



REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
CCC WORKING GROUP
ADDRESSING NMFS POLICY
DIRECTIVE 01-117

October 2022 CCC Meeting

Kitty Simonds

CCC ESA Working Group

- Staff from all 8 Councils
 - MAFMC Karson Coutre (co-Chair)
 - WPFMC Asuka Ishizaki (co-Chair)
 - NEFMC Jonathan Peros
 - NPFMC Diana Evans
 - SAFMC Christina Wiegand
 - PFMC Brett Wiedoff
 - GMFMC Carrie Simmons
 - CFMC Liajay Rivera
- WG meetings to discuss potential changes to the ESA Policy Directive
 - July 29
 - Aug 29
- Developed redline version addressing main issues identified by CCC
- Meeting with NMFS HQ liaisons (Marian Macpherson, OSF & Marla Hamilton, OPR)
 - Sept 23

Redline Changes to Policy Directive

- Add overarching policy statement – work through the MSA Council process to address fishery impacts on ESA-listed species rather than relying exclusively on RMPs/RPAs
- Strengthen language for NMFS to involve Councils early in consultation process & agree to a coordinated schedule for involvement
- Add language for involving Councils in development of RPMs in addition to RPAs
- Add language for resolving disputes during coordination process
- NOAA GC to facilitate sharing of draft BiOp with Council staff to facilitate early NMFS-Council coordination

Meeting with HQ Liaisons

- Reviewed redline version for initial feedback
- Flagged specific issue for review
 - ▣ Dispute resolution section
 - ▣ NOAA GC to facilitate sharing of draft BiOp with Council staff to facilitate early NMFS-Council coordination
- Received update on HQ's regional coordination initiative
 - ▣ Region-specific discussions among SF, PR and Council staff re: consultation issues

WG Recommendations

- WG recommends that CCC recommend that NMFS adopt redline version of ESA Policy Directive and implement changes as soon as possible
 - ▣ Changes intended to improve overarching policy across all regions and consultation situations
 - ▣ Important first step that should be taken prior to the regional coordination effort
 - ▣ Enable follow-up on region-specific issues and considerations beyond the national level issues