

Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)

A CCC-sponsored function

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) Steering Committee for Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)¹ was created by the CCC in November 2019. The Steering Committee met by webconference on March 29, 2021. This report amalgamates steering committee discussion and other project updates.

CMOD Synthesis for CCC

NEFMC is hosting the first CMOD training, in person, scheduled for Nov 2-3, 2021, at the Renaissance Denver City Center Hotel, Denver, CO.

- Contractors Resource Logic (Kim Gordon) / Katie Latanich Consulting have been hired to develop and deliver a facilitated 2-day workshop.
- NEFMC has organized contractual agreements with the RFMCs (and has received funding for NMFS' contribution).

The CCC Steering Committee is working with the facilitators on how to structure the training.

- Topic: New approaches to Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) and Ecosystem Approaches to Fishery Management (EAFM), with a skills focus on effective development of successful motions.
- Steering Committee agrees with facilitator suggestion to organize CMOD discussions around 3-4 cross-cutting themes rather than approaching the topic by issue area.
- Facilitators are currently in outreach phase to persons in each region, and Steering Committee will meet over the summer to finalize agenda and structure.

The Steering Committee recommends that the Councils consider sending members with some exposure to EBFM/EAFM concepts. This will allow the discussions to focus more on application of practical tools for EBFM/EAFM rather than introductory concepts. Each Council is expected to send 4 representatives (3 Council members and 1 staff), and 10 NMFS attendees from HQ/regional offices.

General CMOD Planning

Tom Nies, NEFMC, put out a request for proposals for a CMOD contractor, and eventually selected a joint bid from Resource Logic (Kim Gordon) and Katie Latanich Consulting. NEFMC has organized execution of eight contractual agreements between the individual Councils and the contractors, and will also disburse NMFS' share of funding which has already been received. As outlined in the November 2019 [CMOD proposal](#), as the host Council, he is working with the facilitators and the Steering Committee to arrange the training workshop.

¹ NPFMC – Bill Tweit (chair), Diana Evans, David Witherell; NEFMC – Tom Nies; MAFMC – Mary Sabo; SAFMC – John Carmichael; CFMC – Miguel Rolon; GMFMC – Emily Muehlstein; PFMC – Bob Dooley; WPFMC – Kitty Simmonds; NMFS – Stephanie Hunt.

The facilitators identified a venue in Denver, CO, and the NEFMC has signed a contract with the Renaissance Denver Downtown City Center Hotel. Meeting days are November 2-3. All Councils will pay travel for their own attendees. As described in the original proposal, each Council would send 4 attendees (suggesting 3 members and 1 staff), and NMFS would send 10 persons (a mix of regional and headquarters staff). Council members are eligible to attend CMOD after they have been members of the Council for at least one year.

As a reminder, the [Terms of Reference](#) for the CMOD program state explicitly that no policy decisions or recommendations will be made by attendees at these trainings.

Agenda and themes

The CCC approved the topic of new approaches to Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) and Ecosystem Approaches to Fishery Management (EAFM) for the first CMOD training, with a skills focus on effective development of successful motions.

During the March 29th meeting, the facilitators proposed an approach to the workshop that minimizes time spent on “who’s doing what” and will organize the CMOD discussions around 3-4 cross-cutting questions and topics that reflect the complexity of EBFM/EAFM. The specific themes will be identified through scoping, potentially to include: scenario planning and modeling, decision tools and informing decisions, incorporating non-traditional and/or underutilized information sources, communicating benefits of EBFM/EAFM, engaging people and communities, or other ocean uses and impacts. There was mixed feeling among Steering Committee members as to whether climate change impacts should specifically be a theme, or whether, recognizing the differing climate impacts occurring across the region, climate should be a part of the conversation but not a specific topic. The Steering Committee will revisit this question at a later meeting. The Committee also offered the suggestion of framing the themes and agenda with the continuum of identifying the problem and options – implementation – and evaluating how things have worked.

The facilitators will begin scoping in late May with individuals from throughout the eight Council regions, in order to identify key issues of interest across Councils. They will focus their idea-gathering on Council committee and advisory body leads (e.g., ecosystem committee chairs or similar, depending on each Council’s structure), Council staff ecosystem leads, and NMFS ecosystem leads and liaisons to Councils (e.g., leads on ecosystem status reports). These will be individual, open-ended planning conversations. As they synthesize this feedback, they will share a draft agenda with the CMOD steering committee for their review, which will inform which seem to be the key issues of interest across Councils.

Next steps

Once the scoping is concluded, the Steering Committee will convene again to discuss and approve the final choice of themes and other agenda questions. In the late summer/early fall, each Council will then be asked to identify who will be attending the CMOD training in November.

The facilitators have suggested and **the Steering Committee recommends that each Council send participants who have a baseline level of understanding of EBFM/EAFM principles.** Having exposure to the general concepts of EBFM/EAFM will allow the training to focus on implementation rather than familiarity, which supports discussion opportunities and minimizes the need for time spent on introduction and context-setting. In the Steering Committee’s view, cross-Council engagement and Council member development is best supported through interactive discussion sessions. The Councils may wish to consider sending members who are able to participate knowledgeably in the discussion, and who are likely to help lead the Council on EBFM/EAFM issues as a result of this training opportunity.

Each Council will also be asked to submit a short, 2-3 page overview of EBFM/EAFM in their region in advance of the training.