

Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)

A CCC-sponsored function

The Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Steering Committee for Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)¹ was created by the CCC in 2019 (CMOD [Terms of Reference](#)). The inaugural CMOD workshop occurred in November 2022, and the CCC approved another meeting for 2025. The Steering Committee met virtually on May 6, 2024, to provide recommendations to the CCC.

CMOD Synthesis for CCC

CMOD 2025 will be held April 30-May 1, 2025, in Vancouver, WA (near Portland, OR).

NPFMC will contact NMFS for distribution of 50% of shared costs (\$57,500), and will set up the facilitator contract among the 8 Councils (1/8th of \$57,500 per Council).

- Total estimated costs for CMOD 2025 remain the same as in October 2023.
- Under the current cost structure, costs for the venue, invited speakers, and facilitators (including for the skill session) are shared equally between NMFS (50%) and the eight Councils (50%).
- Each Council and NMFS will fund travel for their own participants, which brings the total estimate for the meeting to \$230,000.

The Steering Committee recommends revising the theme for CMOD 2025 to be more accessible.

- Suggested working title: Establishing climate-informed risk policies.
- Further scoping by the facilitators may result in additional revisions, to be approved at the October 2024 CCC meeting.

Next steps

- With concurrence from the CCC, NPFMC will establish a contract with COMPASS (same group that is providing CCG training) for the skills session on “Effective communication of complex fishery management actions from Council members to stakeholders,” and will work with the CCG to develop its content.
- The Steering Committee will continue to work with the facilitators over the next year to further advise on planning for the meeting, including agenda and guest speakers.

Planning for CMOD 2025

Venue: NPFMC has contracted with the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, WA (close to Portland, OR) to hold CMOD 2025 from April 30-May 1, 2025.

¹ NPFMC – Bill Tweit/Diana Evans; NEFMC - Cate O’Keefe; MAFMC - Mary Sabo Clark; SAFMC - John Carmichael; CFMC - Miguel Rolon; GMFMC - Emily Muehlstein; PFMC – Merrick Burden/Bob Dooley; WPFMC - Kitty Simonds/Amy Vandehey; NMFS - Stephanie Hunt.

Facilitators and budget: NPFMC intends to use the same facilitators who ran the 2023 CMOD workshop, Kim Gordon and Katie Latanich. Although NPFMC has since hired Katie Latanich as an employee, she will continue to co-facilitate CMOD in her staff role. Kim Gordon will take on a larger share of the scoping work. NPFMC is in the process of establishing an 8-Council contract with Kim.

While there will be some cost savings from the facilitators’ contracts from hiring Katie as a Council employee, the NPFMC intends to contract with a communications entity to run the skill training component of CMOD (see below). As a result, the proposed budget is likely to remain consistent with the original estimates from October 2023. The following table provides the current estimate of the CMOD workshop, which is expected to total ~\$230,000. Of this amount, ~\$115,000 is shared costs (facilitator and communications contracts, invited presenters, meeting venue), to be divided equally between NMFS (50%) and the eight Councils (50%). The remainder is participant travel, which will be paid by NMFS and the Councils individually for their participants.

		2025 Vancouver, Washington
Council travel	Travel/per diem for 4 Council members/staff	~\$12,300/Council (~\$98,500 total)
NMFS travel	Travel/per diem for 12 people (10 NOAA participants + 2 NOAA invited experts)	~\$16,500
Shared costs	Travel/per diem for facilitators, experts, and presenters; contracts for meeting room, catering, AV, and facilitators	~\$115,000
	SUBTOTAL SHARED COSTS:	\$115,000
	NOAA Shared Costs	\$57,500
	Council Shared Costs (\$7,187/Council)	\$57,500
TOTAL		~230,000

Theme for CMOD 2025:

In October, the Steering Committee recommended, and the CCC approved, the following theme for CMOD 2025: “Adapting Council risk policies through operational changes to harvest control rules.” The Committee’s interest was to link CMOD to an exploration of how to operationalize outcomes from the [SCS8](#) theme (Applying ABC Control Rules in a Changing Environment), as well as highlighting issues related to the IRA funding and climate-ready fisheries.

Since that time, we have realized that CMOD 2025’s working title may be somewhat daunting to Council members, and may perhaps give the impression that a higher level of scientific expertise is needed to participate effectively than we intend. The Committee discussed its interest in revising the theme to be more accessible, and to broaden the discussion beyond harvest control rules. Risk and climate, however, continue to be key concepts that the Committee wants to explore. Cate O’Keefe also updated the group on SCS8 planning, noting that a required work product for the facilitator she has hired to help with SCS8 is a guideline document that will recommend action items for Council uptake of SCS8 discussions. This should be a useful input to CMOD 2025.

At this time, the Committee recommends a working title of “Establishing climate-informed risk policies,” which the Committee will further revisit and refine prior to the October CCC meeting following scoping input from the CMOD facilitators.

Skill Session for CMOD 2025:

The CCC approved the CMOD 2025 skill session to focus on effective communication of complex fishery management actions from Council members to stakeholders. This was thought to dovetail with a somewhat similar training planned for the CCC Communications Group (CCG) in August 2024. Emily Muehlstein updated the Committee about the CCG's progress, which, after reviewing several proposals, has contracted with COMPASS to provide its science communication training. While the focus of each session will not be identical, CMOD is likely to benefit from the initial work that COMPASS will undertake to come up to speed on Council issues. Emily offered to work with the CCG and the NPFMC and CMOD facilitators to develop content and a contract for the CMOD skills training.

The Committee reiterated its interest that the training should consider both Council member communication to constituents about complex issues, as well as how to elicit the right information from scientists during Council presentations. It was suggested that a survey of Council members might be useful regarding which issues are most difficult for clear communication.

Next steps

The Steering Committee anticipates the following milestones in preparing for CMOD 2025:

May 2024	CCC meeting – status report, incorporate any feedback
Summer 2024	Facilitators conduct scoping to develop CMOD theme Steering Committee meeting to provide scoping input (likely June)
September 2024	Steering Committee meeting to review high-level agenda, focus topic
October 2024	CCC meeting – approve agenda, incorporate any feedback EDs will identify participants from each Council
Fall/winter 2024-5	Facilitators conduct more detailed scoping, identify guest speakers, develop key discussion items
January 2025	SCS8 guideline document available
Early 2025	Steering Committee meeting to review detailed agenda
April/May 2025	CMOD 2025 meeting CCC meeting – quick update
October 2025	CCC meeting – review facilitators' final summary report

Finally, PFMC offered to host the next CMOD meeting in 2027, and assuming that is acceptable, will work with NPFMC to ensure that there is continuity in planning.