



2020 Council Coordination Committee Meeting

Council Communications Group Report

September 23-24, 2020

Video Conference

COVID-19 IMPACTS

- Social Distancing Requirements
- Travel Bans
- Work-at-Home Orders



- Cancelled Face-to-Face Meetings
- Closed Offices
- Impacted Fishing Communities

Necessity is the mother of invention

NEW WAYS TO CONDUCT COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Virtual Meetings
- New Training and Outreach Material
- Enhanced Stakeholder Outreach





- **Newsletter converted to digital format**
- **Incoming phone calls transferred to staff cell phones**
- **Website updates on participating in virtual meetings & on using simultaneous interpretation services**



- **Professional videos instead of outreach meetings to inform for-hire fleet of new reporting requirements**
- **Public comments solicited on COVID-19 impacts on fishery and management measures considered to alleviate those impacts**



- **Increased Webinars, including five public hearings and an extra one-day Council meeting for a Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish FMP amendment**
- **Webinar participation guide, designated staff to troubleshoot during meetings, pre-meeting training sessions**
- **Survey Monkey to hold officer elections**



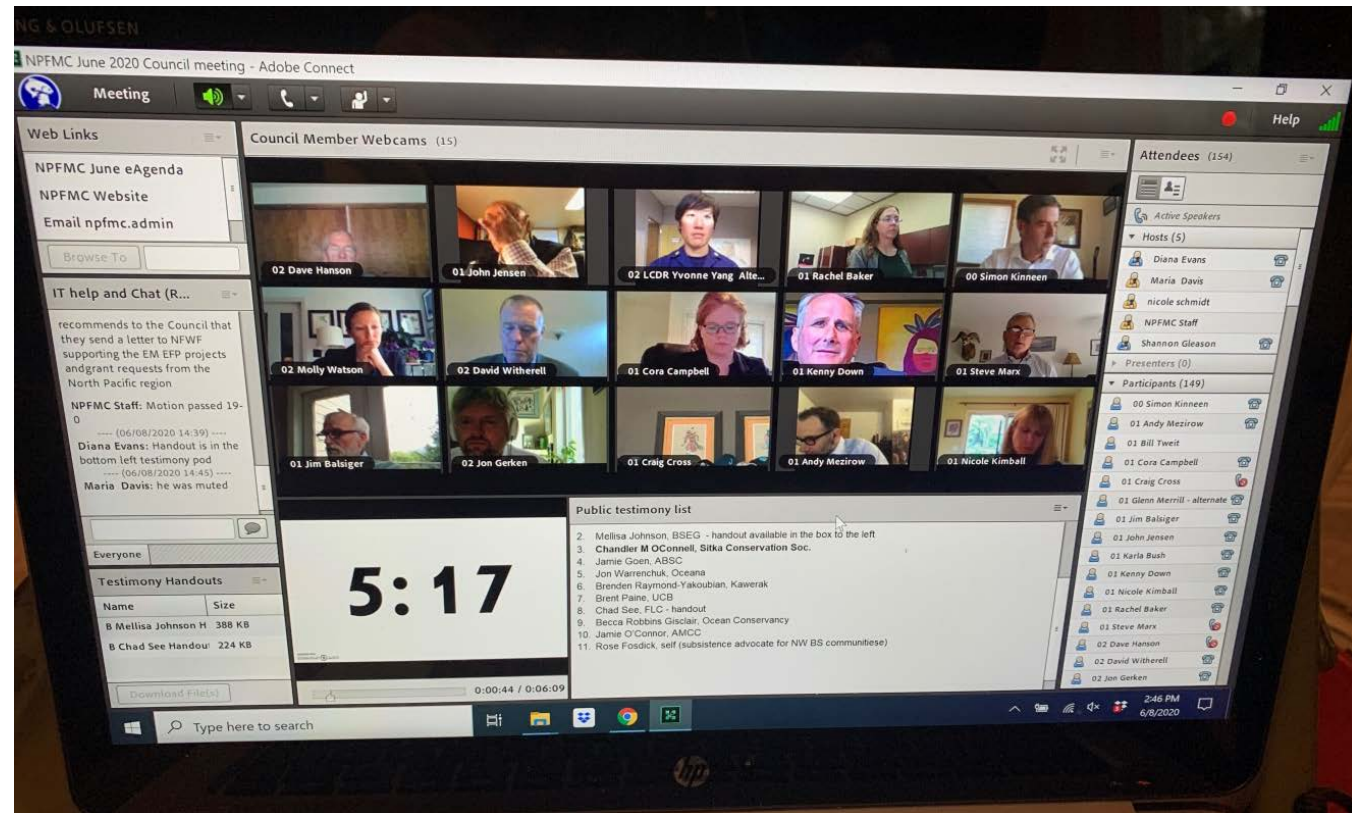
**New England Fishery
Management Council**



- **Public hearings on important groundfish and scallop amendments by webinar and one in person under a large tent, with great effort, time and expense**
- **Stakeholder training on joining and talking on webinars**
- **Remote Participation Guide and a Help Desk**
- **Additional press releases, Council round ups, targeted emails**



North Pacific
Fishery Management Council



- Multiple practice sessions for Council members and presenters before each meeting
- Participation guides, connection instructions, enhanced eAgenda and future broadcast of meetings via YouTube
- Considering switching virtual meeting program to Zoom or RingCentral as limited bandwidth with platforms that are not video-optimized can result in frozen screens, significant lag times, overall poor performance



- **Workaround developed for NMFS and other participants prohibited from using Zoom or RingCentral**
- **Now broadcasting Council meetings via YouTube for easier public and Federal access**
- **Multiple practice sessions for Council members, advisory body members and presenters before each meeting**
- **YouTube videos on how to participate in virtual meetings**



- **Instructional PPT on GoToWebinar**
- **Council member and staff pre-meeting practice sessions**
- **In-house Process Agenda outlining specific staff responsibilities during a webinar**
- **COVID-19 webpage with information and resources**
- **Spring issue of newsletter dedicated to COVID-19 impacts on data collection, Council operation & individual Advisory Panel members**
- **Delayed Advisory Panel open seat appointments out of respect to hardships to fishing community**



COVID-19 IMPACTS ON REGION'S FISHERIES

Hawaii

COMMERCIAL FISHERY

In response to the decreased market demand for fish and seafood in 2020, the Hawaii Commercial Fishery Association (HCA) and the United Pacific Fishery Council (UPFC) have implemented several measures to increase income and reduce expenses for commercial fishers. These include:

- Reducing the number of fishers on each boat.
- Reducing the number of boats.
- Reducing the number of days each boat is in the water.
- Reducing the number of fish per boat.
- Reducing the number of fish per pound.
- Reducing the number of fish per pound per pound.

NON-COMMERCIAL FISHERY

Non-commercial fishers in Hawaii have also been impacted by the pandemic. Many have lost their primary source of income, and some have been unable to access their fishing gear. The HCA and UPFC have provided support to these fishers, including providing them with information on how to access their fishing gear and providing them with financial assistance.

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON REGION'S FISHERIES

CNMI

As with locations around the world, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has been grappling with the effects of COVID-19. Since March 8, 2020, when the island's first case was reported, the CNMI government has taken progressive actions to contain the virus, including implementing a strict quarantine system, conducting mass testing, and providing financial and social assistance to those in need. The government has also implemented a strict quarantine system, including providing financial and social assistance to those in need. The government has also implemented a strict quarantine system, including providing financial and social assistance to those in need.

SECTOR	REVENUE	EXPENSES	NET INCOME
COMMERCIAL	\$10,125	\$1,100	\$9,025
RECREATIONAL	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$0
TOTALS	\$11,225	\$2,200	\$9,025

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON REGION'S FISHERIES

Guam

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Guam fishing industry. The industry has seen a significant decline in demand for fish and seafood, leading to a loss of income for many fishers. The industry has also seen a significant decline in demand for fish and seafood, leading to a loss of income for many fishers.

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON REGION'S FISHERIES

American Samoa

Despite not having any confirmed COVID-19 cases, the American Samoa government has implemented a strict quarantine system to prevent the virus from spreading. The government has also implemented a strict quarantine system, including providing financial and social assistance to those in need. The government has also implemented a strict quarantine system, including providing financial and social assistance to those in need.

- Virtual meeting protocols for Council chair, members and staff
- Single link in Federal Register, newspaper ads, Council website, meeting agenda, social media (Facebook, Twitter) to Advisory Panel meeting
- Virtual Fishers Forum with public scoping
- Virtual international workshop on area-based management for blue water fisheries
- COVID-19 webpage with information and resources
- Spring and summer newsletter dedicated to COVID-19 impacts to regional fisheries

Platforms Used to Hold Meetings during COVID-19

CM=Council meetings

AB=Advisory Bodies (e.g., SSC, advisory panel, plan team)

P=public hearing/scoping

S=staff meetings/communiques

	Caribbean	Gulf	Mid-Atlantic	New England	North Pacific	Pacific	South Atlantic	Western Pacific
Adobe Connect		CM	CM, AB, P		CM, AB			
GoToMeeting	CM, AB			CM, AB				
GoToWebinar		CM, AB		CM, AB, P			CM, AB	
Google Meets	CM, AB							S
Microsoft Team			S				S	
RingCentral					S	CM, AB		
Skype				S				
Webex								CM, AB, P
Zoom	CM, AB		S		S			
In-Person				P				