved communities? We talked

1 about the difficulty in identifying that. How can
2 we better communicate with them? Do we actually
3 provide equal access to benefits? How can we
4 improve equity in our research and monitoring
5 program? We talked about some of that. Do we
6 burden some communities more than others with the
7 regulatory burden? You know I -- you know we've
8 heard a lot about the Western Pacific beliefs that
9 they have been burdened with some of these
10 regulatory burdens and that we've not taken into
11 account the importance of fishing to their
12 community. It's a very fair point. And how can
13 the governance of natural resources be more
14 inclusive? And this is clearly where you all are
15 part of our partners in governance and we all need
16 to look at that and how we can be more inclusive
17 to bring these groups to the table whether it
18 means working on council membership in a more
19 diverse and inclusive council membership or just
20 participation figuring out how to bring those
21 groups into the Council Meeting.

22 All right, if I could go, I have not

1 been moving the slides. I apologize. It's behind
2 me. Could I go down to Slide 9? You guys could
3 have said something. Were you? Yeah, okay, I
4 tried, we're trying, all right. All right, Slide
5 9, strategy development. So, here's where we are.
6 You know, we've talked with the CCC before about
7 this. We talked back in October when the -- you
8 passed your own motion on your own work group.
9 We're here; we just put out the policy. We are
10 talking to various groups. We're trying to get
11 feedback. We are very interested in working with
12 the Councils to get your specific feedback in how
13 we can mesh the two policies together, recognizing
14 that ours is going to be a national overlay policy
15 that will do more -- with more than just a
16 council.

17 We're currently hoping to finalize our
18 strategy in the winter, sometime after November.
19 It will depend on the level of feedback that we
20 get and how we can address those things and how
21 well we are at actually reaching out to some of
22 those underserved communities. That is a

1 difficult issue. We're working on that now trying
2 to do outreach without necessarily assuming that
3 we've got it right. So, that's some of the
4 flexible goal for us, but that's what we'd
5 currently like to do. And then we would follow it
6 up in the Spring of '23 with these more
7 regionally-specific plans and that would be an
8 opportunity for your individual Councils to work
9 with your individual regions and science center
10 pairs to help craft those more specific plans.
11 And then if I could, have the next slide, please
12 which is the last slide?

13 So, we need input from everybody to the
14 extent that you can help us share these
15 opportunities for public input, they're here.
16 We've got a number of phone webinars. We're
17 trying to set up some in-person meeting dates and
18 venues. And we are happy to come talk to your
19 individual Councils or if the CCC would like to
20 work on that, I think we've been working with the
21 CCC and work group on that. We're happy to
22 continue to do so. The strategy is online. We're

1 trying also to figure out how to translate it into
2 Spanish which we haven't done yet, but we're
3 working on that. So, we're trying to do that.
4 These are the public participation dates, but we
5 are happy to also tailor specific outreach
6 participation to the Councils or the CCC as you
7 see fit.

8 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I apologize
9 for not keeping up with the slides, but I will
10 turn it back to you.

11 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Yeah, that's okay, Sam,
12 we were moving things along as you would have
13 going. You know, we have talented people around
14 the table. Okay, so we received a number of
15 presentations. Let me ask members of the CCC if
16 anybody has any questions for any of the
17 presenters or any comments at this time. Yeah,
18 Tony?

19 MR. BLANCHARD: (Speaking native
20 language). I think that in the Virgin Islands we
21 have the same problem as in the Pacific. You are
22 trying to reach people that don't think inside the

1 box like people sitting at the table. You
2 actually got to go outside of the box and think
3 like they would think in order to reach them.

4 For me, I always say there are some
5 people that you will never bring into the loop no
6 matter how hard you try, but I think when we look
7 at ways to contact people, like me example. We
8 look at it in a more modern way of doing so and a
9 less personal way of dealing with people. And I
10 think what we have failed to do here is to make
11 contact with people on a personal level. We have
12 lost, in my opinion, the way of being able to
13 communicate with people on the same level. Now,
14 that is partly our fault, but for people like me,
15 like I say you've got to get us outside of the
16 box. You need somebody from the community that is
17 trusted to be able to go into the community and
18 get the word out.

19 In my opinion, I think looking at ways
20 like we're using the Internet. What I don't --
21 let me rephrase that; like the Council would go
22 through the Internet, Facebook, and everything

1 else. You're not going to get some of these
2 people out and the majority of these people you
3 are not going to get in contact with them. There
4 are people like me that for the most part would
5 like to stay back in the shadow and just go along
6 day to day doing our jobs.

7 I understand the Government has a job to
8 do which I agree with them because without
9 regulations we would be in probably not so good
10 place, maybe in a worse place, but in order for
11 people to come to the table you have to have ask
12 -- first of all, you have to get in to understand
13 the importance of what you are trying to do. And
14 you have to get to buy in meaning a buy in is you
15 got to try to find a way of having them accept
16 that this is the best-case scenario which in my
17 case -- in my opinion sometimes the best-case
18 scenario is not best-case scenario.

19 So, like I will say once again, you have
20 to think outside of the box to reach these people.
21 Have somebody that is trusted and from their
22 community. They want people, have them to go in,

1 have the word to go out, and try to get them to
2 buy in. If you try to get them through the
3 Internet, you try to get them through Facebook,
4 you try to get them through other ways of
5 communication, you will not get them. I don't do
6 Facebook; I don't do any social media. I have an
7 email because of the Council. So, that should
8 tell you the mindset of most of the older guys
9 that you might be dealing with.

10 The modern -- the younger guys would buy
11 into that game quicker than we will buy into that
12 game. There is a distrust in the media. There's
13 a distrust in (inaudible) the government in my
14 opinion. I know it sounds kind of harsh, but
15 honesty is the best policy. So, you have to find
16 the trust factor to get to these people. You
17 actually have to assure them that you're willing
18 to work with them instead of telling them what to
19 do because that becomes a problem where you are
20 forcing your agenda at people that is not
21 receptive or don't understand why certain things
22 are done a certain way. And that's my best advice

1 that I could give to you.

2 CHAIRMAN LUISI: I appreciate that,
3 Tony. Will?

4 MR. SWORD: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. Thanks, Sam, for the presentation.
6 Boy, I was impressed that you memorized and said
7 everything so fast without even looking at notes,
8 wow.

9 Very good, I have some questions because
10 I haven't seen any of the Executive Orders that
11 you mentioned, but I was taken with Executive
12 Order 13985 for underserved communities. Also,
13 Executive Order 14008 on disadvantaged
14 communities. American Samoa is 65 percent at the
15 poverty level and it's been getting basically
16 worse -- I just want to say this as a preview to
17 my question. Since our head of the delegation
18 back in 2013 gave away all our quotas, our
19 percentage at that time went from 38 down to the
20 current 13. We lost one cannery, 2,000 jobs.
21 Talk about underserved?

22 And then, you know, recently we gave

1 away bluefin quotas to somebody else without
2 getting anything back for our person as in long
3 liners (phonetic). So, you know, we have
4 solutions, but I just want to find out what the
5 strategy is for, you know, for National Marine
6 Fisheries Service at the next WCPFC because most
7 of our fisheries is international. And that will
8 come up, I'm not sure, we have other suggestions
9 we want to give you, but what is the strategy to
10 try and serve our community which is both of those
11 underserved and disadvantaged?

12 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Sam?

13 MR. RAUCH: We do have our international
14 person here I think I had best defer.

15 MS. COLE: Thanks, and nice to see you,
16 Will, hi (laughter) I'm Alexa Cole from the
17 International Fisheries Office, but as you know,
18 and as others know, that last year WCPFC we made a
19 really big push to try to focus our attention on
20 American Samoa to try to get recognition for
21 American Samoa as this is a small-island
22 developing state. The strategy was not as

1 successful as we would hope it to be, but it is a
2 multiyear process and it's an effort that will
3 continue at this year's meeting and into the
4 future.

5 CHAIRMAN LUISI: All right, thanks,
6 Alexa, for that. All right, Carrie?

7 MS. SIMMONS: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair.
8 I just want to say I think the working group did a
9 great job putting together this document, this
10 report, in really a very short period of time and
11 I appreciate the effort that Sam just took us
12 through.

13 So, I have a very meaty question so, I
14 apologize in advance, but on page 21 of the
15 report, there are some specific recommendations,
16 research activities to include for underserved and
17 disadvantaged communities to address these needs
18 and address impacts of management activities. And
19 so, my question is what can we do to move these
20 forward? What can the Councils do?

21 You know, we have five-year research and
22 monitoring priorities. We update those and we ask

1 for this information. You know, we don't have any
2 crew information at all really for us to develop
3 our community social vulnerabilities analysis in
4 our amendments. So, how do we get this
5 information? How do we move these research needs
6 forward? What can we do? Will that come
7 organically when we see the regional drafts and we
8 put staff on there that will help us get this
9 information, but how do we move this forward?
10 Because I feel like this has been out there for a
11 long time, but we haven't been able to fill these
12 gaps. So, what can we do? Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Sam?

14 MR. RAUCH: So, I will -- I'll reiterate
15 that we do have a budget initiative that is part
16 of that if Congress chooses to fund that. It
17 would allow us to invest in equity and
18 environmental justice specifically. That will
19 help to do some of these things. If we do not get
20 that funding, we are constantly challenged with
21 how we can make new investments compared to all
22 the other new investments that people want to make

1 without a budget increase, but the President has
2 asked for money specifically to make investments
3 in equity and environmental justice and science is
4 a part of that.

5 So, if we get that, I imagine we will be
6 better positioned to do that. If we don't, our
7 plan in laying out the strategies to try to figure
8 out ways to make progress on some of these things.
9 Like, as you know that always come with tradeoffs
10 and we'll have to figure out what we will stop
11 doing to do that.

12 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay thanks, Sam. We
13 are bumping up against our time limitations for
14 this item on the Agenda. I do have a note from
15 our premeeting before the CCC started, but there
16 is a potential motion that was being discussed and
17 Chris Moore just asked me to call on Tom Nies.
18 So, we'll wait for that motion. No motion
19 prepared? Okay, if you want to ask your question,
20 that's fine. And I saw Archie. Well, we'll take
21 two more questions. If there is a motion that the
22 CCC wants to put on the floor, we can take it. We

1 can handle that. I want to go to Manny and then
2 we're going to move on after that. Thank you. Go
3 ahead, Tom.

4 MR. DUNN: Thank you. I guess this
5 would be more of a comment. Just that I
6 appreciate the presentations by everybody, and
7 including you, Sam. My point of view, I think
8 it's real important that -- I think it was the
9 first bullet you gave me. I think, at least in
10 our region, we're going to need a lot of help
11 identifying who the underserved communities are
12 because it's not really painfully obvious to us I
13 don't think.

14 When you're talking about traditional
15 things like healthcare and education, I think
16 that's a lot easier because everybody deserves
17 access and wants access to that. When you start
18 talking about commercial fishing or recreational
19 fishing in federal waters at least, it starts to
20 get a little bit more complicated in figuring out
21 who those people are. It seems to be so, I think
22 we -- and I'm glad you identified it as an issue

1 because I think that's going to be one of the
2 challenges for some of the regions like us that
3 identifying who it is that are underserved is how
4 do we get at them? A simple example and you
5 could, you know, a lot of people working in our
6 processing plants in New England would fit the
7 bill as underserved communities, but I don't
8 really know how the fisheries management process
9 helps them or addresses them on the council level.

10 You know, if you consider them an
11 underserved community, what do we do with them? I
12 don't really see that. Maybe they will. Maybe
13 this is my own bias showing through, but it's
14 difficult for me to see how those people would
15 want to get involved directly in the fishery
16 management process. Their representatives might,
17 but it's hard for me to see how they would
18 individually, but I think those are -- that's
19 going to be the biggest problem for us. I think
20 once we identify those underserved communities it
21 will be a little bit -- hopefully, a little bit
22 easier to figure out how to reach out to them and

1 how to involve them in the process.

2 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Sam, did you want to
3 respond?

4 MR. RAUCH: Just briefly. There are a
5 number of councils that have dealt with these kind
6 of issues and I agree with you that it's hard to
7 do that, but we do have things that many of our
8 councils have experience with these like crew
9 share and like processor quota and those kind of
10 things. Sometimes, it's not easy to do, but there
11 are tools that we maybe have sometimes we need
12 legislation to do some things, but there are
13 things we can do so it's a discussion that we'd
14 like to have.

15 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, thank you.
16 Archie?

17 MR. SOILAI: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Tom just touched on what I wanted to say. You
19 know for us in the Western Pacific, especially the
20 territories, I think it's a definition of
21 underserved communities is very straightforward
22 because we think that all the territories are

1 underserved so the definition is pretty simple for
2 us, but what I wanted to recommend, no question,
3 but I wanted to recommend as you plan for your
4 webinars to consider, you know, having a community
5 outreach, you know, to the territories,
6 especially, being so remotely located.

7 Going back to what Tony was saying, we
8 find in our island territories that webinars don't
9 work. One, people don't have access, two, you
10 know, they're not tech savvy, and three, they're
11 just not interested. They'd rather meet face to
12 face as we do in the Pacific, you know. We want
13 to settle a problem, you take it out in the
14 backyard or you sit down and you talk about it.

15 (Laughter). Yeah, and whatever
16 solution comes out,

17 You know, they'd be happier. But I
18 think as you saw in our presentation, community
19 engagement and participation is of critical
20 importance to our region. So, thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Yeah, thanks for that,
22 Archie. I'm going to take one more comment.

1 Marcos had his hand up and then Kitty, I think I'm
2 going to come back to you for the motion if you
3 want to make that motion.

4 MR. HANKE: I'm going to be very brief.
5 We have been discussing representation of the
6 Council lately, and I agree with the position of
7 Western Pacific, with what Tony said, and so on,
8 but I think there is something that we -- I want
9 to stress out that is for me is very, very
10 important. Create and support the new research
11 funds that you guys covered already for the
12 territorial fishery and socioeconomic science
13 being developed. That's super important,
14 especially including the fishing communities. And
15 the marginalized and the underrepresented
16 communities like ours cannot compete with the
17 competitive funds at a fair level sometimes.

18 This has aggravated the extreme
19 complexity and many times territorial science is
20 not a priority. We need that to be a priority
21 because we have a lot of poor areas with a lot of
22 different needs, and this can be good money for

1 the buck if you include and create mechanisms to
2 include the fishing community. This will create
3 local capacitation, better science, understanding,
4 new bonds, and new connections between the
5 managers and the fishing community. And I think
6 it's something extremely important and address
7 everything that we've been discussing at this
8 meeting up to now, not just on this presentation,
9 but also, on the science development and other
10 things. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Great, okay, thanks,
12 Marcos. Before the motion, Kitty, if I can -- I'm
13 going to go, yeah, Jon, please.

14 DR. HARE: Thank you very much. And I,
15 you know, I really appreciate that comment,
16 Marcos, and the conversation here because I think
17 this ties together a lot of what we've been
18 talking about over the past several days. We face
19 significant challenges in the future. We sort of
20 need to build the capacity of what we're doing
21 now, data-limited species is as an example.

22 We need to be more inclusive in how we

1 do things which includes cooperative research, to
2 Eric's point, during my presentation. So, I think
3 a lot of these things tie together and we just
4 need to sort of hold them into a unified strategy
5 to providing the science, to inform the
6 management, but have that management serve the
7 stakeholder through their direct involvement.

8 So, I just wanted to tie that loop
9 together. And that is something that in NOAA
10 Fisheries we are thinking about it at that
11 holistic level and then carving it up into these
12 pieces that fit into the process within which we
13 work. But we are taking this larger view, and
14 really appreciate the conversation here as we've
15 been talking through these issues and now, we just
16 need to tie them together.

17 CHAIRMAN LUISI: All right, thanks for
18 that, Jon. I'm going to go to one -- I'm going to
19 take one comment from the webinar before we come
20 to the motion. We have Manny who has been waiting
21 patiently. Manny, if you want to provide any
22 comment; if you can keep that comment to just a

1 couple minutes; that would be preferred, thank
2 you.

3 MR. DUENAS: You're surely asking for a
4 miracle, but anyway, thank you for the
5 opportunity. I just want to emphasize that this
6 whole exercise should be a bottom-up approach at
7 the council level. Also, I am sick and tired of
8 the National Standard 1 to 3 being the trump card
9 for the whole exercise and our Number 8, the
10 communities are always left behind. So, I don't
11 understand whether this is equity and
12 environmental justice or equity versus
13 environmental justice because all I see out of
14 this are lawsuits and requirements and
15 protected-species issues.

16 I mean look at protected species. They
17 have over one-third of the budget of NOAA
18 Fisheries. That sounds ridiculous. Go watch the
19 movie Dave with Kevin Kline where he experienced
20 \$50 million being wasted on telling people how
21 good they should feel about buying a car they
22 already bought.

1 So, at the end of the day I have a lot
2 more comments but thank you for the opportunity.

3 CHAIRMAN LUISI: I appreciate that,
4 Manny. Thank you for your comments. I'm going to
5 turn next to Kitty.

6 MS. SIMONDS: Well, everybody should
7 watch that movie Dave if you haven't. Probably
8 the younger people haven't watched it, but it is
9 really great. Okay, are we ready?

10 Okay, really fast. This is a draft
11 motion. So, I move the CCC establish an EEJ work
12 group to share information about different
13 approaches to meet EEJ objectives, taking into
14 account the draft EEJ strategy. The work group
15 should consider developing terms of reference,
16 holding an EEJ workshop, and EEJ workshop and
17 publishing a peer-reviewed journal article on
18 their work. We've made this very simple. We
19 haven't established timelines for these activities
20 except we know that we're going to have the
21 workshop a couple months before your draft comes
22 out because we want to make sure that you include

1 what we want to do into your draft strategy.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, thanks, Kitty.

4 So, we have a motion before us. Is there a second
5 to the motion? Tom Nies seconds the motion.

6 Is there any discussion on the motion?
7 Any discussion? Is there any objection to the
8 motion? Being no objection the motion carries by
9 consent, thank you. Thanks, Kitty, for that. Is
10 there anything else that needs to come before the
11 CCC on this topic at this point? Okay, seeing
12 none, we're going to go ahead and move on to our
13 last item on the agenda before our break.

14 It's a presentation on International
15 Affairs and we have Alexa Cole who has already
16 addressed the Council or the CCC. Alexa is the
17 Director of NOAA Fisheries Office of International
18 Affairs, Trade and Commerce. So, Alexa, I'm going
19 to turn to you and whenever you're ready, you can
20 go ahead and get started.

21 MS. COLE: Great. Thank you very much.

22 I see familiar faces although there are also a lot

1 of new ones. And it's always good to see my
2 Western Pacific colleagues who will pepper me with
3 questions regardless of the topic. I am Alexa
4 Cole. I am the Director of NOAA Fisheries Office
5 of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce
6 which is a new name and we'll talk a little bit
7 more about the restructuring that we did in our
8 office in a little bit.

9 But first up, are topics that are
10 related to the discussion that you were just
11 having which talks about both the council
12 involvement in international fisheries and the new
13 effort related to transparency and environmental
14 justice in our international fisheries engagement.
15 I will also touch briefly on some area-based
16 management efforts and the U.N. BBNJ process and
17 then, talk about some updates from my office, as I
18 mentioned.

19 We're lucky for a lot of the regional
20 fishery management organizations to have active
21 and engaged council participation both through our
22 Advisory Councils, on some of them we have council

1 members as commissioners for those RFMOs and the
2 council participation has been critical to our
3 development of U.S. negotiating positions at these
4 RFMOs. Just as we've been talking about here, you
5 bring perspectives to the work that we do at these
6 international organizations that we might not
7 otherwise have and so, engagement with the Council
8 has been critical and beneficial to our engagement
9 and some of those positions that we have on the
10 commissioners are written into the statutes,
11 Kitty. (Laughter).

12 Kitty takes credit for many of those.
13 And that has been, as I've said, it's been very
14 useful for us to be able to engage. Some of our
15 commissioners as you can see not on this slide
16 because I've already forgotten. I'm failing like
17 Sam to advance the slides. At WCPFC and our South
18 Pacific RFMO, our North Pacific Fisheries
19 Commission, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries
20 organization, and in addition to serving as
21 commissioners, we have advisory bodies for many of
22 those and council members serve there as well.

1 I wanted to highlight in particular what
2 is not yet our RFMO, but what is sort of on its
3 way to becoming an RFMO which is the Western
4 Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission. This is
5 one where we were -- there will be increasing
6 engagement with councils and our engagement with
7 councils I think is going to be critical as this
8 organization is developed. And so, I wanted to
9 highlight it briefly here today. So, this is what
10 we would call a regional fisheries body. It is
11 managed by the U.N. Food and Agricultural
12 Organization. It isn't yet officially an RFMO,
13 but there are 20, nope, 34 members including the
14 United States who engage there.

15 They are working at developing into a
16 regional fishery management organization that will
17 then have binding management authority, but it
18 doesn't have that yet, but that decision was taken
19 in 2019. And this is focused on the development
20 of living marine resources in the wider Caribbean
21 area.

22 And so, right now there are already --

1 there is an enormous amount of work already going
2 on related to what we call the (inaudible). There
3 are working groups on spiny lobster, queen conch,
4 sharks, spawning aggregations of snappers and
5 groupers, and other species, more fad (phonetic),
6 fisheries, data, and statistics, and IUU fishing.

7 So, there is a lot of work underway.

8 You will see members of my staff at council
9 meetings in the Southeast Region over the summer
10 and into the fall coming to provide more
11 information on some of the efforts that are
12 happening under these working groups and some of
13 the progress that's being made. We're really
14 looking forward to getting some more input from
15 the Councils and getting some greater and
16 continued engagement from you on these areas.

17 I wanted to highlight this because I
18 think this is one which is -- we have not yet
19 established all the formal roles. It's not a
20 formal RFMO, but it is one where they are tackling
21 a number of species that aren't covered by
22 organizations like ICCAT yet. One of the big

1 groups that is really exciting and really
2 important from our view, is the new Flying Fish,
3 Dolphin Fish Working Group which might be kind of
4 the best name of a working group ever if you ask
5 me.

6 (Laughter). And so, that's going
7 to be hosted in January 2023.

8 So, I think you will hear more about
9 that when some of my team comes to the council
10 meetings over the summer and in the fall. So, I
11 just wanted to flag that one in particular because
12 I think it's one where we're going to be looking
13 for more council engagement and it's not already
14 established and remember to do this.

15 The other thing I wanted to flag, and
16 this ties directly to the conversation that we
17 were just having, is an initiative that my office
18 has been working on with our new Deputy Assistant
19 Secretary for International Fisheries, Dr. Kelly
20 Kryc, which is we are publishing in the Federal
21 Register today, tomorrow, or Monday. I can't
22 promise you which one it is, but it's coming out,

1 which is a new solicitation for federal
2 commissioners. For all the nonfederal government
3 commissioners, sorry, it's nonfederal
4 commissioners and non- council commissioners.

5 What we're trying to do is develop a
6 much deeper and more diverse pool of candidates
7 for these commissioner positions across the RFMOs.
8 So, this federal register notice will indicate all
9 the different regional fishery management
10 organizations for which there are nonfederal,
11 non-council commissioner positions and it is
12 soliciting volunteers for those positions.

13 We are not -- it is not about any
14 individual that is currently a commissioner who
15 won't be a commissioner. We have some vacancies
16 and we may fill other positions as well, but our
17 goal is to get this out as broadly as we can. So,
18 I would ask the Council for your help in getting
19 this message out both to the Council Members and
20 to any other underserved communities in your
21 region that you can help engage with and who won't
22 see it on the Internet, who won't see it during

1 the webinar to be able to get this message out.

2 We will do better at the International
3 Fisheries organizations when we have a diverse
4 pool of candidates for our commissioners, when we
5 make sure that the U.S. Federal Commissioner is
6 hearing from all the appropriate stakeholders in
7 these processes. The more we can hear from a
8 diverse pool the better job we can do. So, this
9 notice is coming out.

10 There will be an opportunity for anyone.
11 You can self-nominate, you can nominate someone
12 else. It's a pretty straightforward process in
13 the Federal Register Notice I want to be clear for
14 anyone who is currently a federal commissioner,
15 you don't have to go through this process. You
16 can just raise your hand in case you get questions
17 and let us know that you still want to serve. And
18 it isn't targeted against any of our current
19 sitting commissioners, but it is recognition of
20 the fact that some of those commissioners have
21 been serving for a very long time; that it's a
22 good opportunity to try and make sure that we have

1 a good, diverse pool of candidates for when
2 vacancies come.

3 Some commissioners are serving at the
4 pleasure of the President. The President changes
5 from time to time. His or her pleasure may change
6 from time to time and so, we want to be able to
7 have good candidate to put forward should we be
8 looking to fill any vacancies or any commissioner
9 spots. So, I just wanted to flag that. That will
10 be coming out in the Federal Register Notice, as I
11 said, any moment now. We were hoping it would be
12 out yesterday, but best laid plans.

13 So, area-based management efforts was
14 another topic that I was asked to talk about
15 briefly. This is -- I don't think I need to tell
16 the Councils things about area based management
17 efforts. You know them probably much better than
18 I do, but it is a tool that we do use in the
19 international realm as well, but we are looking to
20 see where we can find the long- term
21 sustainability of these fisheries and using
22 area-based management tools to be able to achieve

1 our goals there. They come in various shapes and
2 sizes.

3 There isn't just one standard definition
4 or what that means in any given area, but they are
5 an increasingly appealing tool that are being used
6 in the international fisheries realm. We've
7 already used them in some ways where we have
8 seasonal fishery measures to protect breeding
9 grounds or to protect juvenile stocks. We use
10 spatially-based bycatch measures as well, and a
11 number of RFMOs and then also, trying to use
12 closed areas to protect benthic areas or other
13 habitats.

14 So, this is something that we are seeing
15 more and more of in the regional fishery
16 management spase, and it certainly connects up
17 with this administration's priorities on 30 by 30
18 and other efforts that are ongoing in this
19 Administration. So, we do expect to see more of
20 that and that is another area where councils'
21 engagement with our international fisheries
22 negotiating teams through advisory committees and

1 as commissioners. We think that this was an area
2 where you could also provide useful input and
3 advice into that process.

4 BBNJ is a topic I know there's been a
5 lot of interest in. Kitty, you cannot ask any
6 questions on this. I'm banning Kitty questions on
7 BBNJ. (Laughter). Am I not allowed to do that,
8 Sam? Oh no, all right, Kitty, you can ask
9 whatever you want.

10 We just had our fourth session in March
11 of 2022. It was supposed to be in March of 2020.
12 It, like many other things, were affected by the
13 pandemic and it was delayed for four (phonetic)
14 years. You can see up there the four main
15 thematic areas that have been part of the BBNJ
16 negotiations. The fourth session was scheduled to
17 be the last negotiating session and although there
18 was some really good progress that was made at
19 that negotiating session, it was not enough to get
20 it across the line and finish. There is another
21 session tentatively scheduled for August of this
22 year which we hope will be the last session again.

1 We were a little bit hampered in the
2 fourth session by some of the COVID protocols
3 which allowed us to only have one person in the
4 room at a time and one person roaming in the
5 hallways which just made it slightly complicated
6 for some of the negotiations to move forward, but
7 we did make some good progress.

8 I wanted to just mention a couple of the
9 places where I think we are -- we've gotten to in
10 the negotiation that I know will be of some
11 interest to the Councils. There are a number of
12 area-based management tools where some delegations
13 are continuing to advocate for a centralized
14 global process that's going to have management
15 authority over all activities like fisheries on
16 the high seas.

17 The United States and a number of other
18 delegations support a different process. We
19 support a twofold process that would have a global
20 BBJN body that would assist in the identification
21 of areas that require protection on the high seas
22 and potentially make recommendations while the

1 RFMOs and other global regional management bodies
2 would be the ones to develop and adopt and
3 implement any relevant management measures. The
4 U.S. did not support having the global body being
5 the one who does that adoption and implementation
6 of those management measures.

7 Another area is that we also support the
8 BBNJ body developing and adopting management
9 measures in areas where there are no global or
10 regional management bodies without the competence
11 to do so. There are not many areas of the ocean
12 left where there are not regional fishery
13 management organizations and there are no areas of
14 the ocean left where U.S. vessels are fishing
15 where there isn't an RFMO in place. We are not
16 aware of U.S. vessels fishing in any areas beyond
17 the competency of either within the U.S. EEZ or on
18 the high seas within an RFMO. So, we don't expect
19 that any management measures that do come out of
20 that global body in those small areas where there
21 is no RFMO to have much of an impact, if at all,
22 on U.S. industry since U.S. industry fishes

1 exclusively in areas where there are agreements.

2 We have heard from a number of
3 stakeholders that they wanted us to recommend that
4 the agreement expressly exclude fisheries. That
5 is -- it's not a negotiating position that will
6 succeed. It's the best way that I can say that
7 and so, we have really focused our attention on
8 trying to ensure and trying to push forth that
9 twofold process so that there can be decisions
10 that come out of the body that have
11 recommendations, but that the implementation and
12 the adoption of those recommendations would
13 continue to happen in the RFMO.

14 So, the State Department has the lead on
15 these negotiations for us. They have a number of
16 stakeholder webinars and discussions. I encourage
17 those of you who have participated to continue to
18 participate and make sure your views are heard.
19 Any of you that are interested in it and haven't
20 participated, please, do so. If you need
21 information about having it connected into those,
22 feel free to reach out to me and we can make sure

1 you get connected into those webinars and
2 workshops. I expect that there will be some later
3 this summer before they move into the August
4 negotiating session.

5 It's hard to remember to turn the paper
6 and the slides. All right, so just a couple of
7 updates. As I said, we have a new office name and
8 with this new office name was the establishment of
9 a new division which is our Trade and Commerce
10 Division. Within that division we have two
11 branches, one which is a trade monitoring branch
12 where our seafood import monitoring program lived
13 and we are now bringing into that division the
14 three other NOAA Fisheries Trade Monitoring
15 Program, the one related to (inaudible), related
16 to Patagonian tooth fish, the one out of the West
17 Coast Tuna Tracking and Verification Program for
18 tuna coming out of the Eastern Pacific and also,
19 the highly-migratory species out of ICCAT.

20 So, all of those programs will now be
21 combined together within this branch of this
22 division so that we can make sure that we are

1 finding some efficiencies, that they are working
2 and collaborating together so that the trade
3 monitoring data for one program isn't stove piped
4 from another so that we can make sure that they
5 are consistent and collaborating together. It
6 also involves a second branch which is our Trade
7 and Commerce Policy Branch that is going to be
8 able to focus more attention on U.S. industry and
9 supporting and facilitating U.S. domestic industry
10 as well as the export of U.S. seafood products to
11 other countries. That division will be
12 responsible for negotiating export health
13 certificates and things like that, working on free
14 trade agreements and providing subject matter
15 expertise there, and engaging in other
16 international trade bodies.

17 So, we are really excited about this new
18 division. We think it will align a lot of the
19 Administration and the Agency's efforts related to
20 the support of the U.S. industry, and to help and
21 to facilitate trade for the U.S. seafood industry.

22 A couple of very quick last updates on

1 programs that we get a lot of questions about.
2 One of them was the MMPA import provisions. As
3 many of you know, we've been working on
4 implementing this for about six years now. The
5 deadline was November 30th, 2021, for all the
6 countries to provide their information and to seek
7 a comparability finding. I am happy to say that
8 all but four countries that export products that
9 have bycatch of marine mammals did submit their
10 materials which is in no small part due to the
11 Herculean efforts of folks in my office, not me,
12 but them, who conducted over 120 consultations in
13 the year before that date.

14 So, we are now in the process of doing
15 2,600 or so comparability findings. They're done
16 fishery by fishery so we are hard at work on doing
17 those comparability findings. Once those
18 comparability findings are done, we will issue a
19 federal register notice which will indicate which
20 countries have received, which fisheries have
21 received a comparability finding and which
22 fisheries may be subject to import restrictions

1 after that. Currently the import restrictions are
2 due to come into effect on January 1, 2023 so we
3 have our work cut out for us in the next few
4 months as we're plowing through those
5 comparability findings.

6 I would note of the four countries that
7 did not submit their materials, the trade from
8 those countries totals less than a million dollars
9 so these are not any of our significant trading
10 partners. I think the last update is on what we
11 call our Moratorium Protection Act because the
12 name is too long. We issue a report every two
13 years where we identify countries for IUU fishing
14 for bycatch of protected living marine resources,
15 and for directed shark catch (phonetic) on the
16 high seas.

17 In our 2021 Report we identified 31
18 nations and entities, 7 for IUU fishing, 29 for
19 bycatch. There was five of them that were
20 overlapped between the two, and it got identified
21 twice. So, that identification triggered a two-
22 year consultation period that we are right in the

1 middle of doing those consultations with all those
2 31 nations and entities. Bycatch, obviously, that
3 was a huge change from past reports where we had
4 previously only identified one nation in the past.
5 This was a big push to try to move more nations to
6 developing bycatch measures domestically that are
7 comparable to those of the United States.

8 All of the nations that we identified
9 were related to ICCAT fisheries so, coming out of
10 the Atlantic and that's because at ICCAT we have
11 not been able to get agreement on a multilateral
12 bycatch measure as we have been able to do at both
13 IATTC and WCPSP in the Pacific. And so, this is,
14 you know, we spent many years trying
15 multilaterally to get an agreement. We were
16 unable to get that kind of agreement so we now
17 have taken bilateral or unilateral action to
18 identify those countries.

19 At the end of June of 2023, we will have
20 to make certification determination, positive or
21 negative for those nations, positive it's all
22 good, negative comes with port denials and the

1 possibility for import restrictions that are at
2 the discretion of the President. And I think that
3 was the last slide. I tried to go quickly because
4 I know you're running late.

5 CHAIRMAN LUISI: No, you did great.
6 We're right on time. We do have a few minutes for
7 questions and comments, but before we do, I just
8 want to thank you for the work that you do. I've
9 had limited experience in the international
10 fisheries management realm and in my -- it was
11 frustrating a little bit for me, but yeah, thanks
12 for the work that you do and I appreciate you
13 being here to provide that comment, to provide
14 your presentation. Does anyone have any comments
15 or anything they want to ask of Alexa at this
16 time? John?

17 MR. CARMICHAEL: A bit of a process
18 comment I guess. I think I heard you in there.
19 Thank you, for the presentation. Keeping up with
20 all that. You mentioned something about attending
21 the Southeast Councils this summer or fall. Could
22 you elaborate some on that? What would that be

1 about and what sort of time are you thinking of?

2 MS. COLE: Thanks, yes, some of my team
3 are planning to attend -- trying to get to at
4 least one meeting of each of the Southeast Region
5 Councils this summer to talk a little bit more
6 about (inaudible), about some of the working
7 groups that are going on and the upcoming working
8 group for the dolphin fish and flying fish that's
9 coming up in January. So, it's going to be
10 focused on WCAFC and some of the efforts there and
11 some of the details about the work that's
12 happening there.

13 MR. CARMICHAEL: Yeah, it would be great
14 if you could follow up with us. We could try to
15 make time on our September Agenda.

16 MS. COLE: Yes, I think they have been
17 working, but I will double check that they have.

18 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, thanks for that.
19 Archie? And then we'll go to Bill and then Eric.

20 MR. SOILAI: Thank you, Chair. Thank
21 you, Alexa, for the great presentation. It's
22 always good to see you again in the

1 non-international meetings and online.

2 Just two questions, Chair, I wanted to
3 -- first of all, when you're talking about
4 international fishing, especially in the Pacific.
5 The elephant in the room is always going to be
6 China, right? And it will always be China, as far
7 as we're concerned. And, you know, I think that
8 the U.S. Needs to posture itself to develop more
9 advantageous international conservation and
10 management measures within the RFMOs as a
11 priority. The U.S. sets a standard. We're over
12 regulated, our industries are and you've heard
13 that from, you know, the industry more times over,
14 but I think working closely with the Pacific
15 Island Nations to maintain that U.S. Influence
16 and more importantly out compete with China and
17 then brokering for the influence within the
18 Pacific is very important.

19 So, I wanted to ask firstly what
20 progress is the U.S. making internationally with
21 respect to strengthening the U.S. negotiations in
22 all RFMOs, but especially, those in the Pacific,

1 firstly? And then, I wanted to follow up -- I saw
2 your presentation about the new nominations of
3 commissioners, but last year in April and October
4 myself was recommended you know, via the West Pac
5 to serve on the RFMO and Roger Deng as a
6 commissioner to the WCPFC. We haven't heard
7 anything back on that so, I wanted to follow up to
8 see what the status was of those nominations.

9 MS. COLE: Thanks, Archie. Let me take
10 the second one first because it's easier.

11 (Laughter). We are working on a
12 whole -- our goal is to take to
13 State Department a big pile of
14 nominations to go over with and
15 move them to the President and the
16 White House Liaisons Office. So,
17 your nomination and Roger's are
18 both in that package and we are
19 working on those. So, the goal is
20 rather than sending them up onesie
21 (phonetic), twosie (phonetic) where
22 they have not had a lot of success

1 in getting them through quickly,
2 they take years and years. The
3 goal is to try to bring a whole
4 package to the State Department.
5 They know that it's coming. They
6 know that we're doing our best work
7 and we're working closely with
8 Kelly Kryc to facilitate those.

9 On the second piece, we've worked
10 together a long time in the international
11 fisheries arena. We continue to try and address
12 the ever-changing ground that we have and our
13 negotiations particularly in the Pacific with the
14 Pacific Island Countries and trying to counter the
15 influence of other delegations and strengthen the
16 position of the U.S. Delegation. We worked
17 really closely together last year to try to make
18 progress on that and the recognition of America
19 Samoa. We are going to continue to do that, but I
20 also think that we have been harmed in the Pacific
21 by, in particular, by the pandemic where those
22 relationships are so personal. And so, our goal

1 is now that countries are opening up to try to
2 actually get out to the Pacific and talk face to
3 face with some of our colleagues in those
4 countries where I really feel that the
5 relationships have languished a little bit and
6 been harmed by living in this virtual world since
7 they negotiate as a block. It's very hard to have
8 the individual conversations that we used to be
9 able to have.

10 So, that's been one of the -- that's
11 high on the list. I know for Kelly, and she and I
12 have been talking about that a lot on how we can
13 make progress out in the Pacific on that.

14 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay. Thanks, Alexa.
15 Bill Tweit?

16 MR. TWEIT: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and
17 thanks, Alexa. And just a real quick question, a
18 parochial question. Does the reorganization
19 change how commerce is going to be engaging in
20 some of the advisory panel processes? And the one
21 thing that I'm particularly interested in is the
22 Bearing Sea Fishery Advisory Body, both for the

1 down the hall (phonetic) for the international
2 convention as well as -- if there ever is, a
3 U.S.-Russia meeting again?

4 MS. COLE: I don't see the
5 reorganization of our office will impact that. I
6 mean we will -- my office has been engaged in
7 those processes in conjunction with the Alaska
8 Region in the past and I don't see that the reorg
9 to my office will make any adjustment to that
10 process, and as you say, it'll be some time before
11 we're having that meeting with Russia at this
12 stage. But we'll continue to be working together
13 at the Alaska Region on those issues.

14 CHAIRMAN LUISI: All right, thanks for
15 that. Archie, I called on Bill, but I saw your
16 light go on so if you have a follow up for Alexa,
17 that would be great.

18 MR. SOILAI: Yeah, no, thank you. I
19 just wanted to reiterate again that, you know, our
20 -- the U.S. Purse Seine Fleet, that supports the
21 American Samoa Economy and I think I mentioned it
22 yesterday, in 2018 there were 38 vessels, now

1 there's only 13 and, you know, a continuing
2 decline in the number of those vessels is not
3 sustainable for the cannery that supports the
4 American Samoa Economy. And I think you are well
5 aware of, and Sam as well, of the situation that
6 we are in and listening to the industry,
7 especially, the boat owners with respect to
8 options, right? That they have. It's just not
9 good for the territories. It's not good for
10 American Samoa and so, I just wanted to just
11 reiterate the importance that that whole picture
12 plays with respect to sustaining that small
13 economy. But thank you, for all the work that you
14 do, Alexa.

15 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, I'm going to go
16 to Eric Reid and then I have John Gourley on the
17 webinar, and then I'll come to Kitty to wrap this
18 discussion up. Eric Reid?

19 MR. REID: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Thank you, Ms. Cole, for your presentation. I'll
21 be very brief. Could you explain to me again
22 exactly what positions you're soliciting for?

1 It's not the federal position. And to be honest,
2 I'm the NAFO Commissioner, not from the New
3 England Council, but we're in the process of
4 replacing a council member who is going to term
5 out with a new representative of that
6 organization. So, it's not exactly clear to me
7 what positions you're going to solicit for like
8 today or whenever it's going to come out. Thank
9 you.

10 MS. COLE: Sure, so any commissioner
11 position that isn't specified as a council
12 nomination position or a tribal nomination
13 position or the federal position is included in
14 this Federal Register Notice, but the
15 solicitation, the fact that we are trying to get a
16 pool of candidates does not mean automatically
17 that we are going to replace and fill every
18 commissioner slot. So, we are soliciting for the
19 nonfederal, non-council position at NAFO, but
20 again, that is not an indication that
21 automatically there is going to be a replacement.
22 If you are in a commissioner position, you're

1 interested in staying in it, you should let Mike
2 know. You can let me know. You can tell me right
3 now and I will put you on the list. You don't
4 have to go through the process, but the goal is so
5 that we have a pool of candidates to draw from in
6 the event that there are either vacancies or that
7 the President seeks to put someone else in. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, thanks for that.
10 I'm going to go to the webinar and have John
11 Gourley on the webinar and I'm not even -- I don't
12 want to even think about what time it is where he
13 is right now, but John, thanks for getting up
14 early or staying up late. I guess, either way.
15 The floor is yours for any comment or question
16 that you might have.

17 MR. GOURLEY: Thank you very much.
18 Yeah, it's approaching 1:00 in the morning, way
19 past my bedtime. Thank you, Alexa. I had a
20 question about the BBNJ. You said there was
21 basically two different thoughts (phonetic) on the
22 management, one of them basically, the US position

1 is where the RFMOs, basically, have the final say
2 and the decision making on what is adopted as
3 fishery management measures and what isn't. And
4 then you have the other group. Will it be decided
5 during the August Meeting on which management
6 approach is going to be used? And if it is going
7 to be decided in August, what is the chances that
8 the rest of the countries are going to -- or the
9 rest of the U.N., or whatever, is going to adopt
10 the U.S. plan to have say a global management that
11 makes recommendations to the RFMOs?

12 MS. COLE: Thanks, John, thanks for the
13 question. If this ends up being the final session
14 of BBNJ, then, yes, it will be decided this summer
15 at that meeting. That is among the issues that
16 remains to be decided and would need to be decided
17 for the - these discussions to be finalized. It's
18 really difficult for me to handicap the likelihood
19 of these final positions. I'm not in the room
20 negotiating them. The U.S. Has a number of
21 supporters that are on the same -- have the same
22 position as we do. We are not isolated in this

1 position and we were isolated in a position where
2 we were trying to carve out fisheries. We are not
3 isolated with trying to have this two-step
4 process, but it's hard for me to guess where this
5 is going to come down. It's going to be a series
6 of agreements. Nothing will be agreed until
7 everything is agreed and, you know, the tradeoffs,
8 there are a variety of tradeoffs, but the U.S. has
9 been firm in this position and as I say, we have
10 friends so that is -- that always helps in these
11 negotiations if you're not alone. So, I can't
12 give you much better handicapping than that.

13 MR. GOURLEY: Is there something that we
14 can do as Councils to help? I'm assuming the
15 State Department is basically working by
16 themselves. Is there something the Councils can
17 do that could support the U.S. position, or are we
18 just basically out of the loop?

19 MS. COLE: So, the State Department
20 isn't working by themselves. They're -- they are
21 leading the Delegation, but they have a variety of
22 other stakeholders from the U.S. Government

1 participating, NOAA actively is working with the
2 State Department. The best thing that you can do
3 is as I mentioned there will be a number of
4 stakeholder calls and webinars and things like
5 that leading up to the August negotiations. The
6 more that you can participate in those and make
7 sure that the State Department is clearly hearing
8 your views, I think the better. So, that would be
9 my best advice in terms of engagement is
10 participating in those stakeholder events.

11 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thanks, Alexa.

12 MR. GOURLEY: I appreciate it, and thank
13 you.

14 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Yeah, thanks, John.
15 All right, lastly I'm going to go to Kitty.

16 MS. SIMONDS: Oh, and John, I should add
17 that the Councils are involved in, you know, in
18 giving our comments. So, I've been on some of
19 those listening sessions this year and for several
20 years now we wrote letters to the State Department
21 and the Department of Commerce about that very
22 same issue. So, they're well aware and it was

1 during the Trump Administration I think that when
2 we were actively involved, we -- remember we
3 hosted an international workshop with the FAO
4 about BBNJ and so we represented all the Councils
5 at that -- the last meeting that FAO had so, I
6 believe it's the Gulf Council's turn this year to
7 represent the Councils, but I've been, you know,
8 been on the listening sessions just to make sure
9 that they know that the Councils continue to, you
10 know, want them to support what they are
11 supporting so, I just want to add that.

12 So, I just want to say to Alexa who
13 we've all worked with for years and years and,
14 Alexa, should I tell them that you got us this \$3
15 million, \$4 million -- we had a bust in the
16 Northwesterns and so, the way negotiations read is
17 those funds come to the Council and that was the
18 last time Alexa, nobody else, no other enforcement
19 person after you, has done anything for us in
20 terms of money from the foreigners.

21 So, but just going back to we in the
22 Pacific, Archie, you know, talked about the Purse

1 Seiners and obviously, we managed the U.S. Long
2 Liners and the U.S., as we told you before, has
3 three tuna fisheries in the Pacific, they are
4 very, very important to the U.S. and to our own
5 economy. You know our fishery contributes more
6 than 50 percent of the swordfish to the
7 Continental U.S., as well as Bigeye and Yellowfin.

8 So, because we've had these series of
9 negotiations that haven't worked for all of us,
10 we're all -- we've all have been talking about a
11 new strategy in the Pacific where we not just
12 depend just, you know, on the State Department and
13 the Commerce Department, but last year we drafted
14 a strategy and wrote to the Department of Defense
15 and the Department of Homeland Security and
16 Interior because all of these departments have
17 issues and oh, my gosh, and contribute billions of
18 dollars to those same countries who are in the
19 commissions that we work with.

20 And our strategy is for all of these
21 departments to get together and find a better way
22 of dealing with those countries so they -- so we

1 can get them to agree to the kind of things that
2 the U.S. believes we should be doing for our
3 fisheries because we're helping all of them all
4 the time for the last, well since the '80s in
5 terms of the compact of free association. You
6 know the U.S. is generous with all of these
7 countries for many reasons, 402 (phonetic),
8 whatever.

9 So we've had discussions with Monica
10 Medina who is over at the State Department.
11 Remember, she was the ACL person several years
12 back selling that to us and also, her Deputy who
13 is head of the fisheries and polar -- yeah, she is
14 a law professor at the University of Hawaii so,
15 we're meeting with her next week before she
16 travels to Washington, D.C.

17 So, altogether I think that if we all do
18 work together that we may see something better for
19 us in the future. And I truly agree with Alexa
20 that when we're not together at international
21 meetings where all of us are talking to all of the
22 different countries, things work better that way

1 and it's just really been impossible with these
2 virtual meetings because you can't run over and
3 talk to the FSM or, you know, all of us who are --
4 we all know these people very well so, it's just,
5 you know, Alexa is there speaking and we can't be
6 negotiating on the side so, anyway, I want to
7 thank Alexa. I think that we're going to be in a
8 better position when we get all these departments
9 to work for us and we have, you know, heard back
10 from the Department of Interior, the Department of
11 Defense who told us about the Indo-Pacific
12 strategy where all the departments are part of.

13 So, you know, everybody should come
14 together and work it out though, so, thank you,
15 Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIRMAN LUISI: And thank you for those
17 comments, Kitty. Okay, we're going to go ahead
18 and break at this time so those of you who need to
19 check out can do so. Let's come back at 11:00 and
20 we'll pick up our last few items on today's
21 agenda. Thank you.

22 (Recess)

1 CHAIRMAN LUISI: We'll get started right
2 at 11:00. Once they take their seats, we're going
3 to get started again. All right, there you go.
4 Okay, welcome back from the break, everybody. I
5 know many of you have quite a journey ahead of you
6 today to get home, so we're going to do -- I'm
7 going to do the best I can to stay on target, stay
8 on schedule, so that it doesn't impact your
9 arrangements to get home. We're going to move
10 next into discussion regarding integration of the
11 ESA Section 7 with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, this
12 is a follow up from the January meeting regarding
13 implementation of policy directive 01-117 and
14 opportunities to improve coordination between
15 councils and NOAA Fisheries. We're going to start
16 with a presentation by Kitty Simonds. Kitty
17 Simonds from the Western Pacific. She's the
18 Executive Director and I'm going to turn over to
19 Kitty whenever she is ready for that presentation.
20 Whenever you are ready, Kitty.

21 MS. SIMONDS: I'm ready, but they need
22 my presentation up there. They have Uncle Sam's

1 up there. Okay, everybody. So, over the past
2 year, the CCC has been discussing progress made
3 and remaining issues surrounding the ESA policy
4 directive, to integrate you know, Section 7 and
5 the Magnuson Act. So, you know the policy
6 directive recognized the unique role of the
7 Councils and was intended to foster cooperation
8 throughout the consultation process, for our
9 actions. So, in NMFS' words the councils are, and
10 I quote, "an integral part of the Department of
11 Commerce team" and "play a critical role in
12 supporting NMFS's ability to comply with the ESA".
13 Next slide. So, the CCC May Meeting last year, we
14 requested strengthening the relationship between
15 NMFS and the Councils on ESA consultations for our
16 fisheries by updating the policy directive to
17 improve the process and timing for our council
18 involvement. The CCC also requested changes to
19 improve communication and process for draft BiOp
20 reviews, and developing a process to work with the
21 Council on ESA issues through, this is what is
22 important, the normal council process rather than

1 through RPMs and RPAs resulting from
2 consultations. So, then, this led to the January
3 CCC call, at which NMFS asked each Council to
4 elaborate on council issues associated with
5 implementing the ESA policy directive. Next
6 slide.

7 So, our Council highlighted our
8 persistent delays in completing BiOps and lack of
9 coordination with fishery action timelines,
10 development of RPMs, the recent BiOps in our
11 region have included RPMs that have required
12 management changes to the action in a manner
13 similar to RPAs. So, with continued delays, the
14 Council has asked for a realistic timeline for
15 councils to draft review that respects the council
16 process and existing meeting schedules.

17 So, since our March Council Meeting,
18 PIRO (phonetic) has started to reach out to the
19 Council through SFD on the ongoing consultation
20 timelines and RPM coordination, but we've yet to
21 receive a satisfactory timeline, in response to
22 our requests and we are still in the dark on

1 potential RPMs, for two out of the three
2 outstanding consultations. New England and
3 Atlantic Councils highlighted recent issues they
4 experienced with the White Whale Consultation,
5 they noted the ESA policy directive was not
6 followed because the consultation was triggered
7 external to the council process, and as a result,
8 the Council was not provided an opportunity to
9 develop RPMs or RPAs. They also highlighted
10 issues with council staff not being included in
11 working groups, resulting from Sturgeon BiOp RPMs
12 and that FOIA and FACA and are impeding council
13 involvement, which I don't understand, but. Next
14 slide.

15 The Pacific Council highlighted this
16 successful example, with the Southern Killer Whale
17 Consultation, which involved early coordination
18 through a council working group to develop a risk
19 assessment. But they also noted coordination has
20 not gone as well, in other BiOps, especially, when
21 NMFS developed RPMs external to the council
22 practice, which does not allow adequate time for

1 council review and input.

2 The South Atlantic has not had too many
3 consultation issues since the policy directive was
4 implemented, but they still highlighted
5 communication issues and the need to coordinate on
6 deadlines and council involvement on working
7 groups. Next slide.

8 So, based on the issues identified by
9 the Councils over the past year, some of other
10 potential changes to the policy directive include
11 adding language to encourage and incentivize early
12 coordination with the Councils or RPMs, in
13 addition to RPAs, as that at the time, that policy
14 directive was developed -- our collective
15 understanding was that RPAs and jeopardy BiOps,
16 could necessitate changes to FMPs, but RPMs
17 generally, do not. However, recent BiOps have
18 required changes to management action through the
19 council process. So the directives speaks to
20 situations in which NMFS should coordinate with
21 the councils in developing RPAs but remains silent
22 on RPMs, so, an update, we think is warranted to

1 involve councils early, for both RPM and RPA
2 development.

3 Second is adding language for council
4 and NMFS to agree on coordinated schedules for
5 council involvement, input, and development of the
6 RPMs and RPAs and draft BiOp sharing. This is the
7 intent of this change would be to help MFS to
8 complete BiOps within reasonable timeline, as well
9 as, ensure that consultation timelines meet the
10 timelines for implementing fisheries management
11 action. Three, NOAA GC (phonetic), and this was
12 an idea that we had and Sam, he was going to speak
13 to this. To facilitate sharing a draft BiOp with
14 council staff to facilitate early NMFS council
15 coordination. The goal for this would be to
16 provide an avenue for early council coordination
17 in developing draft RPMs and RPAs while keeping
18 the documents exempt from earlier releases.
19 Number four, adding an overarching policy
20 statement that NMFS will work in close
21 coordination with the councils through the MSA
22 council process to address fishery impacts on the

1 species rather than relying on RMPs and RPAs
2 resulting from consultations. This would be an
3 extension, you know, of the recognition of the
4 Councils' unique role which is what is already
5 included in the directive.

6 So, ultimately, these changes point to
7 the need to address fishery impacts to ESA listed
8 through the council process. The ESA Section 7
9 requires that the Secretary review other programs
10 administered by him/her and utilize such programs
11 in furtherance of the purposes of this Act. This
12 means that NMFS has tools other than Section 7
13 consultations to conserve and manage impacts
14 through ESA and federal-managed fisheries through
15 MSA. So, rather than waiting for a public draft
16 BiOp to be available, why don't we work together
17 through our normal council processes, to identify
18 conservation concerns and develop solutions
19 together through the transparent stakeholder-based
20 process under the Magnuson Act?

21 In our region, we review protected
22 species and interactions with our fisheries

1 throughout annual SAFE report review process.
2 And, the past four years, we have been awaiting
3 consultations to be completed, there have been
4 ample opportunities to identify conservation
5 concerns associated with the fishery interactions.
6 So, in those four years, our Council has developed
7 and took final action on updated seabird
8 mitigation measures, and as well as an action to
9 prohibit wire leaders to reduce impacts to the ESA
10 listed Oceanic White Tip Sharks. And so, NMSF
11 also has additional tools through which they can
12 coordinate with the council. For example, NMFS
13 has a species in the spotlight initiative under
14 which NMFS has an action plan to prevent
15 extinction of Pacific leatherback turtles. We
16 have not been approached with any initiative
17 specifically to address our fishery impacts
18 through the action plan, but if NMFS has concerns,
19 we of course, trust you would prioritize those
20 actions in the plan. So, the Councils would like
21 to work with NMFS to refine these improvements, to
22 integrate in ESA and MSA processes.

1 Mr. Chairman, that's my presentation.

2 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thank you very much for
3 that Kitty. I'm going to hold off on questions.
4 Right now, I'm going to turn over to Sam. So, I
5 just want to let staff know that Sam is
6 presenting, so, you are going to have to be on
7 your toes with slides, here. So, it's all you,
8 Sam.

9 MR. RAUCH: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman, and thank you for the kindly reminder to
11 move to progress the slide. All right, so I do
12 want to build on what Kitty has said. The
13 descriptions of the existing policy and the roles
14 of the Councils are completely accurate and we
15 several years ago, evaluated the relationship
16 between our ESA enterprise and the Councils and
17 determined that the Councils do play a critical
18 role in various different aspects of that, and we
19 need to account for that. And allow for that, and
20 also, allow for the variations of the different
21 councils -- the Councils all have slightly
22 different processes to how they approach things.

1 And so, there is some variation in there, which is
2 why we've allowed for individual regional council
3 agreements.

4 So, if I could, have the next slide?
5 See? I'm learning. Next slide. So, I won't
6 reiterate this since Kitty went through this --
7 this is the history of this CCC request in January
8 2022 discussion about the concerns of the
9 Councils, that you still have in this. So, if I
10 could, just in the interest of time, if we could,
11 go to the next slide which is our review. So,
12 after looking at this, it's still clear that there
13 is a lot of different regional variations and
14 there are some processes that work better than
15 others. And there's reasons for that, but there
16 also could be some issues there for how they were
17 implemented. One of the questions we had is, is
18 there a problem with the guidance itself? The
19 guidance, and we have various sources of guidance.
20 It all talked about frontloading and working with
21 the Council early in the process, and so it mainly
22 there are -- and I don't want to say that they are

1 not, and I know Kitty has got some potential
2 things that we could look at for guidance, and I
3 welcome that discussion, but in the main, the
4 guidance does talk about early and frequent
5 collaboration, trying to work together on this as
6 a joint enterprise. And so, it is not clear to me
7 that there needs to be wholesale revisions to the
8 guidance, but I'm certainly willing to look at
9 that and see whether or not there is additional
10 changes that need to be made for that.

11 One of the things that I think is -- no,
12 not yet. I'm trying to decide if I want the next
13 slide yet. I don't want the next slide yet. One
14 of the things that I think is an issue with the
15 guidance and you all mentioned it, is that when we
16 were developing it, we were looking at a paradigm
17 in which the Council is proposing to take an
18 action. We consult on that action, we work with
19 the Council to make sure ahead of time ideally,
20 that the action is going to be ESA compliant, and
21 so, there is a clear role for that, because we are
22 talking about a particular action that the Council

1 has taken. That works relatively well. What has
2 been more problematic, and I think you all termed
3 it as when you are doing an external- generated
4 review, where we have had a situation where the
5 fishery has tripped a re-initiation trigger.

6 There is some endangered species bycatch cap that
7 has been tripped, there is some new information,
8 or some court orders us to go back, holistically
9 and look at all the fishery management actions in
10 total, under effect.

11 So, there's not a council action that
12 was starting that, we are required to do that on
13 short notice, and it hasn't fell within that
14 easier paradigm. And that is something we're
15 struggling with, too, is that you know, what
16 exactly in that situation is the action? What is
17 then the role of the Council since you are not --
18 you didn't propose an action to do that? It is
19 your status quo that is under review, how do we
20 work the Council into that process, where does
21 that go? And oftentimes, we are under accelerated
22 timeframes that don't match the Council's process,

1 which is sometimes, quite lengthy.

2 So, these are issues that I think that
3 if we were to revisit the policy, we'd want to
4 talk about how the Council -- what the Council's
5 role in that particular paradigm, because that is
6 -- it's not unanticipated, I mean, I think that
7 was happening back when we did the policy for this
8 but not to the level it is now. And I think that
9 is the true model where many of the concerns have
10 been raised, we've heard where in terms of
11 externally-driven re-initiations, what is the role
12 of Council in that? And I think that there is a
13 good way to do that. So now, if I could, go to
14 the next slide.

15 So, these are some policies on
16 frontloading. We talked about the operational
17 guidelines, which say that entering a public
18 process is critical for frontloading ESA issues,
19 which is very much consistent with the existing
20 ESA, the policy on ESA and MSA integration which
21 talks about early involvement, talks about working
22 through the Council, but once again, it works

1 better in that first paradigm where there is a
2 particular action on the Council. I think it
3 doesn't clearly address well the idea of what
4 happens when we are in the re- initiation on the
5 entire FMP, not on a particular action. And I
6 think that is some place where we can work
7 together to try to work through that issue of how
8 that should happen. There are regional operating
9 agreements with at least a few councils, we've got
10 integration agreements with the South Atlantic and
11 the West Pacific, and then we all are also mindful
12 of the NEPA policy which sort of outlines the
13 relationship between us and the Councils
14 underneath and it does a lot of our -- drives a
15 lot of our decision making. So, if I could, have
16 the next slide, please. So, our initial thoughts
17 are that we have many of the tools, we understand
18 that there are -- there are both implementation
19 issues with how, even under -- the -- what I call
20 the easier paradigm, how that is being implemented
21 across the regions, and we are committed to
22 working on that. It's not apparent to us at the

1 outset that there needs to be large-scale guidance
2 changes, but we are willing to talk with you about
3 that and change the guidance if people it need to.
4 We are committed to working not just with the
5 existing region structure staff, but our Office of
6 Protected Resources is going to try to engage with
7 the Councils with the Regional Offices to try to
8 look at these issues and spread best practices
9 from one region to another. Can we look at what
10 is an issue in that particular region to see if we
11 can't make progress on that? So, that is going to
12 be a work in progress as we move forward.

13 So, one of the things we'd like to do is
14 work with the CCC and the various Councils on this
15 issue, look at effective uses and best practices,
16 one of the things that when the Councils have done
17 that to some extent. But, so far it has been --
18 this is what's -- what has worked well in our
19 region, and we need to do some exporting of those
20 best practices. Why is it working well? These
21 are two-way streets in that, the Councils need to
22 engage as well, and be prepared to engage to that

1 level which I know the Councils are willing to do,
2 but we need to make sure that those avenues exist.
3 We can't just assume that they exist.

4 What are the impediments? What in
5 particular do we do in these time-sensitive or
6 more programmatic external reviews? Those are
7 really challenging to deal with and what is the
8 role there on that? So, what other
9 recommendations do we have? So, we want to keep
10 working, I don't have a more explicit answer to
11 that. These are things that we are continuing to
12 work on. We are working -- we continue to work
13 through that issue of, from our perspective, what
14 does it mean to be reconsulting on the entire FMP,
15 and then, what role do you all have in that? So,
16 that's where we are at the moment. I'm happy to
17 take comments. And if I could, have the last
18 slide. It's that.

19 CHAIRMAN LUISI: All right, thanks Sam.
20 I know that there is a motion that we are going to
21 entertain, but before we do that, for the two
22 Presenters, does anyone have any questions or any

1 thoughts, comments that they would like to make at
2 this time? I see no hands.

3 Kitty, I'm going to come back to you. I
4 believe you have a motion that you would like to
5 make?

6 MS. SIMONDS: I'm shocked that nobody
7 else has anything to say. And, I always like to
8 be the last person. So, but I need to say a few
9 things here, right? Okay.

10 So, well, we agree with Sam that what's
11 in the directive is good, but it's about following
12 the directive on the part of certain people. And
13 that's the issue and what we need to communicate.
14 We have not had good communication. I call once a
15 month, hello, how are my BiOps doing? So, you
16 know, I communicate. So, you just talked about
17 this two-way street, well, we do, you know, we try
18 to communicate.

19 So, yes, so there are these things that
20 are in the directive that they could work and we
21 will just have to work on them in the future. But
22 we do have a few things, as I mentioned earlier,

1 and so, we're -- we'd like to have a working
2 group. So, that's going to be a motion. So,
3 shall I go ahead and do that? Oh, I did have one
4 thing. I saw you said there -- some of those
5 agreements that we have that should work, and so,
6 I just want to mention that for our ROA, we're
7 probably going to have to have an arbitration
8 clause in there. Okay? Just so you know that,
9 because disagreements in terms of how we work with
10 each other, me (phonetic) and the RA. So, I'm
11 having -- I'm asking Fred (phonetic) to write it
12 up for me if he can find something that is already
13 out there. Okay, ready for the motion?

14 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Go ahead, Kitty.

15 MS. SIMONDS: Unless somebody has
16 something else to say?

17 CHAIRMAN LUISI: No, go ahead, Kitty.

18 MS. SIMONDS: There it is. Okay. Move
19 to form a working group to consider potential
20 changes to the ESA policy directive, addressing
21 issues, identified by the CCC through the May 2021
22 and January 2022 Meetings.

1 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, thanks for that
2 -- it's another workgroup, so I'd like to ask Tom
3 Nies, if he would like to second that motion?

4 MS. SIMONDS: Yes, yes, it's a working
5 group.

6 MR. NIES: I'll second the motion.

7 MS. SIMONDS: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN LUISI: So, we have a motion by
9 Kitty, seconded by Tom. Is there any discussion
10 on the motion? The lug nuts are getting a little
11 loose on the bus right now, any discussion on the
12 motion? Okay, seeing no discussion, is there any
13 objection to the motion? Yeah, if we can put
14 Kitty and Tom up there, just for the record. I
15 see no objection to the motion, the motion carries
16 by unanimous consent, thank you.

17 Anything else, to come before us on this
18 topic? Okay. Seeing no hands, let's go ahead and
19 move onto our next item on the Agenda. This is
20 the CCC Committees and Workgroup Reports. I just
21 want to point out that we have half an hour
22 allotted to this on the Agenda and we have four

1 Presenters. If you can, just keep that in mind,
2 as you are going through your presentations, we
3 are really going to try to keep on task and keep
4 to the timing. So, we are going to start with Tom
5 Nies. Tom is going to give us a presentation on
6 Councilmember Ongoing Development Workgroup.

7 MR. NIES: Thank You. Next slide,
8 please. I just want to acknowledge the people on
9 the Steering Committee for the Council Ongoing
10 Training Program, as well as the two Meeting
11 Facilitators we've hired. You all know the two
12 Facilitators who did the Fisheries Forum for
13 years, and now, they are working with us on this.
14 Next slide, please.

15 CMOD 2022, it was originally I think
16 supposed to be 2020 or 2021, will be held in
17 November in Denver, Colorado. We picked that
18 location because of its long history with
19 fisheries. No, we picked that because it's easy
20 to get to, because they've got a good airport, and
21 it makes everybody travel at least a little bit to
22 be fair, the topic is the new approaches to EBFM

1 and EAFM and consistent with CMOD. There is also
2 a skills development element to that, which is
3 going to effective motions.

4 The next steps are pretty simple.
5 There's a draft agenda in the binder, as well as
6 information memo, EDs. I'll be sending the
7 information memo to you again, once the meeting is
8 over. We need the Councils and ideally MNFS'
9 Headquarters and regional offices to identify the
10 attendees by July 21, 2022. MNFS has 10 seats
11 here, and in our opinion, as it would help to have
12 regional office representatives there, but
13 obviously, it is up to NMFS whoever you send, for
14 your 10 people. Each Council gets four attendees,
15 so, we're generally thinking that you'll send
16 three councilmembers and one staff member, but
17 that is up to you. The reason we need to identify
18 the attendees, is because some of the attendees
19 are probably going to get picked to give
20 presentations, and -- or we're going to have find
21 other people to give the presentations, depending
22 on who is attending, and that pretty much covers

1 my report. I'm willing to answer any questions if
2 there happen to be any.

3 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thanks, Tom. You
4 follow directions very well there. I appreciate
5 it. I am not used to it, I have two teenagers at
6 home and I'm not used to being listened to, so.

7 MR. NIES: I'm sorry, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN LUISI: I appreciate that. Any
9 questions for Tom? Thank you very much, Tom.
10 Next, we are going to move to Dave who is going to
11 give us a presentation on the Scientific
12 Coordination Subcommittee. Dave, whenever you are
13 ready.

14 MR. WITHERELL: Thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman. The Council, the North Pacific Council,
16 is pleased to be the host of the Seventh Meeting
17 of the National Scientific Coordination
18 Subcommittee, and the Meeting will be held in
19 Sitka, Alaska on August 15th-17th. Our Council
20 will be paying for three folks from each of the
21 Councils to attend, and you can choose whether you
22 want to send two SSC members and some staff, or

1 three SSC members. You are welcome to send an
2 extra person or two if you feel like you would
3 like to do that, but, that would be on your own
4 dime. We do have a room block set aside in the
5 Westmark and the Aspen Hotels at a reasonable
6 rate for the summer in Sitka. We look forward to
7 hosting you, there will be receptions. It will be
8 streamed -- but one way it's not a hybrid meeting
9 where you get remote participation and we do have
10 a number of folks coming in as keynote speakers,
11 so we are looking forward to hosting that.

12 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thanks, Dave, any
13 questions on the meeting this upcoming summer?
14 Okay, seeing no questions at this time. Let's move
15 onto our third presentation, Jessica Coakley with
16 Mid-Atlantic Council staff is here to give us an
17 update on the habitat workgroup. Whenever you are
18 ready Jess?

19 MS. COAKLEY: Great, thank you for that
20 introduction, Mr. Chair. So, for those that
21 aren't familiar with this workgroup, the CCC
22 Habitat Workgroup is comprised of staff from all

1 eight councils. The Chairmanship actually rotates
2 with the CCC, and we have representatives from all
3 five of NMFS' Regional Offices on the workgroup
4 and those are folks that are involved in the
5 essential fish habitat consultation process, or
6 serve as liaison for the Councils that are
7 directly involved in habitat. We also have
8 representatives from NMFS' Headquarters Offices of
9 Habitat Conservation, and Offices of Science and
10 Technology. Next slide.

11 We are a network of fish habitat
12 practitioners with a focus on essential fish
13 habitat. We meet to share fish habitat management
14 and science issues across the region. We spend a
15 lot of time looking for opportunities to problem
16 solve around shared national challenges and around
17 shared regional issues that apply to all the
18 Councils. We also serve as a library of experts
19 for each other. A really great resource for what
20 I'll just call well-seasoned staff and new staff
21 as well. And we've picked up a few recent ones in
22 the last year, we have, Matt Seeley joined from

1 the Western Pacific Council, and Sara Rheinsmith
2 from the North Pacific Council, are new staff on
3 our workgroup. So, we are a really great support
4 network, just in terms of pulling together all the
5 EFH expertise.

6 The workgroup was formed in 2014, I had
7 the pleasure of Chairing it that first year when
8 it formed. We meet a handful of times a year
9 online for about one to two hours, and we've met
10 twice as a group in person. Next slide.

11 So we have a number of accomplishments
12 under our belt over the last eight years and I've
13 highlighted some of them here and these are also,
14 there are some hyperlinks in there if you would
15 like to access those reports. In 2016, NOAA
16 hosted an EFH Summit, and our workgroup fully
17 participated in that and contributed substantially
18 to their regional profiles and summit reports.
19 Our workgroup also played a big role in the
20 development of the National Habitat Area of
21 Particular Concern Guidance Report. We also, in
22 2019, had the opportunity to get together for the

1 second time, at the EFH Consultation and Regional
2 Innovations Workshop, where we shared current
3 practices, capabilities, challenges and came up
4 with some short- and long-term action items for
5 each of the regions, some of which have been
6 implemented.

7 In our region, we had spoken with our
8 Greater Atlantic habitat staff, and we've had some
9 changes that we made to the website, and we made
10 some improvements in terms of how we interact with
11 one another. Next slide.

12 Another outgrowth of the 2019 Workshop
13 was the CCC EFH Partners Letters that you sent,
14 and as the Chairman in 2020, all eight signatures
15 on that went out to other partner federal
16 agencies, that are involved in the consultation
17 process, to inform them about what our Councils'
18 roles are in that, and then, to provide them with
19 contacts for our Council and habitat staff within
20 the region. And that's really helped foster some
21 better connections. I know the New England
22 Council has indicated that it's really helped them

1 better engage with the U.S. Army Corps of
2 Engineers staff in their region as well. Next
3 slide.

4 So, that's what we've done. I'm going
5 to talk a little bit about what we are doing right
6 now. So, one of our current focuses is what we
7 are calling deeper dives, so during these short
8 webinars we are taking some extra time to
9 highlight Council habitat topics of interest.
10 We're doing one to two councils per meeting. So
11 far, we've had both the North Pacific and Gulf
12 Council present on their essential fish habitat
13 review work that they've been doing, and they
14 showed some really interesting products, including
15 a Google form that the North Pacific was using to
16 gather information on EFH from the stock
17 assessment scientists, rather than going to them
18 individually, which we were able to share out to
19 the group, so we could take a look at that. And
20 New England also presented on their development of
21 habitat areas of concern that they are working on
22 right now and used that as an opportunity to get

1 input from the group, as they are working through
2 their development process. Next slide.

3 I'd be remiss if I didn't mention wind,
4 I don't think we've heard a lot about wind today,
5 so we have to make sure we talk about wind. We do
6 have a wind subgroup and it is not all the regions
7 that are involved, its regional appropriate
8 participation, but there's short calls to gain
9 council habitat staff and NMFS staff insights, on
10 some of these best practices dealing with wind
11 issues and dealing with BOEM, and I know this has
12 been really helpful, and we're hoping some of
13 those lessons learned can be translated to other
14 kinds of activities in the region. So, these
15 workgroup -- subgroups will report out during our
16 webinars and let us know -- you know, some of
17 their thoughts and ideas as they talk through
18 these processes.

19 As I noted earlier, Fishery Science
20 Center engagement is an important component that
21 we've worked on in the past, and it's something
22 that we are continuing to focus on. There's been

1 an awful lot of turn over at the Science Centers
2 lately, and particularly, in some of the habitat
3 science divisions. So, we're planning some time
4 on our schedules to have them come and meet with
5 us, get to know one another, and talk about some
6 shared topic of interests, and some of these may
7 include things like regional habitat science
8 priorities, looking at different funding
9 opportunities for projects to really help advance
10 habitat science work in other areas of
11 collaboration that may help advance our council
12 priorities.

13 We are also picking some really
14 interesting topics to focus on. In July, we'll be
15 talking in more detail about fish and habitat
16 climate vulnerability. It was interesting enough,
17 my dog had to jump up and check this one out. But
18 he does also jump up when I say walk or I say
19 cookies, so you know, you take it for what it is
20 worth. But the habitat staff on this workgroup
21 are really interested in these topics, so in July,
22 we are going to receive a talk on the fish talk

1 vulnerability assessment that's just wrapping up
2 in the South Atlantic and should be complete soon.
3 NOAA Fisheries' Mike Johnson is going to be
4 talking about the Northeast Habitat Climate
5 Vulnerability Assessment that just wrapped up, and
6 then, we're going to get a presentation from
7 Michelle Bachman on the New England Fishery
8 Management Council led CVA -- HCVA Habitat
9 Dependence -- NRHA Crosswalk Project which is
10 being done to try to integrate the outputs from
11 all of these different vulnerability assessments,
12 into an easy-digestible narrative, so we can sort
13 of highlight the main takeaway points across all
14 of those different types of projects. So, we'll
15 take an opportunity as a group to talk about that
16 in July.

17 So, one other thing that I think is a
18 really great outgrowth of our workgroup, and all
19 of our collaborations is, as we've gotten to know
20 one another, we found opportunities to work
21 together to really advance, some of the national-
22 level priorities.

1 So, the staff at the New England
2 Council, Michelle Bachman, myself, staff at our
3 Regional Office along with staff from the Alaska
4 Regional Office and North Pacific Fishery
5 Management Council, we put in a competitive
6 proposal to go after the Fish Habitat Advancement
7 and Innovation Funds to develop a National fishing
8 effects database. Both the Northeast and North
9 Pacific have developed very-detailed fishing
10 impact models that look -- that are part of their
11 EFH reviews, and they've used that to support
12 that. And all of the research and the literature
13 and all that information that was used, rather
14 than having it sit on some Endnote database on
15 someone's desk, you know, and then they leave and
16 it just disappears we're going be able to build
17 that out into a database to house all of that,
18 that International Fishing Effects Information,
19 and as part of this project, we have plans to
20 expand to include some of the more warmer water
21 gears, that are used in other regions, like we've
22 already been talking with Graciela in the

1 Caribbean and, our hope is to use the CCC Habitat
2 Workgroup to help provide us input, so we can
3 develop this detailed library and provide
4 different levels of access for council staff and
5 NOAA Fisheries' end users, so they can access the
6 information directly, or even upload or update
7 information when their reviews are complete, or
8 when they come across new information, so we don't
9 have to keep rebuilding this every time, you know,
10 we do, new reviews. And it's an opportunity to
11 actually expand this type of approach to modules
12 nationally like having a wind effects module that
13 we could build out to actually house all of the
14 BOEM literature and information on wind effects
15 nationally and make that accessible to the
16 Councils.

17 So, I covered what was done in the past
18 and I've covered what we've been doing presently,
19 and I just want to note for 2023 and beyond this
20 group is just very outcome and product-oriented
21 group, and we really do well with a focus. And
22 everyone wants to move this habitat work forward

1 for all of our Councils, and to take advantage to
2 take the opportunity to have these workgroup
3 members together. So, one of the topics that we
4 were thinking of that might be interesting to
5 focus on going forward might be, incorporating
6 climate and climate resilience, like how we can
7 fold that better into our essential fish habitat
8 or habitat areas of particular concern
9 designations. But there may be other areas of
10 common regional or national interest that you
11 think are a higher priority. I'm sure the
12 workgroup would be happy to focus on those as
13 well. We did meet in person, in 2016, and then in
14 2019, with some of those specific products and
15 outcomes I noted, and I know, you know, after
16 having been here this week, its good to meet in
17 person sometimes, and for this workgroup I think
18 it's a good thing to meet every few years with a
19 really good focus and a product in mind, when we
20 do that.

21 So, with that, I'll take any questions
22 on behalf of the workgroup.

1 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Yeah. Thanks, Jessica,
2 that's an excellent summary of the work you've
3 been involved with. I'll look to the CCC. If
4 anyone has any questions for Jessica at this time
5 or wants to make any comments? Tom Nies?

6 MR. NIES: Thank you for the
7 presentation, Jessica. And I don't know if I'm
8 directing this to Jessica or other CCC members. I
9 would be in favor of them taking the focus in
10 accordance with the last slide of climate
11 resilience and habitat, I forget the exact
12 wording. And I also think, it's probably time for
13 them to start thinking about another meeting. I
14 hate to set a date, but maybe they could think
15 about planning one in 2023 or 2024, anyway. You
16 know, I mean, I'd support that. I don't know if
17 you want to take that in that direction, and let
18 them figure out a date and come back to us when
19 you want to have it.

20 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Chris?

21 DR. MOORE: Yeah, we would support that
22 as well, Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Janet?

2 MS. COIT: Thank you, Jessica. To what
3 extent, are you interacting with the Northeast
4 Science Center, or GARFO, or other folks on your
5 wind efforts? I just want to make sure you are
6 linked in and benefit from what you are doing.

7 MS. COAKLEY: Well, some of the members
8 of our workgroup are on the Northwest Wind
9 Workgroup, and I know Kerry Griffin from the
10 Pacific Council. So, Kerry is also on our
11 workgroup and he's on the subgroup, so the
12 subgroup is very focused on kind of sharing
13 staff-to-

14 Staff kind of lessons learned, best
15 practices, trying to help each other, and
16 particularly, with experiences learned in the
17 Northeast lately, with the Pacific and we have
18 persons from the South Atlantic Council, as well,
19 that are on -- Roger is on that with us, too.
20 Yes, so, South Atlantic, as well, on that
21 workgroup, because you know, things are starting
22 to move quickly in those regions as well. And,

1 they have a lot of questions about how things have
2 played out in the Northeast, and trying to figure
3 out maybe how to do things better and more
4 effectively. So, they are connected.

5 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Jon Hare?

6 DR. HARE: Yes, thank you, and thank
7 you, Jessica. Just to emphasize the coordination
8 that is going in our region. If I remember
9 correctly, the Mid-Atlantic Council hosts the
10 regional webpage for Wind Energy Development, that
11 includes information from the New England Council
12 and from the Fishery Service, so we are closely
13 coordinated on wind, and we try to have
14 individuals from different organizations, sort of
15 representing different meetings that we have. So,
16 I think in terms as wind works out in other
17 regions, like Jessica said, you know, following
18 that model of crosslinking people to your point,
19 Tony, right? It comes down to people,
20 crosslinking people on these different groups to
21 quickly share information has been reasonably
22 effective.

1 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, thank you. Thank
2 you, Jon. Tony Blanchard?

3 MR. BLANCHARD: Good presentation. And
4 when we were talking about fish habitats, and I
5 would try a perfect example. When there is, what
6 was true in 2017 in the Virgin Islands and in
7 Puerto Rico, if we are using old maps, trying to
8 get good data in my opinion, that is not going to
9 work. Because if you've ever seen a CAT 5 go
10 through an island, you would know what kind of
11 devastation we're talking about. So, it would be
12 ignorant, it might be hard to say that. What was
13 destroyed on the land is not destroyed in the
14 Ocean. So, the point that I am trying to make
15 here is, we can't use old information, and
16 especially, when it comes to mapping and bottom
17 structure. Because structure can be changed
18 within a blink of an eye. So, where we would
19 suspect that there is still coral, it might be
20 flat bottom. So, that's just the point I am
21 trying to make that we need to be careful when we
22 use old maps to come up with new solutions.

1 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thanks, Tony. Jessica,
2 can you go back to your previous slide to 2023 and
3 beyond? I think what I'd like to do here, instead
4 of a formal motion, I think this captures what the
5 person who resembles Tom Nies to my left said,
6 regarding a support for incorporating climate and
7 climate resilience in future discussions, as well
8 as, meeting in person sooner than later, and so,
9 what I'll ask the CCC is there any objection to
10 providing that direction through Jessica to the
11 Habitat Workgroup, the Habitat Committee? You
12 know, I'm seeing some thumbs up, and some heads
13 nodding in support. I just want to put that on the
14 record. So, Jessica if you can carry that message
15 forward to the members of the group, that would be
16 -- I would appreciate that. Thank you.

17 JESSICA: I will, and thank you very
18 much, I know they'll be excited, and we'll all be
19 excited to work on the tasking, so, thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Excellent, okay, we are
21 going to move on -- we have one last presentation.
22 It's the Communications Workgroup. It is an

1 update on CCC tasking regarding cross- council
2 meeting calendar and we have Mary Sabo with us
3 regarding Mid-Atlantic Council staff, and whenever
4 you are ready. Mary, you can go ahead and start.

5 MS. SABO: All right, thank you, I don't
6 have any slides today and this will be brief,
7 because I don't actually have anything to present
8 today, so, the CCC's Communication Council
9 Communications Group is made up of the
10 communication leads from all eight Councils. I
11 have to say that working with them is one of my
12 favorite parts of the job. You all have great
13 comms people on your teams. So, in October, there
14 was a task in the group to create a -- some sort
15 of cross- council calendar that would facilitate
16 better meeting planning, and just allow different
17 councils to see when other councils and SSCs are
18 meeting.

19 Given workloads over the winter months
20 we haven't been able to schedule a meeting before
21 this, but we have one scheduled for this Wednesday
22 to review calendar options, and decide on the best

1 way to move forward, and then planning to work on
2 it this summer and hoping to have a final product
3 to present at the October Meeting. So, the goal
4 here is to have an interface that all eight
5 councils can keep updated with their own meeting
6 information, so that we can provide a relatively
7 user-friendly and up-to-date resource with meeting
8 dates, and locations and other information. So,
9 the plan is to have this hosted on the joint
10 counsel website.

11 And, that's it for the updates, but I'd
12 be happy to take any questions or recommendations,
13 as we move forward with that project.

14 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thank you, Mary. Does
15 anyone have any question or any comments? It
16 sounds like the work that is planned will be
17 reported out at our October Meeting which we'll
18 look forward to. Dave?

19 MR. WITHERELL: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
20 My work with the Area-Based Subcommittee reminds
21 me how important it is for the Councils, as a
22 group, to communicate how we do business and the

1 importance of the business that we do. And, in
2 the past the CCC Communications Group, has met in
3 person and developed ideas and strategies to get
4 that message out on behalf of the Regional Fishery
5 Management Councils. And, I'm just going to ask
6 the question, since Tom has got a grin on, Mary --
7 if you thought it would be useful to have an
8 in-person meeting in the near future?

9 MS. SABO: Sure, yes, I think I've been
10 to two in- person meetings with the group in my
11 time with the Council, and I always find them to
12 be tremendously helpful. Now, I've come away with
13 a long list of things to try, and new technologies
14 and that sort of thing. So, I personally would be
15 in favor of an in-person meeting.

16 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Is there support for
17 that around the table? Tom?

18 MR. NIES: So, I don't know who you are
19 referring to, but I think if we are going to have
20 this group meet, we should have them do what the
21 Habitat Group did, and come forward with a
22 proposal for why they want to meet and what they

1 want to address. And then decide whether we
2 should have a meeting or not. Which I think our
3 CCC Terms of Reference say is supposed to happen.

4 CHAIRMAN LUISI: He returned.

5 (Laughter). Yeah, I mean, I can agree with that.
6 If there is something that can be presented to the
7 Councils, and we can, we can do that you know,
8 virtually in support of that concept, I think
9 that's -- that would be the path forward. Does
10 that sound okay, Mary, with you, to carry that
11 message?

12 MS. SABO: Sure, yeah. And I can,
13 during our meeting next week, we can discuss the
14 potential need for and topics to be addressed, at
15 a possible -- to be confirmed by the CCC Meeting
16 of the Communications Workgroup.

17 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Great. Thank you.
18 Bill?

19 MR. TWEIT: Thanks, I'm just wondering
20 if the value added to have more participation than
21 we have been getting recently from NMFS, if we
22 were to have something in person sort of organized

1 around the topic.

2 MS. SABO: Yes, I think we've had
3 participation from NMFS for the two in-person
4 meetings, so, I would expect that we would reach
5 out to them to participate.

6 CHAIRMAN LUISI: I'm getting some heads
7 nods to my right here, so, they will be
8 participating in that discussion. All right, and
9 I appreciate it very much, Mary, thank you, for
10 your time, and we look forward to hearing a report
11 at our October Meeting. Thank you.

12 MS. SABO: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, the last time on
14 our agenda before we do a wrap up, is that we have
15 a public comment section. Is there anyone from the
16 public in the audience that is here, in person,
17 that would like to make any type of public comment
18 at this time? Being no hands, let me go to the
19 webinar. Is there anybody participating virtually
20 on the webinar that would like to offer any public
21 comment to the CCC at this time? You can raise
22 your hand. I see no hands being raised, so, I'm

1 going to move on to our meeting wrap up and other
2 business. I've asked Chris Moore to provide us
3 that wrap up and so I'm going to turn the mic over
4 to Chris.

5 DR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
6 Mary gets ready to put a slide or two up, I just
7 want to remind folks that specifically, the folks
8 that are responsible for agenda summaries, to get
9 those to Mary by tomorrow. So, each of the EDs
10 had an assignment, and we've gotten most of the
11 summaries, but if you haven't gotten them in yet,
12 you have until tomorrow. So, if you can send
13 those into Mary tomorrow, she'll put together a
14 draft, we'll get that draft out by Monday, and
15 when she sends it out on Monday, she'll ask you to
16 basically, provide any comments or edits by that
17 following Wednesday, which is the 25th, and by the
18 27th, we should have a summary of the meeting
19 posted.

20 So, this is just the summary. We do
21 minutes of meetings as well, we've had a court
22 transcriber listening to the meeting, for the last

1 three days, and those notes should be available
2 within two or three weeks. We'll get those around
3 for folks to see as well and approve.

4 We have several actions and outcomes
5 from our meeting this week. I'll go through those
6 relatively quickly. If we could, move down, so,
7 there you go. There is the different topics. We
8 had a good discussion relative to newest updates,
9 priorities. We didn't have really any actions or
10 outcomes from that particular agenda item. The
11 same with budget and science. In terms of the
12 legislative outlook, we approved and updated the
13 Forage Fish Consensus Statement. Next.

14 On day two, we had a robust discussion
15 relative to climate change and the CCC recommended
16 that NOAA Fisheries postpone further development
17 of the Council Governance Policy. We then moved
18 onto area-based management, America the Beautiful,
19 you can read that there. CCC requested that NOAA
20 Fisheries provide addition funding. They -- we
21 requested that NOAA convene a meeting with CEQ.
22 Certainly, if there are any questions as I am

1 going through this, if there is anything that you
2 see that you think we didn't capture correctly,
3 now is a good time to let me know. You'll have
4 another opportunity when we get the draft around
5 in terms of the summary of the meeting, but,
6 certainly, if there's something that jumps out at
7 you today, then certainly, let me know. Next.

8 We had a good overview of recreational
9 fisheries, and a good overview of management
10 strategy evaluations we didn't have any actions or
11 outcomes associated with those particular items.
12 On the National Seafood Strategy, we provided some
13 feedback on the draft strategy, Paul asked us to
14 provide some additional feedback if we so desired,
15 so that's an ask that you can respond to, outside
16 of that, we had no action items. Next.

17 We had a good discussion about
18 environmental justice, we agreed to establish a
19 workgroup, share information on different
20 approaches. We heard from Alexa regarding
21 international affairs, there are no action items
22 there. We just finished up talking about ESA/MSA

1 and agreed to form a working group as well. In
2 terms of committee working groups, we did have
3 some tasks there, so it's really not none, we just
4 have some things we'll put in there, relative to
5 our last discussion, relative to the
6 communications group, as well as the habitat
7 workgroup. So, both of those will be reflected in
8 that particular -- under that particular topic.

9 And we'll talk about this in a little
10 bit, our next meeting is scheduled for October
11 18th-20th. That meeting will occur in Washington,
12 D.C., as I understand it. Morgan and I had a
13 brief conversation about it, no hotel has been
14 picked yet, but you all are working on it. So,
15 we'll know soon. And with that, Mr. Chair, I'll
16 be glad to take any comments/questions or if
17 anyone has any concerns, now's the time.

18 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thank you, Chris, for
19 that summary of the actions that were discussed
20 here this week. Does anyone have any questions or
21 see anything that we may have not captured
22 regarding those discussion, Dave?

1 MR. WITHERELL: Oh, thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman, I just wanted to ask Sam if he had a
3 response relative to the CCC's request for special
4 GIS funding for the ATB Initiative and when we
5 might find out or hear a decision about that?
6 Sam?

7 MR. RAUCH: I don't have a response
8 right now, I'll get back to you on that.

9 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, anybody else?
10 Carrie?

11 MS. SIMMONS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
12 Chair, I think it was on the first day there was a
13 discussion about extending the deadline for the
14 climate change action plans, regional actional
15 plans. It was a June deadline, then it was
16 changed to July, is that correct?

17 DR. MOORE: Yeah, I believe it will be
18 July 29th, let me just check my notes, and that's
19 running through the federal registry process. I
20 believe that it is going to be announced, late
21 this week, which is late this week, or early next
22 week, but I'll check, and get the specific date

1 for you.

2 It's -- if you could, just give me a
3 second, thank you for your patience. It's going
4 to be July 29th.

5 MS. SIMMONS: Does that cover all the
6 regions or just -- I think it was three in the
7 announcement, or is that all the regions? Could
8 you --

9 CHAIRMAN LUISI: That's for all the
10 regional action plans that are open for public
11 comments which --

12 MS. SIMMONS: Okay, that would mean --
13 we don't have it on our June Council Agenda?
14 That's already been submitted for federal registry
15 notice, and so, that would miss our August Council
16 Agenda. Is there anyway we could get that
17 deadline pushed back for the Southeast, and could
18 be in end of August for us?

19 DR. HARE: I'll look into that for you,
20 thank you.

21 MS. SIMMONS: Thanks. Yeah.

22 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Any more questions.

1 Okay, seeing none, is there any new, and/or
2 continuing business that we need to take up at
3 this time? Kitty?

4 MS. SIMONDS: I just have a last
5 comment, should I wait until you are finished to
6 go?

7 CHAIRMAN LUISI: We are as close to done
8 a you can -- almost so, and so yeah, we are 30
9 seconds --

10 MS. SIMONDS: Okay.

11 CHAIRMAN LUISI: -- from being done, so
12 go ahead and make your comment.

13 MS. SIMONDS: Is that I forgot to tell
14 you all that on the 17th, well remember you have
15 been hearing about our BiOps and those kinds of
16 things, on the 17th Earth Justice filed a
17 complaint on behalf of their clients, the
18 Conservation Council of Hawaii, and an individual,
19 named Nacachi (phonetic), who we know very well,
20 against the National Marine Fishery Service on
21 Oceanic White Tips on two long-line industries,
22 so, they are asking for, I guess a response in 90

1 days, so maybe, I'll see some BiOps before, I
2 don't know. So, I just wanted to mention that.
3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Okay, thanks, Kitty,
5 Marcos?

6 MR. HANKE: Yes, I want to take the
7 opportunity, for me, it is very special point, I
8 want to say to Tony Blanchard thank you, so much.
9 He is -- this is his last meeting as a CCC
10 (phonetic) Member, and for being so up front with
11 a personality that we can rely.

12 We know that he's representing you know,
13 in the best way, the fisherman from the Virgin
14 Islands, and we always have opportunity to sit
15 down to talk on the difficult points. He is
16 always like that, and I want to you -- to put that
17 out there. He is very respected by everybody in
18 the Caribbean. Thank you, for his experience, and
19 it's an honor to work with Tony. I wish we had
20 around us more people up front, and clear of soul
21 and mind and heart, like Tony is, and thank you,
22 very much, Tony.

1 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Thank you for those
2 words, Marcos, and thank you, Tony, for your
3 representation of the Caribbean and time spent on
4 the CCC, thank you.

5 MR. BLANCHARD: I appreciate that.

6 CHAIRMAN LUISI: Is there anything else
7 under other business, at this time? Seeing no
8 hands, I want to thank everybody for what I
9 consider to be a very productive meeting.

10 I hope you enjoyed my hometown here of
11 Annapolis, and I know some of you have a long
12 journey ahead to get back to your regions. So,
13 please, be safe, stay healthy and be careful and I
14 look forward to seeing all of you In October in
15 Washington, D.C.

16 This meeting is -- we stand adjourned,
17 thank you.

18 (Whereupon, at 12:01 p.m., the
19 PROCEEDINGS were adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF MARYLAND

I, Mark Mahoney, notary public in and for the State of Maryland, do hereby certify that the forgoing PROCEEDING was duly recorded and thereafter reduced to print under my direction; that the witnesses were sworn to tell the truth under penalty of perjury; that said transcript is a true record of the testimony given by witnesses; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this proceeding was called; and, furthermore, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

(Signature and Seal on File)

Notary Public, in and for the State of Maryland

My Commission Expires: June 7, 2022