

CCC Legislative Workgroup Report

May 2021 CCC Meeting
David Witherell

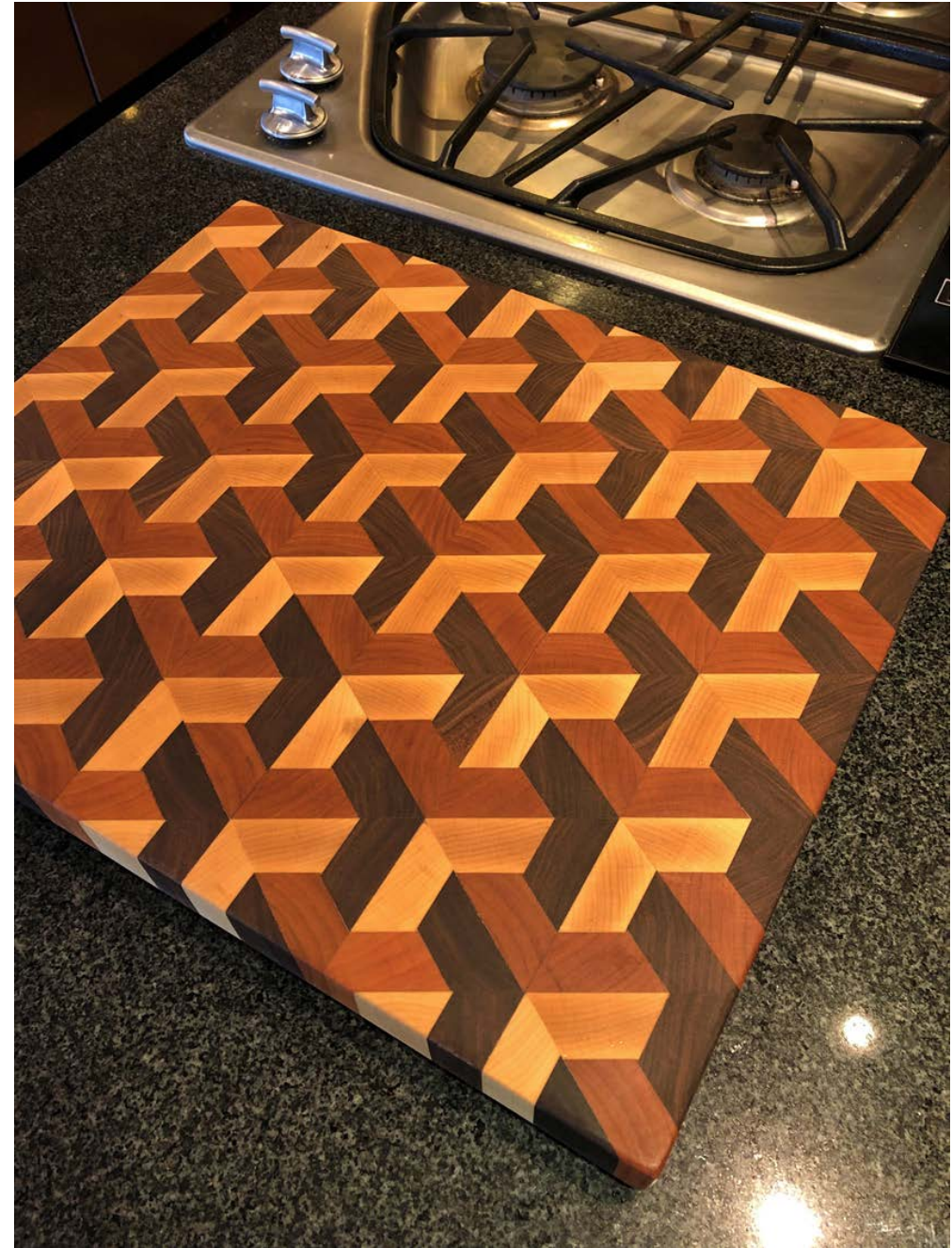
Legislative Workgroup Members

- Dave Witherell (NPFMC), Chair
- Tom Nies (NEFMC), Vice Chair
- John Carmichael (SAFMC)
- Jessica McCawley (SAFMC)
- Josh DeMello (WPFMC)
- John Gourley (WPFMC)
- Carrie Simmons (GMFMC)
- Ryan Rindone (GMFMC)
- Carlos Farchette (CFMC)
- Miguel Rolon (CFMC)
- Mary Clark Sabo (MAFMC)
- Marc Gorelnik (PFMC)
- David Whaley (Ex Officio Member)



Legislative Workgroup meeting 4/21

- Drafted a revised consensus statement for Aquaculture for CCC approval.
- Received an updated status report on MSA reauthorization and other bills from Dave Whaley.
- Reviewed Working Paper with an eye to shortening it and eliminating references to old legislation.
 - Recommended that old legislation links be deleted from the Working Paper, and instead provide link to fisherycouncils.org where all legislation updates are found.
- Discussed whether additional topics need to be added to the Working Paper at this time.
 - Recommended that Workgroup review all topics after legislation is introduced in this Congress.



Proposed Aquaculture Consensus Statement

“As stewards of our nation’s fishery resources, the Councils have an interest in ensuring that wild fish stocks, fish habitats, and commercial and recreational fisheries are minimally affected by the development and operation of aquaculture/mariculture facilities. To this end, the CCC believes that if the Councils have a clearly defined role in the siting, permitting, and review of aquaculture operations in federal waters, the permitting process will proceed more smoothly and conflicts between user groups will be minimized. For similar reasons, the appropriate Council(s) should be included during the identification and assessment of aquaculture projects including Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) and the development of the associated programmatic environmental impact statements. Additionally, the Councils should be included on the AOA implementation teams.

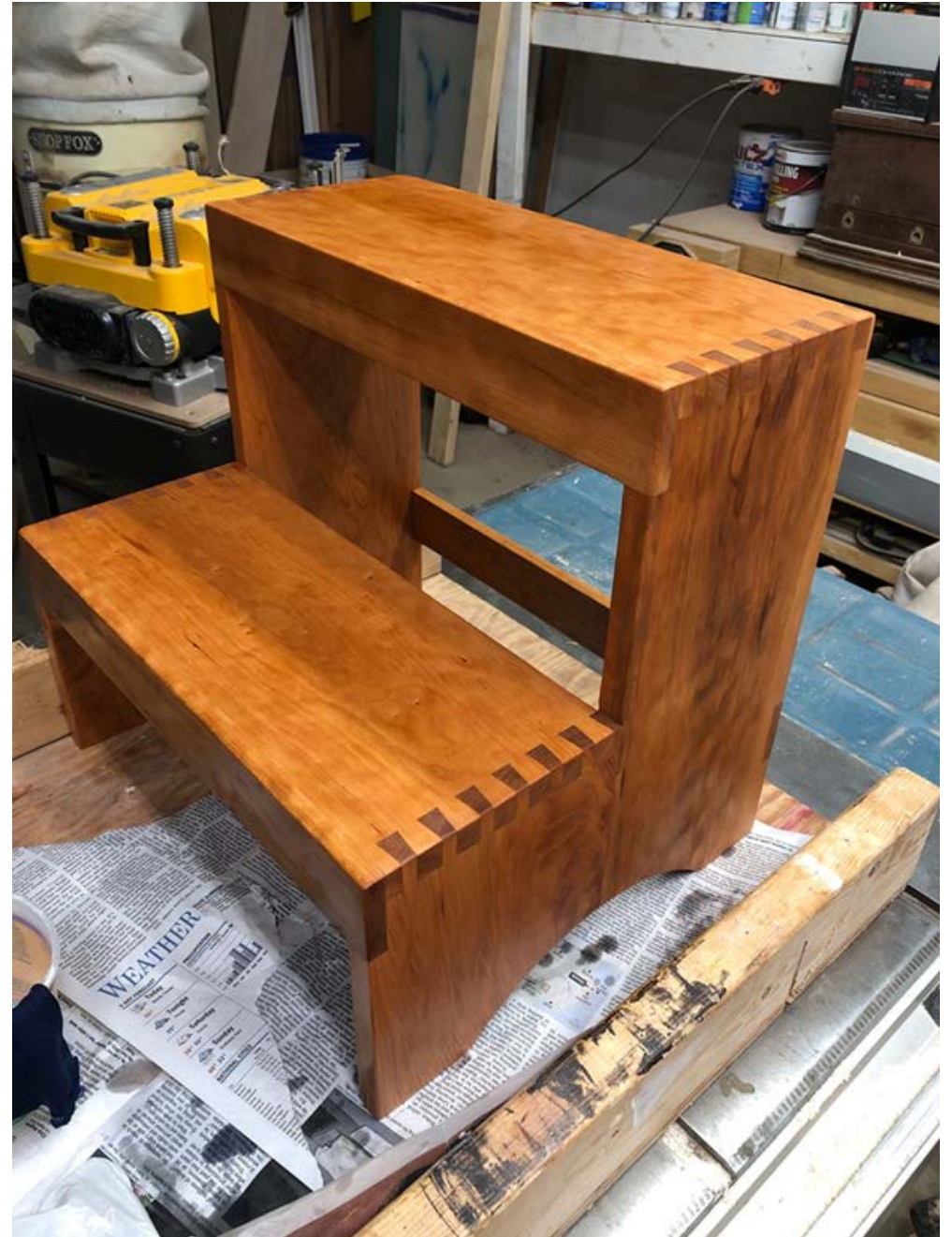
The CCC also believes in the importance of clear and ongoing communication between all parties throughout the aquaculture permitting and authorization process. These parties include fishery management councils, commercial and recreational fishermen, developers, regulating and consulting agencies, and members of the public. The Councils have well-established relationships with fishery constituents and are ideally positioned to identify potential fishery conflicts and facilitate communication with stakeholders who may be affected by proposed aquaculture facilities. The Councils also provide an open and transparent forum for scientific review, public input, and full consideration of potential interactions with fisheries. Permitting agencies and aquaculture developers should engage the appropriate Council(s), early and often, when identifying potential sites and during the project design phase to allow for early stakeholder input and mitigation of impacts to fish habitats and fisheries.”

Next Steps for the Legislative Workgroup

Assuming the CCC agrees with the Workgroup recommendations for the Working Paper, we will revise the document to:

- Include the new consensus statement for “Aquaculture”
- Continue adding and refining regional council perspectives. *[SAFMC and NEFMC perspectives were updated for the May 2021 draft.]*

Workgroup will continue to track MSA reauthorization and fishery related bills



Actions for the CCC

May 2021

1. Approve a revised consensus statement for “Aquaculture”.
2. Select a new Vice-Chair
 - CCC policy is that workgroup chair serves 2 years, and vice chair becomes chair; CCC selects new vice chair.



1279631795

Questions?

The image shows two large wooden barrels in a workshop. The barrels are made of light-colored wood and are held together by dark wooden hoops. They are positioned on a blue metal stand. In the background, a yellow DeWalt power tool is visible on a workbench. The text "Questions?" is overlaid in yellow in the upper left area. A number "1279631795" is visible in the top left corner.