



UPDATE FROM THE CCC WORKING GROUP ADDRESSING NMFS ESA POLICY DIRECTIVE

May 2023 CCC Meeting *Kitty Simonds*

CCC ESA Working Group

- CCC formed WG at May 2022 meeting
 - Consider potential changes to ESA Policy Directive
 - Address issues identified by the CCC through May 2021 & January 2022 meetings
- Staff from all 8 Councils
 - WPFMC Asuka Ishizaki (Chair)
 - MAFMC Karson Coutre (2022 co-chair)
 - NEFMC Jonathon Peros
 - NPFMC Diana Evans
 - SAFMC Christina Wiegand
 - PFMC Brett Wiedoff
 - GMFMC Carrie Simmons
 - CFMC Liajay Rivera

October 2022 CCC Outcomes

- CCC reviewed Working Group's redline version of the ESA Policy Directive with changes to help resolve high priority issues identified by the Councils
- NMFS indicated they do not plan to reopen the Policy Directives to changes until they complete region-specific discussions
- CCC recommended that NMFS review the redline version and implement the changes drafted by the working group as soon as possible, prior to the regional coordination effort
 - Exec Directors requested meeting with NMFS to discuss once NMFS completed detailed review

Updates since October Meeting

- EDs met with NMFS staff on Feb 23, 2023
 - NMFS reiterated they will not change Policy Directive until regional discussions are completed
 - Regional meetings schedule
 - WCR, SERO, AKR: Before May 2023 CCC Meeting
 - SERO, GARFO, PIRO: After CCC Meeting
 - NMFS plans to bring draft changes to the October 2023 CCC Meeting
- Working Group developed joint response to NMFS' ESA Questionnaire
- Regional coordination meetings initiated

Regional Coordination Meetings Progress

□ Meetings held to date

- PFMC: April 26
- GMFMC: April 27
- SAFMC: May 8 & 11
- NPFMC: May 10

□ Remaining schedule

- CFMC: June 12
- MAFMC: TBD
- NEFMC: TBD (likely July)
- WPFMC: Aug 9

Considerations for CCC Discussion

- Regional meetings can help cement/kick-start early regional coordination and regular communication as needed
- Scheduling of meetings has spanned 6-mo period
- So far largely duplicative with material covered in Oct 2022 WG report and NMFS questionnaire
- To date, not seeing strong connection between regional discussions and specific changes to Policy Directive that CCC supported
- **Will be helpful for NMFS to provide any specific changes with sufficient time for WG to review prior to Oct 2023 CCC meeting**