

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

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COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

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MEETING

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WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 18, 2015

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The Committee met in the Holiday Inn  
Capitol, Capitol Ballroom, 550 C Street, S.W.,  
Washington, D.C., at 9:00 a.m., Kevin Anson,  
Chair, presiding.

PRESENT

KEVIN ANSON, Gulf of Mexico Council, Chair  
LEE ANDERSON, Mid-Atlantic Council  
JOHN BULLARD, Greater Atlantic Region  
ROY CRABTREE, Southeast Region  
MICHELLE DUVAL, South Atlantic Council \*  
ED EBISUI, Western Pacific Council  
CARLOS FARCHETTE, Caribbean Council  
DOUGLAS GREGORY, Gulf of Mexico Council  
JOHN GOURLEY, Western Pacific Council  
DON HANSEN, Pacific Council  
JOHN HENDERSCHIEDT, North Pacific Council  
DAN HULL, North Pacific Council  
BILL KARP, New England Council  
DOROTHY LOWMAN, Pacific Council  
BOB MAHOOD, South Atlantic Council \*  
DON McISAAC, Pacific Council  
GLENN MERRILL, Alaska Region  
CHRIS MOORE, Mid-Atlantic Council  
TOM NIES, New England Council

CHRIS OLIVER, North Pacific Council  
MICHAEL PENTONY, Greater Atlantic Region  
GENO PINEIRO-SOLER, Caribbean Council  
HERB POLLARD, Pacific Council  
JOHN QUINN, New England Council  
RICK ROBINS, Mid-Atlantic Council  
MIGUEL ROLON, Caribbean Council  
KITTY SIMONDS, Western Pacific Council  
TERRY STOCKWELL, New England Council \*  
MIKE TOSATTO, Pacific Islands Region  
BOB TURNER, West Coast Region  
DAVID WITHERELL, North Pacific Council

ALSO PRESENT

EILEEN SOBECK, Assistant Administrator for  
Fisheries  
PAUL DOREMUS, Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Operations  
SAM RAUCH, Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Regional Programs  
BILL CHAPPELL, Sustainable Fisheries  
SARA DECKER, Senator Marco Rubio  
BRIAN FREDIEU, Sustainable Fisheries  
ADAM ISSENBERG, General Counsel  
MARIAN MACPHERSON, Sustainable Fisheries  
ROB MOLLER  
CAROLINE PARK, General Counsel for Fisheries  
WES PATRICK, Sustainable Fisheries  
ALAN RISENHOOVER, Director, Sustainable  
Fisheries  
MATT STRICKLER, House Natural Resources,  
Subcommittee on Water, Power, & Oceans (minority)  
KIEL WEAVER, House Natural Resources,  
Subcommittee on Water, Power, & Oceans (Majority)

\* Present via telephone

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## P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

9:06 a.m.

1  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Good morning again.  
4 My name is Kevin Anson. I'm the Chair for the  
5 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. And  
6 welcome to the CCC meeting. I'll be Chair for  
7 this meeting.

8 Just a couple of things before we get  
9 started. As you're all aware, we have had some  
10 weather issues here in the last couple of days.  
11 And that's prevented a few of the folks that  
12 would normally attend from coming to the meeting.

13 So, they -- there's been a telephone  
14 number that's been set up for those folks to  
15 participate. And I certainly look forward to  
16 them participating.

17 But due to that issue with using the  
18 telephone, if everyone can kind of keep the  
19 background conversations to a minimum so that it  
20 is as clear on the other end of the telephone as  
21 possible. And then also, to help with those that  
22 are listening in as well as any of those that  
23 might be taking transcriptions of the meeting, if  
24 you could state your name, at least for the first  
25 couple of times that you make comments, so that  
26 the persons listening in can maybe recognize you.

27 So, with that, there -- we're going to  
28 go ahead and start with introductions. To my  
29 left --

30 MR. GREGORY: Douglas Gregory, Gulf  
31 Council ED.

32 MR. NIES: Tom Nies, New England  
33 Council, the Executive Director.

34 MR. KARP: Bill Karp, Science and  
35 Research Director for the Northeast Fishery  
36 Science Center.

37 MR. BULLARD: John Bullard, Regional  
38 Administrator, Greater Atlantic Regional  
39 Fisheries Office.

40 MR. PINEIRO: Good morning, Geno  
41 Pineiro, Vice Chair from the warm and sunny  
42 Caribbean Council.

43 MR. FARCHETTE: Carlos Farchette,  
44 Caribbean Council Chair.

45 MR. ROLON: Miguel Rolon, Caribbean  
46 Council, Executive Director.

47 MR. CRABTREE: Roy Crabtree, Regional  
48 Administrator, sunny Southeast.

1 MR. EBISUI: Good morning, Ed Ebisui,  
2 Chair of Western Pacific Council.  
3 MS. SIMONDS: Kitty Simonds, the  
4 Executive Director.  
5 MR. GOURLEY: John Gourley, Vice  
6 Chair.  
7 MR. TOSATTO: Mike Tosatto, Pacific  
8 Islands, Regional Administrator.  
9 MS. LOWMAN: Dorothy Lowman, Chair of  
10 Pacific Fishery Management Council.  
11 MR. McISAAC: Don McIsaac, Executive  
12 Director, Pacific Council.  
13 MR. POLLARD: Herb Pollard, Vice Chair  
14 of Pacific Council.  
15 MR. TURNER: Bob Turner, Sustainable  
16 Fisheries, West Coast Region.  
17 MR. MERRILL: Glenn Merrill,  
18 Sustainable Fisheries, Alaska Region.  
19 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: John Henderschedt,  
20 Vice Chair, North Pacific Council.  
21 MR. HULL: Dan Hull, North Pacific  
22 Council, Chairman.  
23 MR. OLIVER: Chris Oliver, North  
24 Pacific Council, Executive Director from the  
25 relatively warm Anchorage, Alaska.  
26 MR. ANDERSON: Lee Anderson, Vice  
27 Chair, Mid Atlantic Council.  
28 MR. MOORE: Chris Moore, Executive  
29 Director, Mid Atlantic Council.  
30 MR. ROBINS: Rick Robins, Chair, Mid  
31 Atlantic Council.  
32 MS. PARK: Caroline Park, Deputy  
33 Section Chief, Fisheries Protective Resources  
34 Section, OGC.  
35 MR. RISENHOOVER: Alan Risenhoover,  
36 Office of Sustainable Fisheries.  
37 DR. DOREMUS: Paul Doremus, Deputy AA  
38 for Operations.  
39 MS. SOBECK: Eileen Sobeck, Assistant  
40 Administrator, Fisheries.  
41 CHAIRMAN ANSON: And so if -- do you  
42 have the ability Brian or Bill to go ahead and  
43 recognize any of the folks that are on the phone?  
44 Or they can chime in?  
45 All right, so those that are on the  
46 phone from the Councils, could you state your  
47 name?  
48 MR. STOCKWELL: Terry Stockwell,

1 snowbound in Maine.

2 MS. DUVAL: Michelle Duval, South  
3 Atlantic Council, Vice Chair, sunny North  
4 Carolina.

5 MR. MAHOOD: Bob Mahood, Executive  
6 Director down here and we're kind of snowbound in  
7 Charleston also. But not by our own devices.  
8 Only by the devices up north.

9 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Anyone else on the  
10 phone?

11 MR. MAHOOD: I don't believe Ben is  
12 going to -- he might be on and off. But I don't  
13 believe he's on right now.

14 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right. Well  
15 thank you all. Sorry you couldn't be here. But  
16 hopefully we'll be able to incorporate any of  
17 your comments in the discussion here.

18 Just a couple more things before I  
19 pass it over to Ms. Sobeck. Everyone has the  
20 agenda. Of course you got your flash drives as  
21 well. So between those two items, that's where  
22 all the presentations are. You can find those  
23 and go to the website.

24 So, Ms. Sobeck?

25 MS. SOBECK: Great, thank you. Thank  
26 you Kevin and good morning everyone. It's great  
27 to be here today. It's been -- I've been on the  
28 job for almost exactly a year and I do remember  
29 when I first came to this meeting. I think it  
30 was maybe my first week on the job. And I really  
31 had no idea what was going on. And now I -- at  
32 least I know all the things that I don't know.

33 So, I feel like I've made a lot of  
34 progress this last year. But no, it feels very  
35 different to be up here after a year. I've met  
36 most of you several times and have a sense of  
37 some of the accomplishments and challenges that  
38 are in all of our Councils. And I really  
39 appreciate the ability to be here today.

40 Sam Rauch is on kid duty for at least  
41 part of the morning. He will be joining us later  
42 today. And maybe he'll be able to call in if he  
43 can't make it.

44 I'm going to apologize ahead of time  
45 for not being able to be here tomorrow as I need  
46 to co-chair another all-day meeting. But Kitty's  
47 aware of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. But Sam  
48 and Paul and Richard, Allen, the rest of the team

1 will all be here to report back to me on how  
2 things go tomorrow.

3 So I wanted to just have -- give you  
4 a couple of minutes of remarks on highlights from  
5 the past year and a perspective look at what's  
6 coming up this year. But I'm going to keep it  
7 short.

8 It has been a busy year as usual. And  
9 I don't know if there's any -- if there's ever  
10 been not a busy year in the history of NOAA  
11 Fisheries. A lot of challenges and issues that  
12 you guys are all aware of.

13 Everything from Bigeye Amendment 7 in  
14 the Western Pacific, deep sea coral work in the  
15 Mid Atlantic, Sector separation in the Gulf,  
16 Steller sea lions in the North Pacific. Every  
17 council and every region has its challenges that  
18 we are working through.

19 But there's still a lot of good news.  
20 Over 90 percent of the regulated stocks have  
21 catch below their annual catch limits.  
22 Additional stocks have come off the over fishing  
23 and over fished lists. And several more stocks  
24 are now being rebuilt. Total landings and values  
25 continue to remain high.

26 So, I'm interested to hear about  
27 progress from a few of our working groups in the  
28 upcoming two days. Including the Subcommittee on  
29 Allocation and the working group on Operational  
30 Guidelines.

31 I wanted to let you know a couple of  
32 my priorities and milestones over the last -- you  
33 know, the last year and the coming year. One of  
34 the things we don't talk about too much in this  
35 group, but I want to make sure that everybody  
36 knows that one of our two areas of priority and  
37 focus is on the -- focusing on recovery of  
38 protected species.

39 I think that when it comes to  
40 protected species under the Endangered Species  
41 Act and the MMPA, we tend to focus on listings  
42 and Section 7 consultations and the obstacles and  
43 slowdowns that are attributable to our  
44 responsibilities toward protected species. And  
45 that is as it should be.

46 On the other hand, I think we have --  
47 we at Fisheries really want to focus on the fact  
48 that some species are recovered or recovering.

1 And we need to make sure that when we have  
2 successes that we get the word out. A lot of  
3 times these successes are due to hard work by the  
4 fishing community. As in the reducing right  
5 whale takes attributable to fishing gear.

6 And I think that we have decided that  
7 we do want to focus on some priority species  
8 where a concerted effort can stop declines or  
9 turn around a species population to make it be  
10 less of a burden on the community. And we will  
11 be -- we will be working on fleshing out this  
12 priority and identifying a few priority species  
13 where we think that some concerned attention can  
14 really -- if we really focus on those species, we  
15 can really help turn them around or keep them  
16 stable rather than allowing them to remain in  
17 steep decline where they actually place more of a  
18 burden on the other communities that they touch.

19 Last week, let's see, what day of the  
20 week was it? Thursday, we rolled out our  
21 National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Policy.  
22 That was done with the help of all of you. There  
23 were meetings -- public meetings associated with  
24 at least one council meeting.

25 We announced that we were going to  
26 undertake to come up with such a policy at the  
27 Second Annual Recreational Fishing Summit last  
28 April. And we really pushed through with the  
29 help of all of our council partners and the rec  
30 fishing community had an extensive outreach  
31 cycle. Published a draft policy and then came  
32 out with a final policy that we rolled out last  
33 Thursday.

34 We've also -- I also announced last  
35 Thursday that we will have an implementation plan  
36 that will be out in the next 60 days. So the  
37 policy is the top line document that basically  
38 says that throughout our NOAA Fisheries decision  
39 making processes, whenever recreational fishing  
40 interests are touched, that we will at all levels  
41 from the beginning through the final decision,  
42 make sure that we consider recreational -- the  
43 views of recreational fishing partners and  
44 stakeholders.

45 Does that mean that we're always going  
46 -- that we're going to put our thumb on the scale  
47 in favor of recreational fishing interests? No,  
48 it does not. It means that we're going to give



1       them the -- just make sure that we don't come in  
2       at the end of the day and at the end of the day  
3       say, and what will the recreational fishing  
4       community think about this? We're going to just  
5       make sure that they are included in our  
6       engagement from the get go.

7               Really look forward to getting input  
8       from everyone about the implementation plan. And  
9       how things are going. And I -- if anybody needs  
10      a link to the final policy, happy to provide  
11      that.

12              Last week I was at the Seafood Summit  
13      in New Orleans on a panel focused on bycatch. I  
14      think it's going to be -- I think we've done a  
15      lot of -- we as a community have done a lot of  
16      work on reducing bycatch.

17              I think that the word has not really  
18      gotten out and I think that's going to be an area  
19      of focus in the upcoming year or so to make sure  
20      that we continue the good work that we've all  
21      done in reducing bycatch. And to make sure that  
22      that word gets out.

23              So, we -- that's something that we'll  
24      be looking at internally in NOAA Fisheries about  
25      exploring ways to be more strategic about  
26      approaches that we use to minimize bycatch. And  
27      to reaching out into communities to make sure  
28      that we get everybody's idea. And that the work  
29      that we are doing is recognized.

30              MAFAC continues to be a productive  
31      group. There have been two new working groups  
32      formed. One focused on climate and one on  
33      aquaculture. And we will keep you updated on the  
34      work of those groups.

35              Two IUU related items that you might  
36      have been hearing about. We released last week  
37      the biennial IUU report to Congress. This report  
38      identifies and certifies countries engaged in IUU  
39      fishing and bycatch -- IUU fishing and bycatch on  
40      protected species or sharks.

41              So there was basic -- there was some  
42      good news in this report. All of the countries  
43      that were identified as having vessels engaged in  
44      IUU fishing in 2013 came into compliance and were  
45      positively certified.

46              So the sequence if you recall in this  
47      process is if a country had vessels engaged in  
48      IUU fishing, they're identified in one year. And

1 then they have two years to work with us to  
2 demonstrate that they've dealt with those  
3 problems.

4 And if they have, they receive a  
5 positive certification. That's a good thing.  
6 That means that you have brought yourself into  
7 compliance.

8 However, in 2013 we had identified  
9 Mexico as having a fishery that was -- had  
10 problems regarding bycatch of protected species.  
11 And we were unable to make a positive  
12 certification. So we are continuing to work with  
13 Mexico. We've had certain assures from them that  
14 they are likely to be in compliance in a few  
15 months.

16 And we will be making a certification  
17 decision. We've delayed our certification  
18 decision of Mexico. So at this point they are in  
19 a position of having no certification.

20 We did identify Colombia, Ecuador,  
21 Mexico, Nigeria, Nicaragua and Portugal this year  
22 as countries that we will be working with over  
23 the next two years to improve management  
24 measures. So we will be reporting back in two  
25 years about whether they have addressed the IUU  
26 problems that were identified in this report.

27 I'm going to give you a little bit  
28 later in more detail an update on where we are on  
29 the Presidential Task Force on IUU, which is co-  
30 chaired by NOAA and the State Department. And I  
31 want to just make sure that you guys have --  
32 we're not going to bore you with all of the  
33 details of that report. But I do want to fill  
34 you in on a couple of recommendations that might  
35 affect all of us. And that you might want to be  
36 thinking about.

37 I wanted to update you on some changes  
38 in NOAA Fisheries' leadership. So, Jennifer  
39 Lukens has been named the head of our Office of  
40 Policy. Jennifer? So you will be working with  
41 Jennifer. She will be helping us coordinate a  
42 lot of policy and interagency work and MAFAC.

43 Is Brian here? Brian Pawlak? Oh,  
44 okay. Brian has a -- Brian Pawlak is the new  
45 head of our Management and Budget Office. He  
46 works for Paul Doremus. He's in another  
47 briefing. I don't know if he'll -- might be here  
48 tomorrow? I don't know.

1           But Brian is -- it's great to finally  
2 have this position filled. And I think it's  
3 really going to help us with our budget strategy  
4 and implementation. Brian is -- has a long  
5 history of working with NOAA Fisheries. Knows  
6 our -- both our budget process and our programs  
7 extremely well. And I think this is going to be  
8 a great fit.

9           Mike Seki has been named the Director  
10 of the Pacific Island Science Center. Not a  
11 surprise, but really great to have Mike in that  
12 job on a permanent basis.

13           And our Office of Law Enforcement is  
14 really the one senior office that we have not yet  
15 filled. We are almost ready. We are in the  
16 process. It should only be a few more weeks or  
17 months before we get that filled.

18           And at that point we will have a full  
19 senior leadership team at headquarters and in the  
20 region. And I think that that really -- that  
21 kind of stability really will help us move  
22 forward on a lot of our priorities.

23           My one last announcement, which is  
24 probably no secret now, is that one of our own  
25 here at the table, John Henderschedt will be  
26 joining us in a few weeks as the new head of our  
27 merged International Affairs and Seafood  
28 Inspection Office. And I really couldn't be  
29 happier.

30           I think it's just going to be a  
31 fabulous transition. Nobody understands the  
32 council process better than somebody who's been  
33 on that council himself. And really knows the  
34 fishery service from the outside. Incredible  
35 amount of industry and NGO experience.

36           This is an office that one of the few  
37 changes that I've made in the NOAA Fisheries  
38 organizational structure has been to merge these  
39 two offices. And we really want to create sort  
40 of a new vision of what does Fisheries -- what do  
41 we want to get out of some of our RFMOs? Our  
42 international arrangements with other countries?

43           How can we help reward U.S. industry,  
44 which is the most sustainable industry -- fishing  
45 industry in the world? How can we help promote  
46 that in a responsible way?

47           How can we coordinate our efforts  
48 across these two parts of NOAA Fisheries with

1 related but often differently managed programs  
2 together? And I really think that somebody with  
3 John's skill and vision is the absolute right  
4 person to fill the job. So congratulations John.  
5 Can hardly wait until you come aboard.

6 So, we're going to hear details from  
7 our -- from our leg affairs office later. We're  
8 all trying to get to know the new members and the  
9 new committee structures. And a lot of the same  
10 people, but sitting in different seats. Some new  
11 folks.

12 So it's going to -- it's not all I  
13 think in place yet. Or I'm not exactly sure how  
14 it's all going to work. But we're going to have  
15 our leg affairs folks make a presentation and a  
16 couple of Hill staffers to help start us on our  
17 road to understanding our new -- the new  
18 committee structures and the new players in their  
19 new roles on the Hill.

20 And lastly, the President's '16  
21 budget. This is -- it's great to have this  
22 rolled out before you guys came into town so we  
23 can actually talk about something concrete and  
24 not speculate at this meeting.

25 Of course this is just the beginning.  
26 And Paul is going to help walk us through where  
27 we are in the President's budget later today and  
28 take any questions, talk in more detail about the  
29 lines that concern you all the most.

30 We all know that this is just step one  
31 in a lengthy process. I think even though it's  
32 just step one, I guess the last -- the only thing  
33 I'll say about the President's budget is I think  
34 it's started in a pretty healthy place for NOAA  
35 Fisheries.

36 We got overall a pretty significant  
37 bump up in the ask. And although we know there's  
38 a lot of bargaining yet to come, I think it shows  
39 a lot of confidence in the organization on the  
40 part of NOAA and the Department of Commerce and  
41 the Administration that they wanted us to start  
42 this process in a fairly healthy position.

43 So, I think without more ado, that we  
44 should get on. We have a meaty agenda. And it's  
45 great to see everybody. And I'm going to turn it  
46 back to you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you everyone.

47 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you Eileen.  
48 Were there any questions for Eileen?

1 (No response)

2 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right. That  
3 takes us to our next agenda item, the Council  
4 Reports. And what I'd like to do is follow at  
5 least a little bit the agenda that's on the  
6 website. There's three councils that are listed.  
7 I'd like to go through those first.

8 And then the kind of going off the  
9 tracks, and finish up with the Gulf Council. So,  
10 that said, I'd like to do, if Brian and Bill  
11 you're ready? That would take us to the  
12 Northeast. Tom?

13 MR. NIES: Good morning. I'm not  
14 Terry Stockwell. Terry's on the phone and if I  
15 say anything wrong, I'm sure he'll correct me.  
16 Here we go.

17 We never follow directions, so rather  
18 than give you three priorities, we're giving you  
19 five. I think that really the last two I'm only  
20 going to touch on very briefly. I'm going to  
21 spend most of my time on the first three.

22 And some of these are things that  
23 we've been working on for quite some time. Some  
24 of these are developing issues. So, it's a  
25 little bit of a mix.

26 And I just want to comment that this  
27 does not in any way cover everything that we're  
28 dealing with. But these are just the things that  
29 we expect to occupy a lot of our time in the near  
30 future.

31 Probably the biggest one that's going  
32 to keep us busy for the next few months is  
33 finishing up our Omnibus Habitat Amendment.  
34 We've been working on this Amendment for well  
35 over ten years. We are expecting a final vote in  
36 the next few months. Tentatively scheduled for  
37 April. But a potential that it might slide until  
38 June.

39 We've done a lot of work over the ten  
40 years. From developing a model that analyzes the  
41 impacts of fishing on habitat. A very detailed  
42 model which identifies sensitive areas to  
43 identifying EFH.

44 This action could dramatically change  
45 the suite of closed areas used in New England to  
46 mitigate fishing's impacts on EFH to the extent  
47 practicable. There's a wide range of  
48 alternatives. I'm not going to go over all of

1 them obviously. But this is just the  
2 alternatives on Georges Bank that I've shown on  
3 the screen here. So you can see that it's  
4 extremely complicated.

5 The Amendment has drawn considerable  
6 interest from the public. We've received over  
7 150,000 organized petition comments. We've  
8 received nearly 200 individual detail comment  
9 letters from various organizations and  
10 individuals.

11 It's going to be quite an effort to  
12 sort through all these comments from the public  
13 comment period which ended in early January.  
14 Which is why there's a little doubt whether we'll  
15 be actually voting in April.

16 It's going to be a very difficult  
17 decision for the council. Unlike a lot of  
18 habitat amendments that have been adopted in  
19 other regions, this is addressing areas that are  
20 actively fished by the fishing industry and could  
21 change their access to very productive grounds  
22 depending on what choices are made. And so it's  
23 become very controversial.

24 I think at the heart of the question  
25 is what is the best way to protect habitat?  
26 There's differences of opinion whether the best  
27 way to protect habitat is by large closed areas  
28 or by reducing bottom contact by allowing  
29 fishermen to fish where they are most productive.  
30 And I think striking that balance is going to be  
31 very difficult for the council as they make their  
32 choices.

33 We're having increasing difficulty  
34 with fisheries monitoring issues that stretches  
35 across a number of our plans. Not only the  
36 groundfish plan, but the Atlantic herring plan as  
37 well, a sea scallop plan. We have a standardized  
38 bycatch reporting methodology amendment that we  
39 adopted a number of years ago. We were sued on  
40 it and lost.

41 And in a nutshell, we're revising the  
42 SBRM so that it will take away just about any  
43 discretion that we have to assign observer  
44 coverage to meet management needs. The SBRM  
45 amendment will specify exactly how certain budget  
46 line items need to be spent and that's where  
47 nearly all of our observer money has come from.

48 So, this creates a problem when you're

1 trying to deal with issues such as bycatch by  
2 herring vessels or the groundfish monitoring  
3 plan. At the same time as this is going to come  
4 across, we're working on an industry-funded  
5 monitoring amendment which will try and delineate  
6 what is the responsibility of industry? What is  
7 the responsibility of government? How can those  
8 funds be obtained? And we're having great  
9 difficulty.

10 We're having extreme difficulty trying  
11 to construct legal, cost-sharing mechanisms. And  
12 frankly we're befuddled by this because we look  
13 at other regions around the country where they  
14 have significant cost sharing mechanisms.

15 For example, Pacific groundfish where  
16 they cost share at sea monitoring. And yet in  
17 our region, the legal guidance is that this is  
18 illegal. And so we struggle to understand why  
19 there's this difference between the two regions.

20 In any case, it's not clear that NEC  
21 is going to have any money available to fund the  
22 industry portion of any cost sharing program  
23 anyway. Because in part of the SBRM and budget  
24 limitations. So this is all coming to a head  
25 very soon.

26 The regional office has told our  
27 groundfish industry that it must assume the cost  
28 of at sea monitoring in August. This is not at  
29 100 percent of the trips. We don't know what the  
30 exact number is going to be.

31 Groundfish revenues are probably at an  
32 all-time low right now. There are a lot of  
33 vessels whose net revenues on a daily basis  
34 cannot afford the cost of an observer. So it's  
35 going to be difficult to see how the industry is  
36 going to afford this.

37 In the same time, we're proceeding  
38 very slowly on electronic monitoring. Bluntly,  
39 we don't see that being the solution to these  
40 monitoring problems in the near future.

41 We are continuing to try and move  
42 forward on ecosystem-based fisheries management.  
43 We're at the stage now, an early stage, we had a  
44 number of stops and starts on this program over  
45 the years where we're trying to decide what is  
46 the appropriate approach to take.

47 Gulf of Maine water temperatures are  
48 some of the fastest rising water temperatures in

1 the world. So we need to get this going. But at  
2 the same times, we have to make sure that the  
3 approach we take is going to be compatible with  
4 the approach taken by other management bodies  
5 like the Mid Atlantic. Because the Northeast  
6 Fisheries Science Center in the region support  
7 both of us. So, we have to be trying to  
8 coordinate this.

9 We are also modifying or considering  
10 a modification to our herring ABC control rule.  
11 We'll take into account the role of herring as  
12 forage. So between bycatch, habitat, herring as  
13 forage, we've made some strides towards EBFM, but  
14 it's not a real formal program yet. And that's  
15 what we hope to work forward.

16 There was a couple of other issues  
17 that I mentioned. The first is that we expect to  
18 get assessments for all our groundfish stock  
19 later this year. If any of you have paid any  
20 attention to New England, you know every time  
21 that we get assessments, something comes out that  
22 surprises the hell out of us.

23 So, we're very nervous about the  
24 assessments this year. Our most recent  
25 assessments for many of these stocks are based on  
26 data only through 2010. Given the changes we've  
27 seen in the ecosystem since 2010, the warming of  
28 the Gulf of Maine, there's a lot of us that are  
29 very nervous about what's going to come out of  
30 these assessments at the end of the year.

31 We are not expecting that our two  
32 major cod stocks are going to show much signs of  
33 improvement. And this is a problem because it's  
34 one of our key species up here. And then of  
35 course we will follow whatever goes on with the  
36 Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization and the  
37 National Standard 1 Guidelines changes.

38 Thank you. I can answer any questions  
39 at the subject of the Chair.

40 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Any questions for  
41 Tom?

42 (No response)

43 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right. Thank you  
44 Tom. Next we have the South Atlantic's report.  
45 And Michelle, you're going to give that report?

46 MS. DUVAL: I am. Can you guys hear  
47 me okay? Do I need to yell more?

48 CHAIRMAN ANSON: If you could speak up



1 just a little bit more.

2 MS. DUVAL: How's this? Is this  
3 better?

4 CHAIRMAN ANSON: That's much better.

5 MS. DUVAL: Okay. So I think Brian's  
6 going to run through the slides for me. So if we  
7 could go onto the second slide please.

8 I think the biggest priority that we  
9 have in the South Atlantic is our Snapper Grouper  
10 Visioning Project, which is planning for the  
11 future of the Snapper Grouper fishery. Next  
12 slide.

13 So just a little bit of background  
14 about the project. We kicked this off in  
15 December 2012 and we invited Chairman Robins down  
16 so you'd give us the benefit of the lessons  
17 learned in the Mid Atlantic from their  
18 experience.

19 But basically you know, we'd like to  
20 develop a proactive plan for the management of  
21 the fishery that addresses stakeholder concerns  
22 that incorporates new ideas and solutions from  
23 our stakeholders. So that we can end up with  
24 just a long term roadmap for how we want to see  
25 things move forward. Next slide.

26 So we had a lot of work. In the  
27 spring of 2014 we conducted 26 board meetings in  
28 all four States. And staff had their work cut  
29 out for them to synthesize all this information  
30 that we received both by State and by sector. We  
31 had a special council visioning meeting that  
32 occurred in the fall so that council members  
33 themselves could review all the input we've  
34 received.

35 And started looking at developing some  
36 draft strategies and actions. And we began  
37 review of our different strategic goal documents  
38 in December 2014. We have four strategic goals,  
39 management, science, communication, and  
40 governance. Next slide.

41 And the timeline for 2015 is just as  
42 ambitious. We're going to finish reviewing those  
43 in the spring. Take us out for the draft  
44 blueprint out for public comment in June, between  
45 June and September. And then we're hopeful that  
46 by our December meeting, we will have a final  
47 vision blueprint approved and prioritized action  
48 to include for an upcoming amendment. Next

1 slide.

2 As always, snapper grouper tends to  
3 suck up the most amount of time for our council.  
4 We have several other ongoing management  
5 activities including the use of spawning special  
6 management zones to try to continue to find ways  
7 to provide protection for species such as  
8 speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. Trying to work  
9 in conjunction with the industry to find where  
10 some of these special areas are.

11 One of the biggest things that we deal  
12 with, challenges we deal within the South  
13 Atlantic, is trying to track the ACLs of our  
14 species that have exceptionally low recreational  
15 ACLs. We've tossed around the idea of some kind  
16 of recreational harvest tag program.

17 Unfortunately, it's gotten a little  
18 wrapped around the axle on that. So I'm hopeful  
19 that we can move forward. We just need a  
20 different alternative because that survey was  
21 just not designed to accurately capture these  
22 species.

23 We've also been working through our  
24 South Florida Work Group to remove some species  
25 from the fishery management unit that are really  
26 mostly Florida-based species anyway. Next slide.

27 And one of our biggest topics over the  
28 past year and continuing to be so is  
29 modifications to the blueline tilefish fishery.  
30 We received an assessment at the end of 2013  
31 that's provided quite a few challenges for the  
32 council to adjust. There have been multiple  
33 concerns regarding the data that were available  
34 for the assessment.

35 We've seen increased catches of  
36 blueline tilefish in the Mid Atlantic, so it is  
37 currently not regulated there. And we've been  
38 communicating back and forth with Mid Atlantic  
39 Council and staff to examine what our options are  
40 for appropriate management of that species moving  
41 forward.

42 Another big topic for us is looking at  
43 modification of the existing prohibition on the  
44 use of black sea bass pots while balancing  
45 protection of North Atlantic right whales. Next  
46 slide.

47 And then we have a multitude of joint  
48 activities with the Gulf Council. But I'm sure

1 Kevin and Greg will also mention. Most of those  
2 have to do with mackerel. We received a new  
3 mackerel assessment. So we're looking at  
4 modifying the boundaries in the mixing zone as  
5 well as potentially discussing some separation of  
6 permits. You know, this is a jointly managed  
7 fishery and I think in -- over the past year  
8 we've seen that there are probably some different  
9 management priorities for the two councils.

10 I think some of the other priorities  
11 that we have that are joint involve electronic  
12 reporting for both our commercial sector as well  
13 as our charter vessel sector. This is a  
14 continuing trend of moving towards electronic  
15 reporting that started with our head boats in the  
16 region and moved onto our dealers last year.  
17 Next slide.

18 And just a little bit more about our  
19 joint South Florida Committee. You know, really  
20 this is to try to harmonize what our suite of  
21 conflicting regulations for those fishermen.  
22 Mostly in the Florida Keys, but south Florida in  
23 general where they have one set of regulations  
24 from one council on one side of a bridge.  
25 Another set on the other side of a bridge. And  
26 then a third set from the State of Florida in  
27 between. Next slide.

28 So we've been working really hard over  
29 the past couple of years to try to adjust this.  
30 And sometimes it seems like the more things we  
31 come up with, the more things we create for  
32 ourselves to do. But I think we're hopeful about  
33 we'll be able to finalize something and give the  
34 fishermen some relief by the end of this year.  
35 Next slide.

36 So just a little bit about teacher  
37 priorities. Again completing division and  
38 contact and trying to see how we can apply those  
39 lessons to some of our other fisheries. We're  
40 always looking to improve our reporting and data  
41 collection and that's certainly where the  
42 electronic technologies plan in the southeast is  
43 aimed at least for our fisheries in the South  
44 Atlantic.

45 We're always looking to try to  
46 increase the throughput of our SEDAR stock  
47 assessment process. And you know, we have been  
48 working very hard to encourage and support the

1 development of cooperative fisheries' independent  
2 monitoring program. We see that there's never  
3 going to be more money for science, probably only  
4 less. So we're looking to try to work with the  
5 agency and the industry to find as many  
6 efficiencies as possible to get the data that we  
7 all need. Next slide.

8 And then of course, you know, there  
9 are always areas where we'd love to see  
10 additional support from the agency, including our  
11 stock assessment and fishery evaluation reports.  
12 Having those on a more regular basis.

13 I've already mentioned the cooperative  
14 monitoring and resources to support our existing  
15 fishery independent surveys and independent data  
16 collection. And as well as support to explore  
17 some of the data limited approaches to management  
18 that have been explored by a variety of folks  
19 recently.

20 A system for allowing us to have more  
21 timely tracking of our ACLs, particularly our  
22 recreational ACL. I think that has been a little  
23 bit challenging and frustrating for folks in the  
24 region. And then obviously we're always looking  
25 to improve communication, collaboration and other  
26 activities in the region.

27 So I'm happy to take any questions.  
28 Or could you even hear anything?

29 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you Michelle.  
30 Any questions for Michelle?

31 (No response)

32 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right. Moving  
33 onto Western Pacific. Ed?

34 MR. EBISUI: Thank you Mr. Chairman.  
35 This is going to be a team effort. So leading  
36 off will be John Gourley and followed by me and  
37 then hitting clean up will be Kitty Simonds.  
38 John?

39 MR. GOURLEY: Thank you Ed. We  
40 followed the rules and just gave you three top  
41 priorities. There was a big fight to get it down  
42 to three, but we got three. First one goes into  
43 data limited stocks. In the Western Pacific we  
44 only have four of 115 ACLs that are based on a  
45 stock assessment. Basically they're all bottom  
46 fish. The main Hawaiian Islands deep seven  
47 bottom fish and then we have -- which comprises  
48 of six snappers and one grouper. And then we

1 have bottom fish from American Samoa, Guam and  
2 CNMI.

3 The majority of our other ACLs are  
4 based on data limited methods from depaupered  
5 fisheries, data depaupered fisheries. West Pac  
6 FIN is not really meeting the needs of the  
7 council and has evolved over time to become  
8 basically a data repository.

9 To address this problem, the Fishery  
10 Data Collection and Research Committee, the FDCRC  
11 was formed in 2014 by the council. The FDCRC's  
12 strategic plan is a signed agreement that  
13 enumerates strategies, tasks and actions to  
14 improve data collection and conduct targeted  
15 research with the ultimate goal of helping in the  
16 development of stock assessments.

17 FDCRC is comprised of state and  
18 territory fishery agency directors, the Guam  
19 Bureau of Statistics and Plans, NMFS, Pacific  
20 Islands Fishery Science Center, the U.S. Fish and  
21 Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Program and of  
22 course the council. As no dedicated funding  
23 presently exists for this regional plan, the  
24 region will rely on competitive RFPs, such as SK  
25 to get started.

26 In order to succeed, this program will  
27 require a continuous and stable funding source  
28 similar to the funding line provided to the  
29 Fishery Commission to collect data in other  
30 regions of the U.S. However, it is important  
31 that the funding be channeled through the  
32 council. Annual funding needed to support the  
33 FDCRC program is 2.8 million per year. Or a  
34 paltry 140,000 per area, per year, for five  
35 years. Okay, Ed?

36 MR. EBISUI: West Pac's second  
37 priority is the pelagic international fishery  
38 management area. U.S. tuna fisheries are not  
39 only losing in the Pacific, but we are being  
40 hammered. The bigeye tuna quotas continue to  
41 trend downward. Meanwhile, purse seine, the  
42 bigeye catches are on the rise.

43 What's ironic about this entire  
44 situation is that the purse seine fishery, which  
45 is centered around the equator, their bigeye  
46 bycatch of juveniles exceeds the entire quota of  
47 longline bigeye. So it is the purse seine  
48 equatorial fishery that's driving the bus for our

1 bigeye fishery. And again, the purse seine  
2 fishery catches juveniles. The longline fishery  
3 tends to be heavily weighted towards mature  
4 animals.

5 The United States is compliant. And  
6 while there seems to be no disincentive to  
7 compliance in the area, for example, one country  
8 exceeded their bigeye longline quota by several  
9 thousand metric tons with absolutely no  
10 consequence. The only consequence was an  
11 increase in their quota. Their fleets continued  
12 to increase.

13 The latest event is that there seems  
14 to be some, not some, but a lot of under  
15 reporting going on where their catches are one  
16 third of what they caught in previous years. So  
17 there are some issues with this fishery.

18 Expenditure to monuments. Last year  
19 with the expansion of the Pacific Remote Island  
20 Marine National Monument, the President took out  
21 410,000 square nautical miles of fishing area to  
22 our domestic fishers. It's taken the eyes and  
23 ears of the U.S. fishermen off the water. It's  
24 opened up the EEZ to incursions. And it in  
25 effect has promoted IUU fishing. So it's ---  
26 there are a lot of unintended consequences.

27 In American Samoa, our -- the second  
28 largest fishery, which is the albacore longline  
29 fishery, is under heavy competition from heavily  
30 subsidized and increasing foreign fishing for  
31 albacore. These fleets are able to deliver fish  
32 to the canneries without regard to the cost of  
33 production, contrary to what the American Samoa  
34 fishery experience is. And so it -- that fishery  
35 needs help.

36 We feel that no one in the fishery  
37 service is not leading as it could in WCPFC. The  
38 council has made repeated requests for the  
39 Commission to look at spatial management of the  
40 bigeye tuna which will we think would be much  
41 more efficient and much more fair regulation of  
42 the fish. Nothing has happened.

43 The council has taken initiative to  
44 hold workshops on issues of great importance to  
45 international tuna fishing. For example, the  
46 council has hosted workshops on bigeye movement,  
47 small island developing states and  
48 disproportionate burden. Workshops on purse

1 seine bigeye management and also longline vessel-  
2 based scheme. These workshops were attended by  
3 European Union nations, as well as Asian nations.  
4 So the council is taking the initiative in trying  
5 to do something to the best of its abilities to  
6 try and bring some mitigation to what's happening  
7 in our area.

8 Another area has to do with diverging  
9 reference points between the RFMOs and the  
10 council process. For example, under the council  
11 process our definitions -- our reference points  
12 are over fishing and over fished are our Magnuson  
13 reference points. Whereas the RFMOs are driven  
14 by SPR values. So, these divergent reference  
15 points could be potential sources for future  
16 conflicts and confusion. And we have asked the  
17 government to please direct its attention to  
18 resolving the implications of these divergent  
19 reference points.

20 So, next slide please. Oh, that's me.  
21 Okay. Evaluating Hawaii longline catch shares.  
22 Okay, perhaps the time has come. The Hawaii  
23 longline is subject to internationally  
24 established quotas in the western and central  
25 Pacific, as well as the eastern Pacific. And as  
26 I said earlier, these quotas are definitely  
27 trending downward.

28 There are more longline vessels  
29 entering, not really entering the fishery, but  
30 becoming active. Previously dormant permits are  
31 now being actively fished. Production is good.  
32 In fact 2014 has brought record catches to the  
33 fishery.

34 The council will be working with the  
35 longline industry and others to start to consider  
36 fishery rationalization options. I know that  
37 that was a bad word a few years ago, but again,  
38 perhaps the time has come. This initiative will  
39 require funding. And we are looking to the  
40 government to provide the funding so we can begin  
41 exploration in this area. Thank you. Back to  
42 John.

43 MR. GOURLEY: Thank you Ed. The  
44 council five year program priorities. The fiscal  
45 year 2015-2019 program plan and budget was  
46 approved in March 2014. And identified five  
47 program priorities with the first being to review  
48 all the fishery ecosystem plans. The council was

1 the driver for the FEP review and updating of the  
2 five FEPs. We've got the Hawaiian, American  
3 Samoa, Marianas, Pacific Remote Island area and  
4 Pelagics FEP.

5 We have itemized budgets --- have been  
6 developed for FEP monitoring and reviews,  
7 integrate ecosystem information and elements into  
8 the FEPs, monitoring data collection research  
9 programs to support management of marine  
10 resources, capacity building and fishery  
11 development, international is supporting U.S.  
12 Fisheries highly migratory species management  
13 trade compliance, and then outreach and  
14 education.

15 Currently, the council staff has  
16 started the FEP review by contracting external  
17 technical review. Public outreach to council  
18 family members for review and comment started in  
19 November 2014 in the Marianas and will end this  
20 month in Hawaii. The results of the initial  
21 comments will be reviewed by the SSC with the  
22 draft plan, hopefully, being approved by the  
23 council next month. Due to the history of  
24 litigation, comprehensive EISs will be developed  
25 for all five FEPs. Work towards this end will  
26 commence after the 162nd council meeting.

27 Annual funding needed to support the  
28 NEPA review of our five FEPs is \$1 million for  
29 five years. Or about \$200,000 per year for five  
30 years. And that's it, unless Ms. Kitty would  
31 like to finish up.

32 MS. SIMONDS: All right. I just want  
33 to add a couple of things. You know, Ed very  
34 carefully skirted around naming the country that  
35 is scooping up all of our fish in the Pacific,  
36 and that's China. China has gone from 100 boats  
37 like a few years ago to 400 longline boats. So  
38 our U.S. fishery in American Samoa is having a  
39 very difficult time catching albacore. And not  
40 only in American Samoa, but a lot of that swath,  
41 Fiji and all those other countries. No one is  
42 catching albacore except China.

43 So here's the thing. We were out  
44 somewhere two weeks ago in American Samoa and we  
45 spoke to both canneries, Starkist and Tri Marine.  
46 And Starkist told us that over the last several  
47 months the only albacore they're getting is from  
48 China.



1                   Now the interesting thing about that  
2 is, that fish is being caught right next door to  
3 American Samoa in the Cook Islands. And then  
4 that fish goes to China, and then back to the  
5 Starkist cannery in American Samoa. That's --  
6 you know.

7                   The other thing about the importance  
8 of us taking care of our U.S. fishery there is  
9 that in order for Starkist and Tri Marine to have  
10 contracts with the United States for school lunch  
11 and military programs, the fish have to be caught  
12 by U.S. vessels. So, this is a -- this is just  
13 one of the complex, interesting complex things  
14 that happen out there.

15                  And so we are asking the fishery  
16 service to do an emergency action for us. We  
17 will be doing this in March. So that right now  
18 we have a 50-mile closure to boats over 50 feet.  
19 And we want to allow our large boats to go in up  
20 to 12 miles to fish for albacore. And we believe  
21 that this is a very necessary thing. We're  
22 asking this to be a temporary measure.

23                  But what I just told you about is just  
24 what's happening out there. And of course China  
25 subsidizes everything. All the shipments,  
26 everything for their vessels. And obviously our  
27 longline vessels are not subsidized in any way.  
28 The U.S. purse seine fishery risks, they're -- we  
29 call it subsidized, but they don't call it that.  
30 They call it foreign aid. But for our U.S. purse  
31 seiners to fish in the other countries, we pay --  
32 the U.S. pays \$21 million a year, since 1988, for  
33 access.

34                  So you know, things are just not right  
35 out there. And I don't -- well, at least the  
36 Commission out there, it does have voting for  
37 certain things, but to get to the point of  
38 limiting you know, the number of boats is just  
39 really impossible.

40                  So you know, we'll talk to the State  
41 Department and you folks. But something needs to  
42 be done about this proliferation of vessels,  
43 including vessels from the European community.  
44 So you know, our fisheries are going out down the  
45 tube -- and all these other countries are  
46 catching fish, and we need to support U.S.  
47 fisheries or why are we here? I have other  
48 things, but I'll bring them up later.

1                   CHAIRMAN ANSON: Any questions? Yes,  
2 Chris?

3                   MR. OLIVER: Kind of an ignorant  
4 question. Kitty, the China -- where are the  
5 China vessels fishing? What waters are they  
6 fishing?

7                   MS. SIMONDS: Well I have my trusty map  
8 here. So, they're fishing -- if you notice -- if  
9 you know where American Samoa is, surrounded by  
10 foreign countries, right next door is the Cook  
11 Islands. And so they're fishing in the Cook  
12 Islands. They sell permits to China and Taiwan.  
13 And so American Samoa is where some of the  
14 vessels come in to drop their catch off at both  
15 canneries. But what is happening with the  
16 albacore is they're sending it back to China, and  
17 then coming back to Starkist cannery.

18                   But there's Kiribati right around it  
19 and so we're just right in the middle here. And  
20 these are the areas that were included in the  
21 Monument. No fishing. And as we said to the  
22 White House, we said there's no other country in  
23 the world who would not allow their fishermen to  
24 fish in their own waters.

25                   So there was a very ugly situation.  
26 And we won half of it. And the enviros won half.  
27 Whatever that means, or we both lost. But  
28 there's virtually no enforcement out there okay.  
29 The Coast Guard can't be enforcing all these  
30 zones. The Coast Guard, also, they have ship  
31 rider agreements where they enforce for these  
32 other countries who are violating our zone. It's  
33 messy. We just want to catch fish.

34                   CHAIRMAN ANSON: No other questions?  
35 So we'll go off the agenda at least. And I just  
36 want to give a heads up. We'll have Pacific  
37 Council next followed by the Mid Atlantic  
38 Council.

39                   MR. McISAAC: Well thank you Mr.  
40 Chairman. Before we start our presentation, we  
41 wanted to show that the daffodils are blooming in  
42 Portland, Oregon when we left. And you may  
43 recall that we were one of the councils looking  
44 to avoid this particular week. Congress isn't in  
45 session. There's just a myriad of other reasons  
46 why this week is not a particularly good week.

47                   But as you can see, out west the  
48 daffodils are blooming, the children are playing

1 and the Congressional offices back there are  
2 asking us what we think about the President's  
3 budget, and we're here. So, combined with the  
4 weather, we conclude this week is jinxed and  
5 we'll work on the agenda for next year.

6 We have a top three that we would like  
7 to bring the group=s attention here. Dorothy  
8 will speak a little bit about our groundfish  
9 trawl IFQ program that you've heard so much  
10 about. Herb will talk a little bit about ESA and  
11 Magnuson integration at the Pacific Council  
12 arena. And I'll say a few things about North  
13 Pacific albacore in our search for some  
14 international agreement.

15 MS. LOWMAN: Thanks Don. Since the  
16 west coast trawl catcher program was implemented  
17 in 2011, we've been giving periodic updates to  
18 the CCC every year. And today I wanted to kind  
19 of catch you up on some good news about the  
20 program, and also talk about some not so good  
21 news.

22 So first the good news. As has been  
23 the case in the last few years, the bycatch and  
24 discards are dramatically reduced from prior to  
25 the program. And fishermen are continuing to  
26 work on innovative gear modifications that are  
27 going to allow those levels I think to be  
28 decreased even more. Implement -- changes to the  
29 --- trading rules have been implemented. And  
30 that's allowed fishermen to trade all the way  
31 through the end of the year and then therefore be  
32 able to match their portfolio to their fishing  
33 strategies better.

34 MSC certification happened last year  
35 for 13 majors, 12 caught species. And the catch  
36 share was cited as one of the major factors in  
37 reaching this decision by MSC, was they talked  
38 about how certifying this was one of the most  
39 complex fisheries that they have ever certified.

40 In addition, the Monterey Bay Aquarium  
41 Seafood Watch Program did a new assessment in  
42 2014. And 84 percent of the species have now  
43 been upgraded to either a good alternative or  
44 best choice categories. And prior to that a lot  
45 of them had been red, red, red. So that's all  
46 good news. In addition, we have -- work is  
47 progressing and to allow electronic monitoring to  
48 replace some of the human catch monitoring. As

1 you recall, we have 100 percent monitoring  
2 requirement for this fishery.

3 The schedule is now to have the  
4 whiting fishery regs implemented by 2016. And  
5 the fix scare and bottom trawl by 2017. And the  
6 region is working really hard right now in  
7 completing EFP permits that the councils have  
8 also supported. That will help to provide the  
9 additional information so that we can stay on  
10 schedule for these implementation schedules.

11 And the program is paying off in some  
12 other ways too that I think maybe weren't as  
13 obvious. For one thing, we're having fewer  
14 lawsuits related to this fishery. And we're  
15 actually seeing some unprecedented and new  
16 collaborations between NGOs and the fleet.  
17 Including some ongoing work on thinking --  
18 talking about EFH, potential EFH revisions that  
19 are currently underway.

20 So now, the not so good news. So  
21 while we've had some impressive accomplishments  
22 in reaching the conservation objectives, the  
23 success in meeting the social and economic goals  
24 are sort of lacking here, falling behind. In  
25 many way I think this is sort of a timing issue.

26 You know, we've had costs come on  
27 line, but the tools and policies to mitigate them  
28 have not yet been implemented. Costs have gone  
29 up even while we're still only accessing 35  
30 percent of the ACLs. So you know, there's still  
31 a large upside for revenue that's staying in the  
32 water at this time. But at the same time we've  
33 had cost recovery implemented in 2014.

34 The observer subsidy that Tom spoke  
35 about has been gradually decreasing and is  
36 scheduled to end in this September. And that  
37 means that after that the fleet will cover 100  
38 percent of the direct costs of observers, which  
39 the current rate is about \$500 or more.

40 Observer availability has been also an  
41 issue for some of the more remote ports with  
42 fewer vessels. And so we are looking forward to  
43 seeing the revised observer rules that we're  
44 hoping that additional entities can be certified  
45 to provide observers. And this is important both  
46 in terms of observers and dockside monitors.

47 In addition, we have -- we certainly  
48 have some key council prioritized council actions

1 and a schedule that requires a lot of work from  
2 both the council and the region that are -- that  
3 again, you know, I think the fleet had expected  
4 to be already implemented. One of these are RCA  
5 adjustments.

6 RCAs were put in place as -- to keep  
7 the mortality of rockfish down. But now with 100  
8 percent accountability, there's ability to allow  
9 more access. And therefore more access to some  
10 of this -- these sustainable levels of harvest  
11 that could be taken out of the water. In  
12 addition, we're working on mid water trawl season  
13 changes to allow better access to some stocks  
14 like yellowtail rockfish, which have a strong  
15 desirability in the market. And we are also  
16 working on widow reallocations now that that  
17 stock has been rebuilt.

18 So we need to get these things  
19 finished so that we can you know, provide more  
20 opportunities to have the revenue to meet these  
21 costs. And we need to do them soon so that we  
22 don't have unnecessary loss of vessels in the  
23 fleet. There is another issue. There's -- some  
24 of you may have heard about. It's not really in  
25 the council purview, but it's really critical to  
26 this fleet, and that's the refinancing of the  
27 buyback loan.

28 There was a strong bilaterally  
29 supported piece of legislation that passed the  
30 Congress at the end of last year to allow  
31 refinancing of this loan to bring it back to sort  
32 of today's interest rates. But there are current  
33 challenges and there's styling that the  
34 implementation of this critical need, which we  
35 really need to get done since that would give  
36 them another two percent of their -- essentially  
37 of their gross revenue to be available to meet  
38 these challenges that I just identified. And  
39 that's it.

40 MR. POLLARD: The situation with Coho  
41 salmon in the Columbia River is probably one of  
42 the more complex issues of mixed stock  
43 management/weak stock management. And lower  
44 Columbia natural Coho have been a constraining  
45 stock.

46 Now this is one out of perhaps 75  
47 stocks that are mixed together in the ocean and  
48 river fisheries. Mixed jurisdictions of the

1 states and international situation with Canadian  
2 Coho and Chinook as well as the U.S. mixed and  
3 pretty much equally recruited to the fisheries  
4 and ocean -- commercial ocean recreational, in-  
5 river commercial and recreational, also tribal  
6 commercial and subsistence fisheries, both in  
7 ocean and in the river.

8 And in 2002 the Lower Columbia Natural  
9 Coho were listed as threatened under the ESA.  
10 And they became quite a constraining stock. Over  
11 the past two years, the council put together an  
12 ad-hoc Coho committee consisting of senior  
13 scientists from the various jurisdictions and  
14 developed what we call shorthand, the Coho  
15 matrix. An abundance and productivity based  
16 sliding scale on harvest that integrates the  
17 sustainable fisheries mission with the protected  
18 species mission of -- in the ESA. And allows --  
19 well, it addresses the recovery plans and the  
20 listing recovery plans developed by NMFS as well  
21 as Oregon and Washington.

22 And the matrix includes a sliding  
23 scale of some specific fishery allowances that  
24 may occasionally go as high as a 30 percent  
25 harvest. But most of the time it will be more in  
26 the range of 10 to 18 percent. Which is  
27 allowable and allows the recovery actions to be  
28 successful. A good example of the management  
29 council and NMFS working together to develop a  
30 matrix that has been accepted and is coming into  
31 use, with the mixed stock fishery, it's sometimes  
32 a very small adjustment. I mean even less than  
33 one percent adjustment in the harvest rate on the  
34 constraining stock may have some very substantial  
35 benefits.

36 And through the use of this matrix,  
37 the scientists have been able to show that these  
38 small adjustments may not have a great  
39 conservation benefit to restrict further than  
40 they have a substantial fishery benefit to allow  
41 some harvest. And it's -- we feel very good  
42 about the way this has come out and it's a  
43 successful integration of what could be  
44 conflicting mandates. So, thank you.

45 MR. McISAAC: Thank you Herb. And  
46 thank you Dorothy. Our last one here is North  
47 Pacific albacore. It's currently one of our, if  
48 it's not the most important HMS fishery on the

1 Pacific coast. The stock is healthy.

2 The Pacific Council is advocating for  
3 the classic United States Magnuson Act type of  
4 approach. That would be an OFL type limit  
5 reference point, an ACL target reference point,  
6 so a buffer in terms of what the biological  
7 possible -- biologically possible catch would be.  
8 We're advocating for a catch-based approach, not  
9 an effort-based approach. And we would also note  
10 that the international considerations are  
11 proceeding quite slowly. This is all taking  
12 place in the western central Pacific arena where  
13 the United States, Japan, Canada and a couple of  
14 other northern Pacific Asian countries are the  
15 primary players.

16 There's an MFC exercise being  
17 considered that could be a very good idea or it  
18 could slow things down a little bit more. And I  
19 guess we'd note while it's going slowly, we need  
20 to remember what Kitty was saying about China  
21 lurking out there. And when they're done on  
22 south Pacific albacore, we don't really want them  
23 looking to the north Pacific albacore next.

24 Before I go to the last slide, let me  
25 say that the Pacific Council has always tried to  
26 be a friendly council. And we try to do some  
27 gifting whenever we can. And so we just had a --  
28 we just provided for an important gift to our  
29 friends in the New England area. And I know  
30 we've only got three folks at the New England  
31 table now.

32 But we gave them an important gift  
33 just recently.

34 (Laughter)

35 MR. McISAAC: And when somebody could  
36 have run, as you see they're second and goal with  
37 one yard to go and you've got a hulking beastly  
38 running back that could run the ball three times  
39 to get one yard. Don Hanson called his old pal  
40 from USC, Pete Carroll and said why don't you  
41 throw one to the other team.

42 (Laughter)

43 MALE SPEAKER: And he did.

44 (Laughter)

45 MR. McISAAC: And that's all we've  
46 got.

47 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you Don. Any  
48 questions? All right. That takes us to the Mid

1 Atlantic Council followed by the Caribbean  
2 Council.

3 MR. ROBINS: Good morning Mr.  
4 Chairman. If I could have the next slide. I'll  
5 run through the Mid Atlantic Council's 2015  
6 priorities.

7 Our first initiative is one that's  
8 ongoing right now. And this is easily the most  
9 significant habitat protection amendment that  
10 we've ever considered. It's our Deep Sea Corals  
11 Amendment. I think it's fair to say that it's  
12 captured very broad public attention.

13 It's captured the imagination and  
14 interest of the public. And we received over  
15 120,000 public comments to date. So the level of  
16 interest and input that we've had from the public  
17 on this has been very exciting.

18 You may have previously heard the Mid  
19 Atlantic benthic communities described as a mud  
20 flat. You know, I think the work that was done  
21 by the Okeanos Explorer and the other vessels in  
22 the region over the past few years has really  
23 provided us with stunning images of the deep sea  
24 ecosystem in the region. You know, it was  
25 previously largely unexplored.

26 But the impressions I think that we  
27 took out of those recent cruises were truly eye  
28 opening. And the diversity of those deep sea  
29 marine communities has been very impressive and  
30 one that we're seeking to protect through this.

31 I've thought ever since we initiated  
32 this that we would be able to protect the vast  
33 majority of deep sea corals in our region while  
34 having a minimal impact on our existing  
35 fisheries. And I think the data continue to bear  
36 out that idea.

37 We started this process with an  
38 interactive GIS workshop together with coral  
39 researchers, the fishing industry and other  
40 parties. And as we went through that, you know,  
41 we had a very good engagement. And what we're  
42 proposing to do before we take final action at  
43 our June meeting is to have another workshop that  
44 would allow for additional dialog around the  
45 specifics of those discrete zone management  
46 measures that we might consider.

47 We're proposing to protect up to 15  
48 discreet zones. Those include all the shelf



1 slope canyons. And it also includes those  
2 incised canyons along the coast. We have five in  
3 our region. They're all very unique biologically  
4 and ecologically.

5 Then we're proposing to protect broad  
6 zones. And those measures would run from between  
7 -- would begin at depths of 200 meters out to 500  
8 meters and would prohibit fishing shallower to  
9 that. And those broad zones are based largely on  
10 a habitat suitability model that combined with  
11 all the multibeam sonar imaging that's been done  
12 in our region, has a very strong predicted power  
13 to predict where corals would occur and where  
14 suitable coral habitat exists.

15 And so you know, as we consider those  
16 two different approaches, I think we'll be in a  
17 very good position when we take final action to  
18 have a package that adequately protects corals.  
19 But does it to the extent practicable while  
20 taking into consideration the needs of our  
21 current fishing operations in the region.

22 The next item is our Summer Flounder  
23 Amendment. It's a comprehensive amendment.  
24 Summer Flounder is probably our flagship species.  
25 It's very important socially and economically to  
26 the region both commercially and recreationally.

27 The management plan itself was derived  
28 from an overfished resource. And so most of the  
29 goals and objectives were oriented around trying  
30 to rebuild that resource. As such, a lot of the  
31 goals and objectives in the plan are out of date.

32 And the fishery has changed a great  
33 deal since the 1980s and 1990s when management  
34 really first got underway. And we are trying to  
35 now go in and update those goals and objectives.  
36 We're also doing a comprehensive review of the  
37 commercial and recreational management strategies  
38 used to manage that fishery.

39 This is a very complex plan because it  
40 involves state by state allocations. It's a  
41 joint plan together with the Atlantic States  
42 Marine Fisheries Commission. And as such, you  
43 know, as we go through this, it's going to  
44 require a lot of coordination with the ASMFC and  
45 the States. But it's also going to be a very  
46 significant undertaking to try to address some of  
47 these disconnects between a historical objective  
48 and the current conditions in the fishery.

1           In part the resource has expanded and  
2 that has significant geographic implications.  
3 The center of biomass is further north than it  
4 used to be. You know, we think that's driven in  
5 part by the rebuilding of the resources --- that  
6 is the age structure of the population has been  
7 restored. And also potentially climate forcing.

8           So, there are a number of issues in  
9 play there. But we look forward to getting  
10 underway with that this year.

11           The next item is coming out of our  
12 strategic planning process. And that is the  
13 Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management.  
14 That's contemplated as a guidance document.

15           We developed it through a series of  
16 modules. Each one of those of topics has been  
17 supported with technical workshops. And so we've  
18 had a science workshop on the management of  
19 forage fish. You know, the science one on that  
20 suggests that single species management  
21 techniques may be inadequate to really  
22 effectively monitor and manage lower trophic  
23 level fish.

24           So we're developing a forage fish  
25 policy. We've also initiated an action to  
26 preclude the development of forage fisheries on -  
27 - that are currently unmanaged until such time  
28 that we have adequate assessments to ensure their  
29 ecological sustainability. So we'll sort of  
30 reverse the burden of proof there.

31           And we're also considering climate  
32 change in fisheries to have a solid adaptation  
33 strategy for that. We've had a number of  
34 workshops on that. One was scientific. The next  
35 was a workshop that we held jointly with all  
36 three Atlantic Coast Councils and the ASMFC.

37           And we were discussing the governance  
38 challenges associated with that, as fish stocks  
39 move potentially. You know, how can we be  
40 prepared for that with respect to governance?

41           And finally the question of species  
42 interactions. These are all issues that came out  
43 of our visioning project that our constituents  
44 wanted us to see us address more effectively.

45           The blueline tilefish issue that  
46 Michelle Duval referenced in her presentation is  
47 an unplanned and unscheduled priority for us.  
48 But one that came to us in December. Our staff

1 reported at that point in time that this fishery  
2 had expanded very dramatically in the Mid  
3 Atlantic.

4 We have a long history of coordination  
5 on this issue with the South Atlantic Council.  
6 And we had spent a number of years trying to  
7 establish a northern management area that would  
8 be north of the south Atlantic's management area  
9 for these species. As we have an emerging  
10 fishery in our area, and we had a couple of  
11 member states that took action proactively,  
12 Virginia and Maryland back in 2007 and 2009 or  
13 '10, to manage an emerging fishery.

14 But there was still a significant  
15 regulatory loophole that existed north of  
16 Maryland. And a handful of boats found and  
17 exploited that loophole in 2014. And directed on  
18 it commercially and landed about a quarter  
19 million pounds of fish. This fish is very  
20 sensitive biologically. It's like putting a red  
21 snapper in a blue suit.

22 And so, you can imagine the level of  
23 concern around this. We're considering  
24 requesting an emergency action next week. We  
25 have a webinar scheduled next Wednesday to  
26 consider that. But look forward to continued  
27 dialog and coordination with the South Atlantic  
28 Council to discuss a longer term solution.

29 And that's all I have. Thank you. Be  
30 glad to take any questions.

31 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you Rick. Any  
32 questions for Rick? All right. Thank you Rick.  
33 Next the Caribbean Council followed by the North  
34 Pacific Council.

35 MR. FARCHETTE: Thank you Mr. Chair.  
36 Our top two priorities is to establish the --  
37 well, we have established the Island Based  
38 Fishing Management Plans for Puerto Rico, St.  
39 Thomas and St. Croix.

40 With that we have recently approved  
41 nominations of a 15-member advisory panel for  
42 each district to review the FMPs and address  
43 management recommendations. The AP members  
44 represent all stakeholders to include both  
45 commercial and recreational fishers, dealers,  
46 charter for hire, sport fishers, taco shops and  
47 NGOs.

48 Second, as a data for area we have

1 with the SSN and the Southeast Science Center,  
2 Director Dr. Ponwith adopted an alternative for  
3 data analysis to comply with our ACLs. And  
4 finally, we have finalized the Pan-Caribbean  
5 Queen Conch Fishing Management Plan which  
6 involves more than 20 countries including Cuba,  
7 in coordination with WCAFC, the Western and  
8 Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission.

9 This management plan will be  
10 implemented by each participant country and is  
11 being coordinated by the WCAFC secretariate, Dr.  
12 Raymond van Anrooy and the International Queen  
13 Conch Initiative was started by the Caribbean  
14 council in 1996, coordinated with the U.S.  
15 Department of States. This Pan-Caribbean fishing  
16 management plan is a combination of all these  
17 years' efforts.

18 We also have the participation of the  
19 International Fishery Office of NMFS and all the  
20 meetings and projects related to Queen Conch  
21 Fisheries. We especially want to mention the  
22 hard work of Nancy Daves, liaison to the National  
23 Marine Fisheries, International Fisheries Office.  
24 Thank you Mr. Chair.

25 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you. Any  
26 questions? All right. Next we have North  
27 Pacific Council followed by the Gulf Council.

28 MR. OLIVER: Thank you Mr. Chairman.  
29 I will give a brief overview and look to my  
30 Chairman and Vice Chairman and perhaps Mr.  
31 Merrill to add to it. I don't have a PowerPoint.  
32 I promise I'll have one in June.

33 Our top priority probably is  
34 addressing bycatch of prohibited species. And by  
35 prohibited species I'm specifically referring to  
36 in this case salmon and halibut which are taken,  
37 salmon in our trawl fisheries and halibut in both  
38 our trawl fisheries and longline fisheries.

39 And we have implemented caps for  
40 Chinook salmon in both the Gulf of Alaska and the  
41 Bering Sea. Chinook salmon, I don't have to tell  
42 you is an iconic species critical to cultural and  
43 subsistence and commercial fisheries in Alaska.

44 And looking at our Bering Sea pollock  
45 fishery for example, while it is one of the  
46 cleanest fisheries literally in the world, I  
47 think something like 98 or 99 percent pollock is  
48 what comes up in the net. But unfortunately some

1 of that other one percent is salmon, Chinook  
2 salmon and chum salmon.

3 So we've put some -- the council spent  
4 a lot of time over the past five or six years  
5 implementing caps for Chinook salmon bycatch and  
6 chum salmon measures also in the Bering Sea.  
7 We're looking at potential additional measures  
8 this April.

9 It will be a big agenda item for the  
10 council in April is looking at additional  
11 restrictions on the trawl, pollock trawl  
12 fisheries in the Bering Sea relative to Chinook  
13 salmon bycatch, and also chum salmon bycatch  
14 involved in that consideration as well. There's  
15 a lot going on with that package, and I won't try  
16 to go into the details of it. But hopefully if  
17 you have questions, I'll try to answer them.

18 The other species that's really  
19 captured the council's attention recently and  
20 will be a huge item for us this year is halibut  
21 bycatch. The halibut stocks have been, the  
22 exploitable biomass of halibut fish over 32  
23 inches have been in a pretty steady decline over  
24 I guess about the last ten years. And the good  
25 news is, there's a lot of small fish, a lot of  
26 small halibut, smaller size and age. I guess  
27 that's also the bad news.

28 So there's in the Bering Sea for  
29 example, we've gotten recently to the point where  
30 the level of bycatch -- our bycatch, we have caps  
31 for halibut bycatch in both the Gulf of Alaska  
32 and the Bering Sea and have for many decades.

33 But those caps were recently --- three  
34 years ago we implemented 15 percent reduction in  
35 the halibut bycatch caps for the trawl fisheries  
36 in the Gulf of Alaska. And the council is now  
37 looking at a package of halibut bycatch reduction  
38 in the Bering Sea literally up to a 50 percent  
39 reduction in the halibut bycatch cap by the  
40 different sectors that fish in the Bering Sea,  
41 both trawl fisheries and longline fisheries for  
42 cod for example.

43 The exploitable biomass in the Bering  
44 Sea has declined to the point where literally the  
45 bycatch cap is higher than what's left over for  
46 the directed commercial fishery. There's been  
47 concern that some long reliant communities in the  
48 Bering Sea, in the St. Paul Island area for

1 example, we're looking at a potential reduction  
2 in their fishery to literally where they didn't  
3 have a fishery.

4 So, the council's been working very  
5 closely with the International Pacific Halibut  
6 Commission to address this issue. And we are,  
7 like I said, looking at a final -- we did initial  
8 review of a bycatch amendment package a week or  
9 two ago at our last council meeting. And we'll  
10 be take -- the council's going to be taking final  
11 action on that in June.

12 So that's -- those bycatch issues have  
13 really been the focus of the council, the  
14 council's priority. I guess a second and related  
15 priority, is while most of our fishers in the  
16 Bering Sea are, quote unquote, rationalized  
17 either it's some type of IFQ or fishery  
18 cooperative program.

19 Our fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska,  
20 particularly the trawl fisheries are not. We  
21 have some semi-rationalized measures like sector  
22 allocations for Pacific cod. But we don't really  
23 have a rationalized fishery in the Gulf of  
24 Alaska.

25 So last --- over the past two years  
26 that's been a high priority for the council. We  
27 last developed a package of measures in October  
28 that was centered around a fishery cooperative.  
29 Basically a catch/share program that would  
30 allocate both target species in the trawl  
31 fisheries as well as the PFC species, salmon and  
32 halibut.

33 And that -- we're doing a lot of  
34 background analysis on that. And I'm not sure  
35 whether that program's going to stay on the same  
36 structure that we have in October. We're going  
37 to be revisiting that this coming October. So,  
38 we'll see where that goes.

39 But that has been a high priority for  
40 the council. Basically to give those trawl  
41 fisheries the tools to deal with bycatch  
42 reductions and the tools necessary to continue to  
43 minimize bycatch to the extent practicable.

44 So, and sort of related but not  
45 completely, I would say our third priority is  
46 further refinement of our restructured observer  
47 program. We have long had a comprehensive  
48 observer program for our groundfish fisheries

1 with something on the order of 500 to 600  
2 observers per year deploying close to 40 thousand  
3 observer days per year in the North Pacific  
4 fisheries.

5 That was recently -- we're in our  
6 third year, what we call a restructured program,  
7 which is a fee based program where everybody pays  
8 an X vessel percentage on their landings. And it  
9 basically --- while we have pretty comprehensive,  
10 basically 100 percent coverage on most of the  
11 fisheries in the Bering Sea, we don't in the Gulf  
12 of Alaska.

13 And this program allows us to move  
14 that observer coverage around on an annual basis  
15 to where the fisheries where we feel like the  
16 best deployment of the available coverage under  
17 that fee program. And including some small  
18 vessels and halibut vessels that heretofore were  
19 not subject to observer coverage.

20 And one problem, this is prime -- this  
21 is an industry-funded program, although I think  
22 the Alaska Fishery Science Center has a \$5 to \$6  
23 million a year budget where they administer the  
24 program. But the industry pays the direct costs  
25 for that observer coverage through this fee. And  
26 it's somewhere on the order of \$15 to \$20 million  
27 per year.

28 Under this restructured program, this  
29 is where I put my funding pitch in, it's the --  
30 we do -- the cost, because of the contracting  
31 process, the cost that we estimated, we  
32 underestimated what the cost of the program was  
33 going to be. And essentially the cost for an  
34 observer day under this program is nearly twice  
35 as much as the cost per day under the pay as you  
36 go program, which was still the case in many of  
37 the Bering Sea fisheries.

38 But we're looking at approximately \$1  
39 million shortfall in 2015 for our basic observer  
40 coverage program. And one of the ancillary  
41 priorities of the council is electronic  
42 monitoring. We've been very aggressively  
43 pursuing EM solutions, particularly for our small  
44 boat, fixed gear fisheries that are -- many of  
45 which are -- it's impractical for them to carry a  
46 human observer.

47 But we want observer coverage or some  
48 type of coverage on those vessels. So we've

1 really been aggressively pursuing an electronic  
2 monitoring in particular for those fisheries.

3 And so that's an area too that  
4 requires funding and we're hopeful that in  
5 addition to the money generated under the fee  
6 program which could be used to you know, deploy  
7 either human or a camera, that internal funding  
8 availability that will help us get EM actually  
9 implemented in our 2016 Fisheries.

10 So those are, I guess what I would  
11 consider our top three priorities. I'll just  
12 stop there and Mr. Hull may have some additional  
13 comments.

14 MR. HULL: All right, thank you Mr.  
15 Chair. Dan Hull, North Pacific Council Chairman.  
16 I'll add to Chris' report with a couple of  
17 thoughts and observations. First about the  
18 council's ability to manage bycatch and quantify  
19 impacts and measure the success of our programs.

20 With respect to Chinook salmon bycatch  
21 management, I think a couple of important  
22 elements stand out in our ability to do that  
23 successfully. First, the State of Alaska has a  
24 really good accounting annually of the harvests  
25 and the spawning populations of salmon.

26 In the observer program in the Bering  
27 Sea for the pollock fisheries, there's a census  
28 of the salmon bycatch. And a sampling, a really  
29 strict sampling protocol for genetic stock  
30 identification. And then subsequent estimates of  
31 the river of origin of those Chinook caught as  
32 bycatch. And then an approach to turn that into  
33 an adult equivalent of the returns to those  
34 rivers of origin.

35 And then third important element of  
36 that program is our devolution of the  
37 responsibility to achieve the bycatch reductions  
38 to the pollock fleet itself through their  
39 cooperative agreements and their incentive plans  
40 to try to control on the vessel level the bycatch  
41 of Chinook salmon.

42 In contrast, halibut's quite a bit  
43 differently, quite a bit different. We don't  
44 have a lot of those same types of elements yet in  
45 our management of halibut bycatch. First of all,  
46 it requires a really close coordination with the  
47 International Pacific Halibut Commission.

48 That institution has undergone some



1 significant changes internally over the last  
2 probably three to five years. The stock itself  
3 has changed significantly as Chris pointed out.  
4 I think the average size of halibut, coast wide  
5 over the last ten years, has dropped some 30  
6 percent or more.

7 And they've also undergone significant  
8 changes in their stock assessment methods. So the  
9 council is only as good in managing halibut  
10 bycatch as the data that and the information it  
11 gets about the stock from the Halibut Commission.  
12 And that's in progress at the Commission.

13 I guess the flip side of that is the  
14 Commission is only as good in its stock  
15 assessment as the data it gets from the council  
16 and through our observer program. And so this is  
17 particularly important since halibut as bycatch  
18 is primarily the juvenile fish. It's important  
19 to know what the size and sex proportions are of  
20 that bycatch.

21 We don't yet have the kind of exact  
22 accounting that we need for the Commission. It  
23 also applies to the discards in our directed  
24 halibut fisheries. These areas are, I think  
25 we've embarked on some closer coordination with  
26 the Halibut Commission and recently had a joint  
27 meeting with them.

28 And so I expect further development.  
29 But again, with as significant contrast I think  
30 between Chinook and halibut management. This is,  
31 I guess then leads into what I would say is the  
32 critical importance of collecting fisheries'  
33 dependent data for catch accounting and for stock  
34 assessment and I think especially in the Gulf of  
35 Alaska.

36 As Chris mentioned, we've put a  
37 significant amount of effort as a council and  
38 with the region and the Alaska Fishery Science  
39 Center in trying to develop electronic monitoring  
40 for small boats. And also in the restructuring  
41 of our observer program.

42 With respect to electronic monitoring,  
43 we do have a plan for a pre-implementation year  
44 in 2016 in which we will actually be collecting  
45 the data on discarded species in the directed  
46 longline fleets for vessels for whom carrying an  
47 observer is problematic. So, I think we've made  
48 great progress in the council generally along

1 with the region and the State agencies has really  
2 been actively engaged with all stakeholders to  
3 try to make good progress.

4 But, with electronic monitoring, it  
5 really is critical to have adequate funding in  
6 order to develop the technologies and the  
7 structure that the agency needs to be able to  
8 implement it. And I really think our success in  
9 2016 hinges on that.

10 So, I'll turn it to the Vice Chair,  
11 Mr. Merrill for, you know. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you. Any  
13 questions? Yes, Don?

14 MR. McISAAC: Thank you Mr. Chairman,  
15 a question back to the halibut bycatch matter. I  
16 can't imagine anything getting quite as sticky as  
17 what you guys had to go through.

18 But my question has to do with the  
19 international nature of that, particularly up in  
20 the Bering Sea. Does the Russian connection on  
21 Pacific halibut come into play at any point in  
22 all these discussions?

23 MR. HULL: Mr. Chairman, no, it does  
24 not. I don't recall at any of the Commission  
25 meetings that the Russians have had any input  
26 into it at all.

27 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, thank you.  
28 That will take us last to -- I've asked Doug to  
29 go ahead and provide the presentation, and I'll  
30 remind him that we are ten minutes into our 15  
31 minute break Doug, so.

32 MR. GREGORY: Right. Therefore, I'll  
33 reserve the right to go first in June.

34 With the Gulf Council, manages the  
35 fisheries in federal waters across five States  
36 and America's sea. If you look at the grant,  
37 you'll see lots of bays and barrier islands and  
38 overlapping jurisdictions. And that becomes  
39 important. And at the very bottom right you'll  
40 see the Florida Keys, which is our jurisdictional  
41 boundary with the South Atlantic Council. Oops,  
42 did the same thing.

43 We had three top priorities. Red  
44 snapper regional management, allocation issues on  
45 red snapper and now on king mackerel, and cross  
46 jurisdictional management in South Florida that  
47 Michelle Duval touched on in her presentation.

48 We also have some other priorities

1 real quick. Rebuilding greater amberjack. We're  
2 having a difficult time doing that. We have  
3 recently made some more changes to try to get  
4 that. That was not rebuilt within the ten-year  
5 time period.

6 IFQ modifications in both their  
7 grouper IFQ program and our red snapper IFQ  
8 program. Electronic monitoring, and like the  
9 other councils, we're eager to expand into  
10 electronic monitoring. Our big hang up seems to  
11 be the lack of funding by the centers to do that.  
12 And of course National Standard 1 guidelines and  
13 reauthorization.

14 Back to our top priority, red snapper  
15 regional management. We've been working on this  
16 for a couple of years. We would like to try to  
17 institute differing regulations among States  
18 and/or regions. Initially we looked at  
19 delegation to the States and now we're exploring  
20 the similar flounder model.

21 The important thing here is we're only  
22 looking at recreational management; the  
23 commercial management for red snapper is IFQ that  
24 will remain federal. So we're only looking at  
25 recreational. And of course allocation as  
26 everybody knows is intrinsically difficult, and  
27 it's even more difficult when your recreational  
28 harvest assessments change every year. Your  
29 historical estimates change every year.

30 This is a little snapshot of our  
31 different allocation issues. Of course regional  
32 management is an allocation issue among the five  
33 Gulf States. We're also looking at, as I  
34 mentioned last year, intersector allocations  
35 between the commercial and recreational sectors  
36 of red snapper. The difficulty there is that  
37 both sectors are fully utilizing their respective  
38 quotas.

39 And now, with sector separation, we're  
40 looking at within sector allocations between  
41 private vessels and the for-hire vessels. And  
42 because of the way the for-hire harvest estimates  
43 are made and we don't have individual catch or  
44 vessel estimates in recreational fishery other  
45 than head boat/party boat, the for-hire industry  
46 is very eager to adopt electronic monitoring  
47 including VMS, which I thought was interesting.

48 Now in king mackerel, that's a fishery

1 that's above optimum yield. It's been rebuilt.  
2 We have got to kind of -- we have different  
3 fishing zones because it's a highly migratory  
4 species throughout the coast. And the fishing  
5 zones and seasons were established to give all  
6 areas of the Gulf equal access or appropriate  
7 access to the resource.

8 We had a shared resource with the  
9 South Atlantic Council, and the mixing zone or  
10 the shared part of that has changed dramatically  
11 in the last stock assessment. So that's going to  
12 cause us to reevaluate all the zones and the  
13 harvest levels in each of the zones.

14 And then we've also got the situation  
15 where, because of changing recreational  
16 estimates, it turns out the recreational quota  
17 that was established 40 years ago has not been  
18 met by the recreational industry historically due  
19 to these recalibrations. So they're probably  
20 meeting half of their allocation. So we're  
21 looking at transplanting some of that quota to  
22 the commercial sector.

23 South Florida issues, our third major  
24 priority is to coordinate shallow water grouper  
25 closure so that along the Florida Keys, which is  
26 120 mile area, multi-jurisdictional area, that's  
27 one of the most heavily fished areas in the Gulf  
28 of Mexico for, you know, species other than  
29 shrimp and red snapper. We need to consolidate  
30 regulations to minimize confusion and problems  
31 both within public and the enforcement people.

32 So we've been meeting jointly as  
33 Michelle explained to address this. And we hope  
34 to have something to the councils in June with  
35 public hearings in July and final results and  
36 implementation by the end of this year.

37 With that I'll answer any questions.  
38 Thank you very much.

39 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Any questions for  
40 Doug?

41 (No response)

42 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right. So that  
43 wraps up all the councils' reports. And that  
44 takes us to our break scheduled for today. It's  
45 15 minutes. I would say, let's plan on ten  
46 minutes. Try to recapture a little bit of the  
47 time and make sure we try to get back on the  
48 track.

1                   So in ten minutes from now, please be  
2 back. Thank you.

3                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
4 went off the record at 10:45 a.m. and resumed at  
5 10:59 a.m.)

6                   CHAIRMAN ANSON: So there were a  
7 couple of people that came in during the council  
8 reports. And John, if you want to go ahead and  
9 introduce yourself.

10                  MR. QUINN: John Quinn, the  
11 beleaguered Vice Chairman from New England.

12                  CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you. Thank you  
13 for making it. And then we have one other. Sam?

14                  MR. RAUCH: Sam Rauch, Deputy  
15 Assistant Administrator for Regulator Programs at  
16 NOAA Fisheries.

17                  CHAIRMAN ANSON: And we have one more.

18                  MR. PENTONY: Thanks. Mike Pentony,  
19 ARA4SF from the Greater Atlantic Region.

20                  CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you. So that  
21 brings us to the next scheduled item, which is  
22 the Management and Budget Update. Dr. Doremus?

23                  DR. DOREMUS: Thank you Mr. Chairman.  
24 It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak  
25 to you today about where we stand overall with  
26 our budget.

27                  Before we get underway with the  
28 specifics here, I wanted to also add my personal  
29 voice to Eileen's in congratulating John  
30 Henderschedt to his new position as Director of  
31 our International Affairs Seafood Inspection  
32 effort. And we're really looking forward to  
33 getting underway on that front.

34                  And also, I do regret not having the  
35 opportunity today to introduce to you, those of  
36 you who haven't met our CFO and Director of our  
37 Management and Budget Operation, Brian Pawlak.  
38 He has been acting in that capacity for about  
39 nine months. We have had a combination of people  
40 in that position since I've been with Fisheries;  
41 it's a great pleasure to me to have that position  
42 now fully encumbered by Brian.

43                  He has a background in budget. He  
44 worked in our Formulation Division. He ran our  
45 Formulation Division for a period of time, and  
46 has had a number of years in Habitat Program.  
47 Was the Deputy Director of the Habitat Program.

48                  So he has his feet on the ground in

1 terms of our programmatic functions. And he is  
2 today -- was going to be here to meet all of you,  
3 but is doing our budget briefing for the  
4 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.  
5 That's a traditional annual budget process that  
6 we do.

7 So we're having to send him over to  
8 that event. And I'm sorry I'm not able to  
9 introduce him to you here today. So he's  
10 replacing the last permanent person who has held  
11 that person was Gary Reisner. Gary as many of  
12 you know, has moved on to be NOAA's Budget  
13 Director.

14 So we have a lot of Fisheries  
15 knowledge and expertise downtown and that's a  
16 great service to us given the frankly a rather  
17 complicated nature of our budget. And the  
18 challenges that we are all facing in this type of  
19 budget environment moving forward. So we're  
20 overall in good shape there. And I'll look  
21 forward to future opportunity for all of you to  
22 meet Brian.

23 We're covering here today the status  
24 of where we are in FY '15. In particular we'll  
25 look closely at the table for council funding as  
26 we do every year at this time.

27 And we also want to spend a little bit  
28 of our time here today looking at the FY '16  
29 proposal that was just put out. We have gone  
30 through our traditional engagements with our  
31 Appropriations Committees on the House and the  
32 Senate.

33 And that process is moving forward  
34 fairly well. And provided overall look at our  
35 budget with some concluding notes. That's really  
36 part one in your agenda; that's listed as the  
37 10:45 to 11:45 slot. We do have -- and we'll  
38 pause at that point for questions, discussion  
39 about budget.

40 And then we'll move into an  
41 administrative update if you will, heads up on  
42 our overall approach to records management for  
43 the agency, which will affect the work of the  
44 councils in some measure. As well as a very  
45 important few minutes on our S-K Grant process,  
46 which you all are contributing to in a rather  
47 substantial way. And we want to review where we  
48 are and make -- have the opportunity to discuss

1 what is coming and what to expect.

2 We do have here with us today from our  
3 Management and Budget Operation, Dan Namur, who  
4 is the Program Manager for the S-K Grant process  
5 and he may contribute to that discussion. I  
6 think Dan's around. He's in the back.

7 He has been extraordinarily helpful.  
8 We have quite a big lift in moving that one  
9 forward this year. So we'll spend some time on  
10 that.

11 Overall, in 2015 our bottom line  
12 number as it were is \$958.2. That is down from  
13 FY '14. But FY '14, as you recall, was a bit of  
14 an aberration because it had \$75 million in  
15 disaster mitigation funds.

16 So overall, for our operations,  
17 research and facilities funding, our core  
18 programs, as we have it here, it's a modest  
19 increase, 1.6 percent over FY '14. And we are  
20 pleased to be able to work with that in this  
21 environment. And I'll go through where our  
22 programs evolved during the course of the last  
23 few years.

24 This is a table we conventionally use.  
25 It might be a little difficult to read from the  
26 table. But what you have here, this is our  
27 budget broken down into major subactivities as  
28 our budget has been structured up to this point  
29 in time. And I'll get into that issue in a  
30 little bit.

31 But we have our protected resources  
32 line, our fisheries resource and management line,  
33 enforcement and observers and habitat. Those are  
34 the primary programmatic buckets, if you will, of  
35 our program. There are a range of expenditures  
36 in other activities supporting Fisheries as  
37 you've become familiar with.

38 This is one of the areas of our budget  
39 and I'm going to talk later. We do have in our  
40 FY '16 proposal, it is in a different  
41 configuration. We have along with other parts of  
42 NOAA, are proposing a consolidation of our budget  
43 so that it's actually structurally more sensible.  
44 We have like things with like things.

45 And when we get to this table for FY  
46 '16, you'll see some difference there. But that  
47 other activity supporting Fisheries is the main  
48 thing to change. There's a lot of science-funded

1 programs there and they got put in different  
2 buckets, if you will.

3 What I'd like to point out on this  
4 table and my laser is a little bit weak and  
5 difficult to use, but I won't use it. The  
6 enacted line, if you look at the last two  
7 columns, that's our request line relative to what  
8 actually came forward.

9 And one of the major take aways there  
10 just scanning down you'll see that the FY15  
11 enacted and we understand that Congress had just  
12 changed its composition. The FY '15 budget was  
13 largely a continuity budget. And many of the  
14 increases that were proposed, with the exception  
15 of habitat, where we got some unexpected changes  
16 in the Congressional enacted budget.

17 In all instances while our budget is  
18 up slightly from FY '14, in all instances we were  
19 down from the President's FY '15 request. That  
20 was a very strong request. It recognized a  
21 number of significant needs in our program in all  
22 areas, protected resources, fisheries, research  
23 and management, and many of those got pushed to  
24 the right.

25 We did see an increase in our habitat  
26 conservation and restoration line. There was an  
27 addition of a \$5 million grant effort there that  
28 I'll talk about at a little bit further.

29 The other thing I always encourage  
30 people to do is also look by subactivity over  
31 time. So if you use 2011 as a bit of a reference  
32 point, you can see in each of these areas where  
33 we are today relative to FY '10, FY '11, which  
34 were essentially the high-water marks in recent  
35 years for our budget.

36 So while we are up slightly from FY  
37 '14, we are trying to move out of a hole from  
38 sequestration years in FY '13. We are still down  
39 about nine percent in our ORF budget off of where  
40 we were in FY '10.

41 And you can see that in comparing the  
42 first and the last columns where we are today,  
43 with the FY '15 being the last column and the  
44 first column is a few years back in FY '11. And  
45 across the board we are with the exception of our  
46 enforcement and observers area and our habitat  
47 areas, our major lines are down relative to the  
48 historical expenditures there.



1           So I wanted to point those major  
2 features out about where we are in FY '15.

3           This is our detailed council funding  
4 table. The primary line is the regional council  
5 PPA line that is enacted by Congress.

6           And as you know, we've gone over in  
7 great detail in prior years, there are also  
8 detailed additional contributions to council  
9 resources from NEPA, from our fisheries research  
10 and management PPA and specific areas that are  
11 broken out here, ACL implementation, regulatory  
12 streamlining, SSC stipends and in the peer review  
13 funding. And that varies by council.

14           And we have the breakout here for each  
15 of the councils. There's also some expended  
16 annual stock assessment money, a small amount  
17 that flows to some councils.

18           So we have a bottom line on the FY '15  
19 number, if my laser seems to last and in the  
20 second, is down at the bottom there, FY2015 spent  
21 plan, basically \$27.9. So we're seeing an  
22 increase of about 2.5 percent available to the  
23 councils. It's up about \$670.5 thousand off of  
24 last year.

25           These numbers do reflect an across the  
26 board reduction that OMB levied on all of our  
27 PPAs. It was small, .28 percent. Just under .3  
28 percent. So that's built into what you're seeing  
29 here as well as our M&A, which is very, very  
30 close. It's the same practice as last year, very  
31 close to the same amount. Just a small variation  
32 in our M&A at 4 percent this year from 3.9 last  
33 year.

34           So that's the council funding. We  
35 have gone to great efforts -- given the review,  
36 the grant renewal process -- to get an allocation  
37 from Office of Management and Budget early. And  
38 to accelerate that process we have sent some  
39 information out to all of you about where we  
40 stand.

41           We're working very closely on a daily  
42 basis through our grants staff. That is our  
43 highest priority. We're moving it very, very  
44 quickly. And we anticipate having most of the  
45 grant process done within a few weeks.

46           So we are accelerating that as much as  
47 the system can tolerate and just wanted to  
48 confirm our commitment to doing that and that we

1 feel like we're pretty close to the end of the  
2 line there.

3 And with that, let me just make some  
4 observations about the '16 budget. It was just  
5 released. We were pleased to have it released on  
6 time; it has not been in recent years given the  
7 difficulties in the last few years with the  
8 overall budget environment.

9 We've got a link here to the Blue  
10 Book. As is always the case, we make all of our  
11 budget information available online. You can  
12 actually see our entire Congressional submission.  
13 If you really want to punish yourself, there's  
14 hundreds of pages there that you can work through  
15 to see the details on what we've asked for, what  
16 the justification looks like, at every level.

17 I'll go through the fundamental  
18 changes in FY16. But I want to do this in the  
19 context of the realities that we are currently  
20 seeing and expect to hear more in specific terms  
21 with the budget on the Hill.

22 As is the case across the board for  
23 domestic discretionary spending, the President's  
24 budget was a very strong budget. We are  
25 continuing to see as we did see in '14 and in  
26 '15, very strong recognition by NOAA, by the  
27 Department, by the Office of Management and  
28 Budget.

29 Very strong recognition of our program  
30 requirements, of shortfalls in key areas in our  
31 budget. And a lot of those are recognized here,  
32 in very good measure, both with Fisheries' budget  
33 and in other areas of NOAA's overall budget that  
34 we rely on. And I'll point that out on one slide  
35 coming up.

36 This is a very, very strong budget for  
37 us. But we also need to acknowledge the overall  
38 policy and political environment that this budget  
39 is being received in. Our discussions with  
40 Congressional Appropriations Staff have gone  
41 very, very well. But we do not yet know what the  
42 top-line pressure is going to be.

43 This is a substantial increase off of  
44 where a lot of the thinking has been in Congress  
45 on appropriations and elsewhere. And I think you  
46 can see that a little bit in the FY '15 budget,  
47 which basically was a continuity budget with some  
48 minor adjustments.

1           There's a great likelihood of  
2 something like that in the future. It would not  
3 be a surprise. There are also a lot of  
4 discussions about what the relevant reference  
5 point is for our budget. We tend to look at FY  
6 '10, FY '11 before we hit the economically driven  
7 reductions that showed up across the board for  
8 domestic discretionary spending.

9           The sequestration law that was put  
10 into place was one measure for dealing with that.  
11 And that remains to be fully played out. So a  
12 lot of uncertainty. That's the bottom line with  
13 our budget. We emphasize it every time we talk  
14 about it.

15           This could go a number of different  
16 ways. If it goes towards the President's budget,  
17 which we all obviously hope for and are making a  
18 case for, that would be a great thing. And I'll  
19 detail exactly why that's the case in the coming  
20 few slides.

21           So starting here, it's the big  
22 picture. It's about \$957 million in  
23 discretionary. That's really where our  
24 operations funding is. Operations, research and  
25 facilities. This is about a 3.3 increase over  
26 the enacted budget. So we're building back  
27 again, continuing to progress back towards what  
28 we might consider to be more reasonable budgets  
29 given our mission requirements.

30           And this just shows you the big puts  
31 and takes with technical adjustments,  
32 inflationary adjustments. And the large one is  
33 where I'm going to focus on, which is where our  
34 efforts are outlined and focused on in our  
35 Congressional interactions. And that's on the  
36 \$55 million in program changes that are built  
37 into our budget.

38           This is a real key slide. It really  
39 explains the overarching strategy for what we're  
40 trying to do. We can step through the puts and  
41 takes, but they really come down to three  
42 fundamental things.

43           The first two, actually all of them,  
44 but the third one is an accent on what we always  
45 call our core mission funding. We have very,  
46 very distinct statutory requirements, drivers,  
47 Magnuson, ESA and MMPA being the primary ones.  
48 We're responsible for something on the order of

1 85 statutory requirements drivers. But those are  
2 the three that drive our mission.

3 We are in the sustainable fisheries  
4 business. We are in the business of conserving,  
5 recovering protected resources. And investing in  
6 habitat science and restoration is required to do  
7 those two things. Our budget reflects that.

8 These first two elements involve a  
9 series of increases on the order of \$14 million  
10 for domestic fisheries management with better  
11 science, new technologies. We have increases in  
12 electronic monitoring.

13 Aquaculture and some habitat  
14 investments to improve coastal resiliencies that  
15 are linked to Fisheries' needs and considerations  
16 that go into this category. So that's about \$17  
17 million for strategy one, if you will.

18 The second strategy on the protective  
19 resources front is a very significant series of  
20 investments -- just under \$19 million -- that are  
21 designed to improve our ability to protected  
22 threatened and endangered species.

23 It centers really on consultation  
24 capacity. We are seeing a huge increase in  
25 demand. We don't have the capacity right now to  
26 meet it. I'll step through that in a few  
27 seconds.

28 And the more recent one Eileen  
29 mentioned, recent activities, a lot of  
30 Presidentially-directed focus as well as enormous  
31 interest in all sectors in IUU came up in their  
32 context of some of the discussions and report  
33 outs from the councils here today. And we have  
34 an increase in our budget that's directed towards  
35 that. And it's an area where we anticipate  
36 additional focus in the future.

37 So that's our overall '16 strategy.  
38 Before getting into the pieces, I do want to  
39 highlight where Fisheries stands in the context  
40 of NOAA's budget.

41 So there is a \$6 billion ask for NOAA.  
42 The largest portion of this, close to 40 percent  
43 is for our satellite data and information  
44 service. That's a very capital intensive line of  
45 business. We have some refresh on-key satellite  
46 technologies that are driving that number.

47 The National Weather Service accounts  
48 for approximately 18 percent. And Fisheries is

1 third in terms of the composition of NOAA's total  
2 budget at just under 16 percent of the budget.

3 I do want to highlight, we have strong  
4 interdependencies with the rest of NOAA across  
5 all of these areas. We are increasingly  
6 collaborating with the National Weather Service  
7 in a variety of areas where their hydrological  
8 and weather predictive capacity has a large  
9 bearing on some of our management considerations.  
10 We're doing that very heavily out west, related  
11 to drought and other matters.

12 Other particular areas that I want to  
13 point out. In program support, not aptly titled,  
14 about 11 percent of the total budget, the biggest  
15 piece in there is the Office of Marine and  
16 Aviation Operations. We are consistently asking  
17 for, the Administration supported, we're very  
18 pleased to see that.

19 But it's a big lift to get the  
20 recapitalization requirement acknowledged in our  
21 budget for the fleet. So there is a dependency  
22 on our ocean going assets. It's in protected  
23 serve -- the protected support -- I'm sorry,  
24 program support line that we always go out of our  
25 way to point to.

26 We also have a lot of collaboration  
27 with the National Ocean Service. Particularly on  
28 habitat related investments that have the dual  
29 benefit of improving coastal resiliency as well  
30 as conditions for our trust resources and our  
31 fisheries resources.

32 As well, we have substantial  
33 interactions with the Office of Oceanic and  
34 Atmospheric Research. Particularly in the  
35 climate arena, ocean acidification. The FY16  
36 budget has a very strong increase of over \$20  
37 million for ocean acidification we would benefit  
38 quite a bit from. As well as a small number in  
39 there for aquaculture that would complement our  
40 activities in aquaculture. Also a program  
41 request, increase request in FY '16.

42 So it's not just our piece. It's our  
43 interactions with all of these that is going to  
44 be a considerable part of our ability to meet our  
45 mission requirements in the future.

46 So this is the analog to the  
47 subactivity table. But in our new structure.  
48 Again, the FY '16 budget, with the support of the

1 Administration, has a simplified budget  
2 structure. We simply aggregated largely for  
3 efficiency but also for sensibility.

4 Our budget was kind of an amalgamation  
5 of historical budget items. Some of them  
6 earmarks. We had functions split across multiple  
7 budgets. It was very difficult to tell, for  
8 instance, where some of our science investments  
9 were. What we were spending on observers. We  
10 had enforcement and observers put together.

11 So we took and essentially kind of  
12 rationalized our budget so that we could have  
13 instead of some total of 50 PPAs, we reduced that  
14 substantially. And we're hoping that this would  
15 be a great benefit to all of those involved in  
16 understanding the rationale behind our budget and  
17 our presentation of our budget.

18 In our program accounts and in  
19 operations, research and facilities, we had 37  
20 separate PPAs. We combined that in ways to get  
21 us down to ten. And they roll up into these  
22 subactivities. So these are much more sensible  
23 subactivities.

24 When we had for instance fisheries  
25 research and management before, it did not well  
26 represent what we were actually spending in  
27 fisheries research and management because we had  
28 an enormous amount of activity in the  
29 subactivities previously called inelegantly,  
30 other activities supporting fisheries. A lot of  
31 that were actually science investments. Some of  
32 them were support for observations and other  
33 functions there.

34 So this new structure can totally  
35 compare it, but we have crosswalk tables that  
36 make that easy over time. But you see the same  
37 type of pattern. Here what we did, is instead of  
38 providing the historical reference point, we're  
39 looking at '14/'15 in its various dimensions.

40 So we have our spend plan where we are  
41 today in the FY '15 enacted. It's the first two  
42 columns. Then you can see the President's  
43 request relative to those two lines. The program  
44 changes, listed in the second to last column  
45 there -- FY '16 program changes -- are off of  
46 '15. And you can see where the accumulation of  
47 our specific investments play out.

48 So we have about \$29.6 million in

1 requested program augmentations in our protected  
2 resources, science and management. Area, that's  
3 the core consultation-oriented focus of our  
4 protective resources work. We have \$17.5, as I  
5 mentioned, in fishery science and management.  
6 And an increase of just under \$4 million for  
7 enforcement functions.

8 Those are where our changes are really  
9 concentrated. And what I'll do is step through  
10 the actual program changes quickly so you can see  
11 what they are.

12 So the first one is really the two  
13 components. I mentioned \$17 odd million. The  
14 two components of that are the Endangered Species  
15 Act recovery consultation related work. That's a  
16 \$13.2 million increase. And then a \$5.7 million  
17 increase in our EFH related work to support  
18 Magnuson.

19 We have an enormous amount of growth  
20 in demand for consultation capacity. Think  
21 corals affecting the southeast and the Pacific.  
22 Think the work related to on the west coast  
23 related to drought conditions. Think deep  
24 continued consultation work related to Deepwater  
25 Horizon in the Gulf.

26 Those are among our major programmatic  
27 drivers. We have a strong increase in demand for  
28 section seven. In particular consultations. And  
29 we have the same and slightly declined staff.  
30 And those two things don't go well together.

31 So we're trying to build back that  
32 capability so that we do not slow down and  
33 inhibit all of the economic activity that resides  
34 both public sector spending as well as private  
35 sector spending. It's dependent on efficient  
36 functioning of the permitting process in the  
37 Federal Government. So that's the core logic  
38 there.

39 On the Species Recovery Grants front,  
40 we are looking at an increase of \$17 million.  
41 This strategy will be familiar to you from prior  
42 presidents' budgets. We have advanced this on a  
43 number of occasions.

44 This will provide additional grants to  
45 States and tribes to focus on priority ESA  
46 species. We do have a substantial effort --  
47 Eileen alluded to this in her opening comments -  
48 - a substantial effort to focus on recovery and

1 to improve our ability to prioritize species.  
2 And the focus of species recovery grants in the  
3 future would be affected by that prioritization  
4 process.

5 So that's pretty key. We have a small  
6 increase here for Atlantic and Pacific salmon.  
7 The Pacific salmon piece is actually a  
8 consultation capacity. It's related to the first  
9 one that I talked about.

10 And Atlantic salmon is a key issue.  
11 We've got a species there hanging by a thread.  
12 Our investments, in collaboration with our  
13 northeast States, are designed to keep that from  
14 going completely out of commission. And we hope  
15 to be able to see Congressional acknowledgment in  
16 support of that effort for fish passage, dam  
17 removal, continued work to ensure the survival of  
18 that species, which is very much in question.

19 On the second strategy front, fishery  
20 science and management, we have a series of  
21 increases here. One of great interest to all of  
22 you, referenced a number of times in the report  
23 outs, the council report outs this morning.

24 Two pieces of our electronic  
25 technologies, a \$7.1 million ask on electronic  
26 technologies. We don't have dedicated funding.  
27 We anticipate this year in FY '15 spending on the  
28 order of \$3 million on electronic technology.

29 We would really like to have the  
30 ability with the support to accelerate the  
31 application of electronic monitoring and  
32 reporting technologies into practice. And that's  
33 what these would be designed to do.

34 Building on pilot projects that we  
35 have. Work in the northwest, northeast, in the  
36 Gulf, elsewhere to tailor electronic monitoring  
37 capabilities to specific fisheries and get those  
38 capabilities into action.

39 As I think Tom quickly pointed out,  
40 and I do like to emphasize this whenever we talk  
41 about electronic monitoring, reporting, we've  
42 been doing a lot of Hill engagement on this. We  
43 do want to hasten to add: this is not a solution  
44 to observer costs.

45 There seemed to be a lot of thinking  
46 on the Hill that if you invest in cameras you can  
47 invest less in people. We don't see that  
48 actually working that way. You're collecting



1 different information through these different  
2 techniques.

3 We want to be able to meet our  
4 observing requirements in the most efficient way  
5 possible. Sometimes that will allow for  
6 electronic monitoring; sometimes it will require  
7 continued use of observers.

8 So this is not a path towards --  
9 necessarily a path towards lower observing costs.  
10 We want to be as cost effective as possible. We  
11 want to invest in these technologies. But what  
12 we expect to get is larger, better, more ready  
13 access to data.

14 But I wouldn't expect necessarily our  
15 cost structure to ultimately change enormously.  
16 That all remains to be determined and this  
17 investment will help us figure that out.

18 There's a holdover here. The  
19 Distributed Biological Observatory is a \$500  
20 thousand investment. This was present, you saw  
21 this last year. In last year's budget it wasn't  
22 approved. It was readded into this request.

23 We have also continued investments in  
24 expand annual stock assessments in our National  
25 Catch Share Program. This is core business that  
26 we've been advancing for a number of years and  
27 have had fairly steady Congressional support  
28 certainly for the annual stock assessments. And  
29 more gradually than we had anticipated, but still  
30 a strong understanding and support for the  
31 continued progress on our Catch Share Program.

32 So those are fairly modest increase  
33 requests there. Looking broadly in a number of  
34 areas, we're very pleased the recognition here in  
35 the President's budget for FY '16 of the need for  
36 improved investments in collaboration cross  
37 sector on aquaculture.

38 So there's a \$2 million augmentation  
39 here. There's also \$2.5 million in the Office of  
40 Oceanic and Atmospheric Research budget line.  
41 This is very much focused on the science to  
42 accelerate rules that will allow the more rapid  
43 implementation and investment in aquaculture  
44 technologies around the country.

45 I think all of you are well aware of  
46 domestic aquaculture production relative to  
47 international production capabilities and how  
48 much that's driving our total seafood demand and

1 consumption in the United States. And we believe  
2 this is a long term, very important strategy for  
3 domestic seafood production. A very modest  
4 request would be a great assistance to us.

5 We're also recognizing as I mentioned  
6 earlier, increased demand for enforcement  
7 capabilities related to IUU. So there's a \$3  
8 million increase request here as well as an  
9 additional \$0.9 that would support supporting  
10 capabilities such as but not limited to forensics  
11 and some compliance assistance. But the core of  
12 that is IUU related enforcement activities.

13 Small increase in observers and  
14 training here. And we have what looks like a  
15 very large number. This is the issue that  
16 Dorothy mentioned on the refinance of the Pacific  
17 Trawl Loan Program. And I'll spare you a really  
18 long story. If you'd like to get into it, we  
19 could. It would take some time.

20 But the upshot of it is, Congress has  
21 asked us to refinance that program. The  
22 Administration determined that an appropriation  
23 was required to actually do that. And what this  
24 does, this would be the appropriation in FY '16,  
25 this would essentially pay off the old loan.

26 The difference between the old loan  
27 and the new loan, according to OMB's rules for  
28 scoring, we would need to return \$10 million to  
29 the Treasury. That doesn't go to us. That's not  
30 a program that we have to implement. That's \$10  
31 million that goes to the Treasury that accounts  
32 for the differential between the old loan, which  
33 was at a high rate, the new loan which is at a  
34 lower rate.

35 The Government technically is  
36 foregoing an anticipated \$10 million that had  
37 already been scored in the budget. So we have to  
38 basically make the books whole and \$300 thousand  
39 of that is basically the one percent required to  
40 start the new loan.

41 So that's what that number is. It's  
42 not program money that we have to spend; it is  
43 pretty much an accounting requirement that we  
44 have been recognized through this process that we  
45 have been confronted with.

46 So that's there. I guess the good  
47 news of the story, while it's been difficult, the  
48 Administration does recognize the importance of

1 this refinance effort and is going to  
2 considerable lengths to try to make that happen.  
3 And I would be happy to talk to those who are  
4 interested in greater detail.

5 A few decreases. These are modest  
6 decreases and are related to decreases that you  
7 have seen before. So about a \$7 million total  
8 reduction. Some slowing of the pace under salmon  
9 management activity of our Mitchell Act Hatchery  
10 Reform effort. There's still considerable  
11 investment in that area. This kind of slows the  
12 pace a little bit.

13 Prescott, we've gone back and forth in  
14 recent years on what the right level is. And  
15 there may still be some discussion on that. But  
16 this reduces it to a level that we executed in FY  
17 '13.

18 And we also have here an adjustment in  
19 our Coastal Resiliency Ecosystem Grants line in  
20 FY '16. In light of a substantial request that's  
21 made by the Administration in the National Ocean  
22 Service account for a large ecosystem habitat  
23 management and restoration effort that's focused  
24 on coastal resiliency.

25 So that is a large new grant program.  
26 About \$50 million in NOS's budget. And this  
27 reduction of \$5 million is part of that  
28 consolidated approach. So that would be  
29 continued, but under a program that would be -- a  
30 grant program that would be run through the  
31 National Ocean Service.

32 PCSRF always has been a volatile  
33 budget number. We're pleased here that the  
34 reduction of \$7 million is considerably less than  
35 previous proposed reductions as our budget has  
36 come under pressure. And that compares to about  
37 \$65 million, which has been the Congressionally  
38 enacted level for a number of years.

39 So, we're pleased that at least  
40 there's less of a gap between the President's  
41 request and prior Congressional funding then has  
42 been the case in the past. So, that's our  
43 decrease set. And where we go from here, really  
44 is to continue to work with Congress, with our  
45 stakeholders.

46 We're having constituent stakeholder  
47 engagement in a variety of ways to explain the  
48 request that you have here. The screen shot of

1 the cover of our Blue Book. We are a long way  
2 from an enacted budget. So what we're going to  
3 do is really focus on what we've been allocated  
4 in FY '15 and get the greatest value for the  
5 taxpayer out of that.

6 This is our message externally as well  
7 as internally. With all the uncertainty in our  
8 budget, a lot of the disruption to our external  
9 partners as well as our internal staff from  
10 budget reductions in prior years, we still have  
11 \$958 million to execute on behalf of the American  
12 public. And we can do a really good job with  
13 that. And that's where our focus is going to be  
14 going forward.

15 And we look forward to continued  
16 collaboration with the councils -- an essential  
17 element in our core business of fishery research  
18 and management -- in executing our  
19 responsibilities for Magnuson and other areas  
20 with that \$958 million allocation.

21 So our success there will largely  
22 shape the receptivity of future Congresses to our  
23 budget requests. And that's where our  
24 operational and strategic focus is in the coming  
25 year.

26 So I'm going to Mr. Chair, conclude  
27 here for the budget portion of our discussion.  
28 And open things up for questioning before we get  
29 into part two, which centers on records  
30 management and S-K Funding.

31 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you Paul for  
32 the presentation. Are there any questions from  
33 the group? Don?

34 MR. McISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
35 Let me try to make a few points. The first one  
36 is: it's a little tough to react to all this  
37 information because we haven't seen it before.

38 So, maybe one comment would be, to  
39 whatever extent this could be in the future  
40 distributed at least the day before, we would  
41 have had a chance to think about some of this in  
42 a council caucus for example. Or even a week  
43 before, sure would make it a little easier to try  
44 to digest the importance of all this.

45 Let me just offer a few observations  
46 and then maybe ask a couple of questions. I'm  
47 not sure I've got any of this right because as I  
48 said you know, it's first glance.

1           The line item for the council funding  
2 in 2015 seems to have gone up a little bit. I  
3 didn't see the Council and Commission's PPA line  
4 item in the 2015 clustering of programs. I  
5 didn't see the Council and Commission's PPA or  
6 line item in the 2016 proposals. You mentioned  
7 something about reorganizing those.

8           So I'm not sure where we're lumped in  
9 there. If that's under science and management or  
10 what. But some other scratching I've done, shows  
11 that the 2015 Council and Commission's line item  
12 was a little bit higher than 2014.

13           So it looks like that increase got  
14 carried forward to your very detailed table on  
15 what the councils get. And what slide is that  
16 here? Let's see that would be slide number five,  
17 I believe.

18           So, my first observation is that's  
19 good if the Council and Commission's line item  
20 has gone up and it's carried forward. I did a  
21 quick calculation here and looks like it's up  
22 about 2.99 percent, which is not the same as that  
23 other favorite number we talked about a year ago  
24 that's only one percentage point higher. But at  
25 any rate, this time it's up. So, my reaction is:  
26 that's good.

27           It's a question about where we are in  
28 terms of being lumped in from the rest of them.  
29 We don't see on this table that's on number --  
30 slide number five -- anything different in terms  
31 of the other sub-items that the councils have  
32 normally got money from.

33           So maybe if you could switch to slide  
34 number five, whoever has control of the screen  
35 there. We see the normal ones. ACL, regulatory  
36 streamlining, SSC stipends and the rest. So,  
37 it's unclear in terms of a process of as you  
38 built these numbers whether you considered any  
39 other -- I mean what we've called soft funding in  
40 the past -- differences for 2015.

41           Yesterday we talked a little bit about  
42 EM. In the past we've talked a little bit about  
43 Catch Share. I'm going to lump some of this 2016  
44 discussion in here as well. But anyway, one  
45 thing when we look on here is we don't see any  
46 new line items where the councils have gotten  
47 money.

48           In 2016, in the proposal, it's unclear

1 again where we're lumped into. What is proposed  
2 for the Council and Commission's PPA? Is it up?  
3 Is it down? What did you all put in for that?  
4 What was your thinking in terms of coming up with  
5 a number?

6 We haven't had a chance to provide our  
7 input to you on what we think it ought to be in  
8 2016. So there's a little bit of a process  
9 question there.

10 When you run through the 2016 other  
11 special projects, there are many that have some  
12 increases. Protected resources, science and  
13 management, as you indicated Eileen spoke to that  
14 in her opening remarks. You emphasized it again.  
15 That's something you'd hoped to do better on in  
16 2016.

17 Protected resources, science and  
18 management, makes us think about the council  
19 arena; that's where a lot of the real protection  
20 can come forward if there's some new twists  
21 there.

22 In 2016 is there more money for the  
23 councils to try to help in that regard? And plus  
24 \$5.6 million in 2016; is there any expectation  
25 that the councils ought to do a little bit more  
26 on that?

27 We weren't able to see a line item  
28 here for 2015 that said electronic monitoring,  
29 but we're kind of hoping there might be one. But  
30 there's not. Is there one in 2016?

31 Magnuson Act, EFH, there's a whole  
32 bunch of them in there that the councils would  
33 like to help on your priorities on, but we're  
34 unclear whether or not you're providing some  
35 emphasis on that to the councils or not.

36 So, let me try to go back to my  
37 reactions, which again, are a little tough. And  
38 what a couple of questions might be. Oh, and the  
39 last one here before I get to them is the New  
40 Horizon money. So I'll have a question about  
41 that too.

42 So, first of all, thanks for the  
43 presentation. If you could get it a little bit  
44 earlier to us, that would have been very helpful.  
45 But at least it shows some increase in 2015.  
46 Let's not miss that that's a positive. That  
47 that's a good thing.

48 Your process for 2015 and how you

1 decided on these line items or sub-line items, is  
2 a question: What went into your thinking on  
3 those?

4 For 2016, again, a process question:  
5 What did you consider when you put forward in the  
6 President's budget, something for the councils?  
7 Is there any expectation that some of these other  
8 plus-ups have something in them for the councils  
9 or not?

10 And then that last one, of the  
11 Deepwater Horizon, when you get all that money  
12 back. Are you going to get any of that money?  
13 Maybe is the question.

14 So there's a blast. I apologize for  
15 it. But again, not having seen this until a  
16 moment ago, it's a little touch.

17 DR. DOREMUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Thank you, Don, for your detailed questions.  
19 Just a couple of observations.

20 One is this information has been  
21 available. When the President's budget was  
22 released, we put all this information online.  
23 And I do apologize for not drawing your attention  
24 to that. But it has been out there -- not this  
25 detailed table, but the fundamentals on the  
26 President's request -- have been out there for a  
27 couple of weeks.

28 And in the future, we'll make it a  
29 point to draw your attention to when that is  
30 available. This is essentially a synthesis of  
31 publically available information with the  
32 exception of this detailed breakout on the  
33 council line, which actually takes a while to  
34 compute.

35 Some of the things that get factored  
36 into here are in the small print, such as the  
37 note at the bottom there that there is rescission  
38 for Hollings Scholarship. That's required by  
39 Congress. There's also the smaller programing of  
40 2.28 percent.

41 Okay. Thank you. I didn't include  
42 here and should have, relative to your question,  
43 a good one. On the '16 Pres Bud, is -- we should  
44 have added that -- a column here. And I just  
45 hadn't thought of it.

46 But the top line there, the Regional  
47 Council PPA, which you see moving from '13 and  
48 '14 to a request of \$23.233 in FY '15. We have

1 in the President's budget a \$25.1 number there.  
2 We do not -- to your question about changing the  
3 composition of the additional lines that support  
4 the councils under NEPA, fisheries research and  
5 management, the specific piece is there and it's  
6 been in annual stock assessments.

7 We don't at this time have any plans  
8 to change the composition of funding that would  
9 go directly to the councils along those lines.  
10 These are well-worked out methodologies to  
11 determine by council what each of these pieces is  
12 program funding to support those needs. And ACL  
13 implementations and regulatory streamlining and  
14 the like.

15 That said, if you look at details like  
16 our electronic monitoring proposal, there's a  
17 portion of that, that's focused on the continued  
18 technology development research work. And  
19 there's a portion that's directed towards the  
20 management effort that's required to get some of  
21 those into place. Which presumably we anticipate  
22 would augment our capability to work productively  
23 with the councils on the implementation of  
24 electronic monitoring technologies.

25 So these asks can effect what we're  
26 able to work on, how we're able to collaborate  
27 with you and at what speed. But we don't at this  
28 time have any proposed changes in '16 in the  
29 composition of funding.

30 You did ask where we fit the Council  
31 and Commission line. Regional council, it's  
32 called here regional council PPA. That is in the  
33 fisheries research and management. We have a  
34 detailed slide which I could maybe page to very,  
35 very quickly, although it's out there.

36 We had a slide in backup that shows  
37 the composition of each of these major pieces of  
38 our budget. We have our budget now centered on  
39 these four major activities, our fisheries  
40 science and management, enforcement, habitat and  
41 protected resources.

42 And if you look on the top right box  
43 there, those PPAs are the PPAs that fit under  
44 research -- sorry, fishery science and  
45 management. And the regional councils and  
46 Fishery Commission's line, or PPA, is there  
47 untouched.

48 So that is not changing. It will



1 still be as visible as it always has been.  
2 Ultimately what gets provided under that line to  
3 the councils and the Commission is a  
4 Congressional allocation.

5 It's a Congressional decision. And  
6 what we see with the current year, and what we  
7 hope to see in FY '16, ultimately will require  
8 that support as you well know.

9 Deepwater Horizon is a big unknown in  
10 terms of where as your third major stream of  
11 questioning. As to where the litigation is going  
12 to bounce on all of that and what resources we  
13 will technically have to work with.

14 So I really can't speak to how that's  
15 going to function in the future and what kind of  
16 impact that might have on the relevant councils  
17 who participate in related activities.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Doug?

20 MR. GREGORY: Yes. I want to support  
21 some of what Don said. We're you know, at our  
22 limit as far as staff time and effort. And  
23 council meetings time and effort in dealing with  
24 what we have.

25 Six years was a big burden to put on  
26 us in addressing that. I see if standardized  
27 bycatch reduction efforts have to be made, that's  
28 going to be an additional burden on the council.  
29 Electronic monitoring, we've already undertaken  
30 some of that.

31 And this is all additional workload.  
32 It would be nice to have some support for those  
33 things. But contrary to what Don said, any  
34 Deepwater Horizon money should all go to the Gulf  
35 of Mexico.

36 (Laughter)

37 MR. GREGORY: So just take it easy.

38 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Yes, Tom?

39 MR. NIES: Thanks Paul. I might  
40 reiterate a few of the things Don and Doug said,  
41 but I think they're kind of important. And I've  
42 tried to wade through your President's budget and  
43 your Congressional justification document as  
44 well.

45 And I struggle to make things match  
46 up. The first thing is that while I'm glad to  
47 see an increase from last year=s budget, it looks  
48 like to me that at least in the New England

1 Council, we're still not where we were in 2010.  
2 So you know, we're essentially getting less money  
3 than we got whatever that is, five or six years  
4 ago.

5 And you know, that's starting to  
6 become a real problem with us. If you look at  
7 how much money we've spent the last couple of  
8 years, we've been spending roughly \$4 million or  
9 \$4.1 million. So that's just to do our job.

10 The longer we stay at that level,  
11 we're going to have to start cutting back on what  
12 we're doing. And the way this gets connected to  
13 the President's 2016 budget is when I read your  
14 Congressional justification documents and you  
15 talk about, I think it's close to a total of \$7  
16 million for electronic monitoring and \$2 million  
17 for catch share projects, when I read your  
18 Congressional justification, it talks about all  
19 this stuff you're going to do to plus up support  
20 in the agency with additional staff positions at  
21 the regions for electronic monitoring and all  
22 this stuff.

23 And it says you're going to work very  
24 closely with the councils in order to get these  
25 things in place. But there's nothing in the  
26 justification that says any of these dollars are  
27 going to flow to the councils. There's nothing  
28 explicit that says that.

29 And so it makes me very nervous that  
30 what's going on here is the agency is staffing  
31 themselves up to do more at the same time that  
32 they're expecting the council to do more with  
33 less, effectively. And so this is a problem.

34 So then you know, I go through the --  
35 both the Blue Book and it looks like you're  
36 moving the \$2.5 million from the Inter-  
37 jurisdictional Fisheries Grants to the Council  
38 and Commission's line item if I read that  
39 correctly in the crosswalk. I think that's what  
40 it says.

41 And so, it's hard for me to figure out  
42 exactly how all these numbers match out. But  
43 when I look at the President's budget and it says  
44 on the Regional Councils and Fisheries Commission  
45 line, fiscal year 2016 program changes, zero. It  
46 looks to me like you're anticipating either a  
47 flat or nearly a flat.

48 And so I think you just mentioned

1 something about a \$2 million increase in that  
2 line. And I don't see that in this President's  
3 budget. Or at least I can't interpret it from  
4 what's in there.

5 So I guess there's a couple of points  
6 there. The first is you know, are we really  
7 looking at an increase in the Regional Councils  
8 and Commissions line in 2016 or is it obscured by  
9 moving these pots of money around? Or is it  
10 really going to be a zero program changes?

11 And if you're talking about basically  
12 being flat from 2010 through 2016, we're not  
13 going to be able to help you with all of these  
14 initiatives that you're talking about in your  
15 Congressional justification.

16 DR. DOREMUS: Thank you Mr. Chair and  
17 thank you for the questions, Tom, as well as  
18 Doug. To put things in context and we have  
19 talked about this in prior meetings. Fishery is  
20 going to great lengths during the course of the  
21 strongest downward pressure in our budget from  
22 '10 to '11 to '13, '12 and '13 where our overall  
23 budget went down about 12.5 percent.

24 We held the line on the Council and  
25 Commission funding as well as very limited other  
26 areas. Enforcement was the only other areas  
27 where we were able to keep it relatively flat  
28 during that time period.

29 With the exception of sequestration  
30 where it was rule driven and it went through  
31 every PPA. We did have the additional  
32 complication as Don pointed out of a requirement  
33 to charge M&A, management and administrative  
34 costs on all the PPAs. We've been through that.  
35 It's a requirement. We're dealing with it and  
36 we've made back what that differential is.

37 Nevertheless, I think when you look  
38 out of that time period from '10 to today, other  
39 activities in fisheries were pushed down  
40 substantially more than the Council and  
41 Commission lines. We lost well over 300 people.  
42 We've built back a fraction of that.

43 We're still down on the order of 280  
44 plus people over that time period. So while yes  
45 this budget does, if it is supported, allow us to  
46 pull back and put more staff on the ground for  
47 things like consultations that had real and  
48 immediate economic impacts if we continue to be a

1 bottleneck for those decisions.

2 It does not put us anywhere close to  
3 where we were back at that same time period. So  
4 we're down on the order of nine to ten percent  
5 overall. The Council and Commission line  
6 relative to '10, I don't have the number off the  
7 top of my head, I could look at it, but I'm quite  
8 certain it's substantially less than that.

9 There is an increase in the '16  
10 request. The number I gave you, \$25.1 has not  
11 yet been corrected for the M&A charge there. But  
12 it will be an increase. And we can give you the  
13 specific numbers and I'll add them in here.

14 We'll make them available to the  
15 councils on how the request looks for '16.  
16 That's for the first line up there, which is  
17 really the primary driver of the bottom line for  
18 all of the councils. And we are pleased with  
19 both the '15 and the '16 being able to see  
20 progressive increases so that we can go back on  
21 lost ground.

22 But I do what to emphasize there was  
23 considerably less lost ground on the Council and  
24 Commission line then elsewhere in our budget.  
25 And we had felt that directly in terms of our  
26 staff.

27 We'd be happy to provide the detailed  
28 historical numbers so that you're interpretative  
29 would be -- any interpretative questions you have  
30 about what has happened over time can be  
31 clarified. The structural changes we have made  
32 in our budget do not affect the Council and  
33 Commission PPA. That's not changing.

34 A table like this we'll be putting  
35 forward next year once we're able to see when we  
36 get an actual appropriation. And we have  
37 whatever adjustments to it need to be made. The  
38 principal ones typically are, as they have been  
39 here, the adjustment for Hollings, the  
40 Scholarship Program and also the adjustment for  
41 any reprogramming requirement that OMB determines  
42 is necessary for the overall NOAA budget  
43 adjustment process.

44 So these are all very good questions.  
45 Everybody has a reference point back in time to a  
46 healthier budget. We would all like to be there.  
47 We're doing better than a lot of other pieces of  
48 the Federal Government.

1                   But all of us across the board are  
2 feeling the same pressures that all the councils  
3 are. And we'll have to work together to be as  
4 efficient as we can under the circumstances.

5                   CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right. I have  
6 actually, Bob LaHood is on the phone. And then  
7 followed by John Quinn, then Kitty. Bob?

8                   MR. LaHOOD: All right. Yes. Are you  
9 getting an echo on your end?

10                  CHAIRMAN ANSON: No, but if you could  
11 speak up though.

12                  MR. LaHOOD: Okay. Just a quick  
13 question is all. 2015 and 2016 budgets, there is  
14 increases for loss percent. And what -- how are  
15 the joint -- are there? Are they -- line item  
16 questions or is it all in one?

17                  DR. DOREMUS: Bob, it was very  
18 difficult to make you -- make out your question.  
19 I think I heard you asking about the joint  
20 enforcement agreement funding. Is that what you  
21 were trying to ask about?

22                  MR. LaHOOD: Yes, correct.

23                  DR. DOREMUS: Okay. That's a key  
24 element of our enforcement line. And we  
25 anticipate that being steady throughout this  
26 process. To the extent that the enforcement line  
27 grows a little bit, it is likely that that will.  
28 I can provide detailed numbers to you later.

29                  But the basic story is we don't  
30 anticipate any changes in the joint enforcement  
31 agreement program. We have had some increases  
32 there in recent years. And we hope to be able to  
33 sustain those.

34                  MR. LaHOOD: Okay. Well, that is  
35 incorporated within the overall enforcement  
36 budget. It used to be a separate line item. And  
37 I just wondered if that's still the case?

38                  DR. DOREMUS: We can provide  
39 historical detail and current detail on any piece  
40 of this budget at any time. We have tried  
41 through this restructuring effort with the  
42 encouragement of OMB and others to make the  
43 overall request to be as strategic and  
44 understandable as possible.

45                  We would be happy for any interested  
46 party, the councils among them, to provide break  
47 outs related to the detail on council funding or  
48 the detail on any other line such as the JEA

1 component of the enforcement line.

2 But yes, Bob, in the current budget,  
3 it is within the enforcement line. And we do not  
4 foresee changes in that program in FY16.

5 MR. LaHOOD: All right. And I may  
6 give you a call and ask a couple of questions.  
7 We're going to discuss it at our next council  
8 meeting in a couple of weeks. So, if you -- if  
9 that's okay, I'll give you a call.

10 DR. DOREMUS: Absolutely Don. I  
11 encourage you to do that. Sorry we're having a  
12 hard time hearing you. But please do call me and  
13 we can cover any detail you need.

14 MR. LaHOOD: All right. Thanks.

15 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, John  
16 Quinn.

17 MR. QUINN: Thank you. I've got more  
18 of a political question than a budget question.  
19 Just you know, we know this is the President's  
20 proposed budget. And with the changes in  
21 Congress, particularly in the Senate, you know,  
22 how reliable is this proposed budget for our  
23 planning purposes going forward?

24 I think this is different than years  
25 passed when the different parties controlled the  
26 House and the Senate. I think this is the first  
27 year that both branches are controlled not by the  
28 President's party.

29 DR. DOREMUS: That is a very good  
30 question. I don't think I can answer that any  
31 better than you might get from a good read of the  
32 current media that follows the Hill and follows  
33 budget matters in particular.

34 I don't think if you agree that the  
35 general account of the circumstances, I don't  
36 think anybody expects the President's budget to  
37 be agreed at anywhere close to its current  
38 levels. There's going to be some very, very  
39 large policy issues way more significant than our  
40 specific ask.

41 I do expect the overall level for  
42 domestic discretionary spending increases that  
43 Congress enacts to be considerably less than has  
44 been requested. But we don't know how that's  
45 going to shake out.

46 It's a very uncertain environment.  
47 There is a lot of strong support and interest in  
48 Fishery's programs. We have the great benefit of

1 having direct and very visible economic impacts  
2 and relevance for around the nation.

3 And I think if we can make sure that  
4 people understand that the value to constituent  
5 communities around the country that rely on ocean  
6 and coastal resources that we manage, that that  
7 will be a helpful thing in trying to sustain a  
8 budget like this.

9 MS. SOBECK: If I can just comment.  
10 You know, we've had our first two presentations  
11 of the overall NOAA budget last Friday and the  
12 Friday before to the House and Senate Committees.  
13 And you know, I would say that we had a positive  
14 reception. Because we don't know and I don't  
15 think they know where they're going to end up.

16 But I think you know what, they really  
17 wanted to know the details and what our  
18 justifications were. We really want to help them  
19 understand the basis for why we think we need  
20 more.

21 And so I think that you know, that's  
22 the information that all of us need to get out  
23 there. I certainly wasn't getting the sense that  
24 they were sending us the signal that we didn't  
25 have a lot of really good substantial justified  
26 asks.

27 What I got the message was wow, we are  
28 really going to have to know the absolute details  
29 and the best arguments you can give us for why  
30 you need these. Because it's going to be a tough  
31 year.

32 There was no initial indication of  
33 hey, this area isn't going to fly or we're  
34 getting a lot of pressure. I think everybody's I  
35 mean, I hope you guys ask the representatives  
36 from the Hill this afternoon I think what their  
37 thoughts are.

38 But I think that we're all feeling our  
39 way in the dark at the moment.

40 CHAIRMAN ANSON: I think you have  
41 Kitty followed by Chris Oliver.

42 MS. SIMONDS: I guess my question is  
43 this. It looks like we're you know, three  
44 percent of your total budget. And my question  
45 is, in terms of priorities, where are we with  
46 NMFS?

47 In the past we've been told that you  
48 know, we're 90 percent of the client and so we're

1 out there to do this, and this and that. And  
2 several years ago, there were different  
3 approaches that we suggested.

4 One was look at our budget and take  
5 five percent of all the line items that are  
6 effective by us or that we are affected by and  
7 give us that percentage. It's so easy to do  
8 that.

9 And when we did that actually, I'll  
10 show you Hogarth to think about that. It turned  
11 out to be a sum that we had all figured out we  
12 should get. And that was \$30 million. This was  
13 what, seven years ago. Seven, eight years ago.

14 And the thing is that we all have very  
15 small offices. None of us have increased our,  
16 you know, our staff all these years. I don't  
17 think any council has more than 20 staffers  
18 working for them. And as you've heard, I mean,  
19 well you know, all of these mandates that we have  
20 to abide by, follow, do the work.

21 I mean we end up helping the NMFS by  
22 doing preliminary assessments. By hiring PhD  
23 students so that NMFS doesn't have to do that.  
24 And I know that's fed into whatever stock  
25 assessments we get. And I just heard we only get  
26 four.

27 So where are we? How do you think of  
28 us? We have all these other you know, applicable  
29 laws. But it seems to me that they're all  
30 creeping up either, you know, unbalanced the same  
31 as we are. I think that we should be at a higher  
32 level. Be thought of at a higher level.

33 I love these philosophical talks.

34 DR. DOREMUS: So do I, Kitty.

35 MS. SIMONDS: I know. Last time I  
36 said something to you, you were --

37 DR. DOREMUS: I'm just saying we  
38 should all be at a higher level.

39 MS. SIMONDS: Yes. No. No, not you  
40 all. I'm talking about us, the clients.

41 DR. DOREMUS: Yes. Well we're all in  
42 the same line of business. I do think that the  
43 budget history that I was just reflecting on in  
44 response to Tom's question indicates the central  
45 role that Fisheries holds the councils and the  
46 Commissions in.

47 We have tried to if you will, protect  
48 this line from downward budget pressure. And



1 we've been relatively successful in doing so.

2 We don't ultimately control the  
3 resources here. We don't have the liberty to  
4 move money across PPAs. That would be a program  
5 -- a reprogramming request that we would have to  
6 get Congressional and Administration support for.

7 But, in any event, we would also need  
8 to demonstrate need. Any part of our  
9 organization as is true probably across every  
10 area of federal and I would say state and other  
11 public sector spending that's been under pressure  
12 for such a while, increasing something is  
13 decreasing something else.

14 There are constituencies for  
15 everything in our budget. And to make a case for  
16 doing that would require incontrovertibly strong  
17 case for what is not being done today? And what  
18 is the unacceptable impact of that?

19 So while we all have notions of  
20 historical benchmarks, equity notions and other  
21 kinds of things, these budgets spin on the  
22 anticipated impacts of the public expenditure.  
23 And we hope that our continued collaboration and  
24 executing our budget through the councils would  
25 allow us to continue to make the case in this  
26 adverse budget environment for the entire mission  
27 function.

28 We routinely deal with as Eileen was  
29 just saying, the detailed discussions in the  
30 House Appropriations and the Senate  
31 Appropriations staff. They're acutely aware of  
32 where we spend our money and what on.

33 And as I said to a constituency  
34 survey, every piece of our budget. So we do need  
35 to keep the broader context in consideration and  
36 ultimately implement the budget that Congress  
37 gives us.

38 I think our ability to look at the  
39 whole and the impacts of our total mission will  
40 ultimately be the tide that floats all boats.

41 MS. SIMONDS: That's a very good  
42 speech. You're very good.

43 DR. DOREMUS: I would add to that, we  
44 all speak in Washington in the currency of  
45 budget. And people think that if there is take  
46 some for you know, any program, that within your  
47 increase or decrease is the measure of support  
48 for the program.

1                   And while there is reality to budgets,  
2 we all know that. And you all are suffering the  
3 same impacts we are from reductions. The budget  
4 is not the only measure of the strategic  
5 significance of a function to the agency.

6                   And I just wanted to put that final  
7 note there.

8                   MS. SOBECK: I would suggest that  
9 every member, every council member who has a  
10 Representative or a Senator on the Appropriations  
11 Committee and on the related other Committees,  
12 you should be talking to them.

13                   One year, you remember when we were  
14 having these similar discussions, we all decided  
15 to visit OAD. And that was a very interesting  
16 exercise because it was very you know, forthright  
17 about our needs. And so, there are other things  
18 I'm sure that we can do rather than waiting for  
19 the number.

20                   So, I'm just suggesting that.

21                   CHAIRMAN ANSON: Chris Oliver?

22                   MR. OLIVER: Thank you. I have a  
23 specific question. But I wanted to make a  
24 general comment along the lines of Kitty's and  
25 Tom Nies' remarks.

26                   As we are just ending our five-year  
27 award and entering a new five year award period,  
28 but I tend to use 2012 as the reference point.  
29 Because I think, it was just somewhere in the  
30 middle of our five-year award when we realized  
31 that we were going to be suffering budget  
32 reductions.

33                   A lot of us began cutting back on  
34 spending. We had contracting we didn't do. I  
35 have had in my case two or three during that  
36 award period, staff moving on and not rehiring  
37 those positions right away. And frankly,  
38 actually still have one open that I haven't hired  
39 yet.

40                   And so that allowed us to accumulate,  
41 I think many of us, many of the councils, most of  
42 the councils had some carryover funding from our  
43 previous five-year award. Substantial in our  
44 case.

45                   And first of all I want to thank you  
46 for whatever role you had in getting that  
47 expedited, those approvals for that carryover  
48 expedited through NOAA grants. Because it's

1 saving our butt in 2015.

2 But, I just want to be clear that the  
3 fact that we had that carryover shouldn't be  
4 viewed as a reflection of a reduced need.  
5 Because I remember arguing in 2011, we were all  
6 saying we need more money. \$30 million I think  
7 was the number.

8 And we actually took an 11 percent  
9 reduction in 2013. And another four percent  
10 through the M&A. And last year for essentially a  
11 15 percent reduction in our council funding over  
12 that two-year period.

13 So, I'm more worried that we're good,  
14 in our case, we're fine for 2015. I'm more  
15 worried about 2016, '17, '18 and the future. And  
16 the fact that we're now, you know, we used to  
17 argue for \$30 million. Now it's like geez, I  
18 hope we can get back to the 2012 level.

19 So, I'm really happy to see that  
20 there's at least a slight upward trend in that  
21 over 2015 and 2016. But I just want to  
22 reestablish the perspective of where we're at.  
23 We're 15 percent down this year from where we  
24 were two years ago.

25 And we need to get back up that amount  
26 in the future because while we're good for 2015,  
27 I'm pretty concerned. I want to refill the  
28 positions we have open. I want to hire an  
29 additional position. At least one. But I'm  
30 scared to do it because I'm worried, well, we  
31 were good for 2015, but I've got to let you go in  
32 2016.

33 So, that's really critical to see that  
34 upward trend back in '16 and '17. So that was my  
35 comment. I have a specific question on your  
36 presentation, Paul.

37 On the 2016 budget you had a plus up  
38 for observers and training on the order of \$44.8  
39 million. I think it was \$44. One more slide I  
40 believe. Ah, no, keep going. Yes. Observers in  
41 training with -- oh, from plus .5 to \$44.

42 Okay. So it's basically the same  
43 number. But I misread it and thought there was a  
44 big increase there. But it's essentially flat.

45 But I guess my question still is can  
46 you give us a little more detail on where that  
47 \$45 million is distributed?

48 DR. DOREMUS: If you don't mind, we'd

1 be happy to talk about the distribution of  
2 observer money. It's more detailed than I can  
3 get into now with the time that we have. But  
4 that is something we could follow up with.

5 And yes, that is indeed, the \$44.8 is  
6 a total for the program. So it's a half million  
7 dollar increase.

8 And I don't know if there are other  
9 questions on the budget. But I would like to  
10 make one concluding note before we shift quickly  
11 given our time to some remaining information.

12 I do want to note and I'm queuing off  
13 of Chris and thank you for your comments and your  
14 observations are well taken. I don't want to  
15 queue off your sense that you know, we can do  
16 okay today but you're worried about '16, '17 and  
17 '18, where we're going here.

18 That and Kitty's comment about you  
19 know, encouraging people to make it clear what  
20 our needs and requirements are. We are  
21 ultimately working in our view strategically,  
22 collaboratively to achieve benefits for the  
23 American people that are consistent with our  
24 statutory requirements under Magnuson, ESA and  
25 MMPA.

26 The American people are the client in  
27 the end of the day. And I really do view our  
28 budget holistically in our ability to generate  
29 value perceived of good value through the types  
30 of very democratic decision making processes that  
31 are embedded in Magnuson and carried out by all  
32 of you.

33 That is how we work. It's how we  
34 deliver mission solutions that people care about.  
35 And that's what's going to determine our  
36 circumstances in '16, '17 and '18. So we're, in  
37 terms of the federal budget, we're a small boat  
38 in really heavy seas.

39 And I think we need to focus on the  
40 direction of the entire effort to be able to  
41 weather this kind of environment and encourage  
42 all of you to keep our broader mission  
43 responsibilities in mind as you do interact with  
44 members. Because you cannot take that for  
45 granted.

46 We have had strong bicameral,  
47 bipartisan support for Fisheries Research and  
48 Management in particular. It was deflected

1 substantially less than other pieces of our  
2 budget and other pieces of the federal  
3 government's budget.

4 And with this time period from '10 and  
5 '11 to '13, that line went down 4.5 percent.  
6 Protected resources went down 19 percent.  
7 Habitat went down over 30 percent.

8 So there's different degrees of  
9 support and we have the good benefit, the great  
10 benefit, and I think it's largely through the  
11 combined work of all of us. Of being seen as  
12 delivering value proportionate if not well in  
13 excess of our appropriation.

14 And that's where I hope we can focus  
15 so that we can continue to sustain increases that  
16 we hope future Administrations support beyond the  
17 President's budget in FY16. Thank you, Mr.  
18 Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you Paul for  
20 that explanation. As you mentioned we have some  
21 time constraints here and you have an additional  
22 item under this particular topic.

23 So if you wouldn't mind going ahead  
24 and then getting into that. We are basically at  
25 the break. So you might have to reduce some of  
26 our lunchtime to try to get back on track here.

27 DR. DOREMUS: I do not want to do  
28 that. So in four minutes or less. A big heads  
29 up on Records Management. So we have a  
30 requirement handling all council records, handled  
31 in accordance with NOAA Records Management Office  
32 procedures across, and this is just one slide on  
33 this issue. It is really a heads up.

34 We're looking across our organization,  
35 all of our work at Records Management,  
36 requirements, we're developing a long term plan  
37 to deal with that. It's going to require annual  
38 training for all of Fisheries to do. And we're  
39 trying to leverage that for an appropriate  
40 application to councils as well.

41 We have run into a number of different  
42 issues with inconsistent adherence to records  
43 management requirements. And we have a global  
44 challenge with handling digital records in  
45 particular. We just don't have standard  
46 operating procedures for digital recordings of  
47 various types and how those get handled.

48 We're clarifying that. There's going

1 to be new guidance. We're going to ask you as is  
2 a requirement for all of us, to amp up our  
3 efforts on records management so we don't have  
4 the inconsistencies in application that we have  
5 seen and run into problems in specific areas.

6 So that's coming. And we're hoping to  
7 leverage our total effort so that it can be as  
8 efficient and effective as possible with the  
9 training tools, et cetera, for council staff.

10 So we wanted to draw that to your  
11 attention. We could talk about that further if  
12 you'd like offline.

13 S-K. You want a good news piece of  
14 budget? This is it. A very substantial increase  
15 in S-K Grant process for FY14/15. As you well  
16 know, we've talked to you before.

17 We're combining FY14 and '15 into one  
18 large grant process. We anticipate spending on  
19 the order of \$22 million. Perhaps more and get  
20 that obligated in the third and fourth quarters  
21 of FY15.

22 We have been approaching this in a  
23 completely different way. We've talked to you  
24 about it. We've got new priorities. Thank you  
25 all for contributing to that.

26 We looked at the regional research  
27 plans. We looked at all of the input that you  
28 all provided and modified, not just the  
29 priorities but the themes under the detail under  
30 each of these themes. And we are going to as you  
31 know, and have heard from me on a number of  
32 occasions, involve you in the process so that we  
33 have our feet on the ground in the regions for  
34 the evaluation of these proposals.

35 This is a competitively managed grant  
36 program. It is a funding allocated on the basis  
37 of merit. That's a first order principal for us.  
38 But we want to make sure that we do respond to  
39 regional needs and we are looking forward to your  
40 continued contribution along those lines.

41 Our evaluation criteria are  
42 importance/relevance, scientific and technical  
43 merit is the primary one there. The ability of  
44 the applicant to actually deliver. Do they have  
45 a good business plan and are they going to be  
46 able to get the results out? That's the outreach  
47 and education component.

48 So we are looking at on the order of

1 285 applications. They have to go through this  
2 merit review process. And we're looking at an  
3 approach that would allow -- what we will be  
4 doing is an approach that would allow the  
5 councils to comment on this set of proposals that  
6 go through basically phase one of the review  
7 process.

8 So we're going to review everything  
9 for merit. Determine something about double what  
10 we actually have funds for as meeting the  
11 fundamental requirements. And then we will ask  
12 the councils to review for balance and  
13 distribution.

14 So that is the key thing that we're  
15 going to be looking at. And I'm going to detail  
16 that really in the next slide what that will look  
17 like.

18 But this is the overall process where  
19 we will get your input on balance. We'll go  
20 through the constituent review process. And then  
21 we'll fund on the basis ultimately of the top  
22 applications that go through that three-part  
23 process.

24 So the council and Commission  
25 contribution centers on the creation of  
26 priorities. We already did that. We will  
27 revisit that in the future is if we hope to have  
28 the continued benefit of an S-K Program in future  
29 funding years. It does seem to be well supported  
30 by Congress.

31 Your contribution to identifying  
32 reviewers is extraordinarily helpful. And I want  
33 to thank you for working closely with your  
34 regional fisheries staff as well as with our  
35 National S-K Manager. Dan is here with us today.  
36 During the whole nomination process for  
37 constituent panels in particular.

38 We were not able to do that piece in  
39 FY13 because the appropriation was received so  
40 late. And we view it as a very important step in  
41 this year=s process. And your contributions to  
42 the selecting people for those panels is very,  
43 very helpful.

44 So we're going to ask you as this set  
45 of proposals comes forward to look at balance and  
46 distribution by priority. Do we have the right  
47 distribution across these four major priority  
48 areas?

1 By project type. By the nature of the  
2 applicants and partners associated with those  
3 applicants as well as geographic distribution.  
4 So this is not about evaluating individual  
5 proposals. It is about looking at what is coming  
6 through the merit process.

7 And to look and see if we have from  
8 your regional perspective the right balance  
9 across those areas. Particularly the priority  
10 type. You know, are we overweighted in one  
11 priority and under weighted in another?

12 If we do need to make changes, they  
13 are going to be based on the merit review  
14 outcome. So if we're going to increase the  
15 balance in one area, we would go up the list of  
16 the technical review outcome. It literally gets  
17 translated into a number. It's very  
18 straightforward.

19 And if we were to decrease in area, we  
20 would take off from the bottom. The lowest rated  
21 one. So it's not about selecting individual  
22 projects, it's about looking at balance and  
23 distribution.

24 Again, the competitive review, merit  
25 based competitive review is axiomatic in this  
26 whole process. So, I do what to thank you all  
27 for your contributions.

28 We think that this is an enormous  
29 improvement to how we're running this program.  
30 It's increased in size and it's always been  
31 significant. We anticipate that in the future as  
32 well.

33 And we always welcome your views on  
34 how we can improve the process once we get  
35 through all of this for FY14/15. It's on rails  
36 now. It's an enormous work effort and we're  
37 talking about on the order of 900 reviews that  
38 need to be done to get to the step where we can  
39 ask you about balance and distribution.

40 So it's a big effort. I want to thank  
41 Dan Namur again. And happy to answer questions  
42 you might have about either this or the records  
43 management topic.

44 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Chris?

45 MR. OLIVER: Thanks. I had maybe a  
46 two-part timing question, Paul. And I appreciate  
47 that you reached out and asked the councils to  
48 help nominate folks for the review panel.



1           We submitted a nomination package that  
2 actually included a couple of council members and  
3 myself. And so, my question is, have the dates  
4 of that been finalized so that we're sort of  
5 planning as I understood it the week of the 13th  
6 or 14th, which is right on the tail end of a  
7 council meeting for us.

8           So my question is, had the dates been  
9 formed for that? And then my second question,  
10 also kind of timing is, you say you're going to  
11 have the councils review the initial rank order  
12 for balance and distribution. What's the timing  
13 of that given that we don't necessarily have  
14 council meetings occurring right during this  
15 period?

16           Or we're seeing that as maybe a not  
17 necessarily a full council review, but a function  
18 of council leadership such as the Chairman and  
19 myself? How did you see that occurring?

20           DR. DOREMUS: The entire schedule is  
21 constrained by the grant cycle for the year and  
22 what targets we need to make to be able to ensure  
23 that we can actually get these funds expended  
24 through the grant process in this fiscal year.

25           We've worked out detailed schedules.  
26 I don't know the dates off the top of my head.  
27 But we could provide that detail to you as much  
28 as we have it now. And I would anticipate  
29 sending out information to you along those lines  
30 in the coming days.

31           But we're working off of a master  
32 schedule that's driven by the grant's management  
33 process. And it probably will not give you what  
34 you think to be adequate time. I'll tell you  
35 that right off the top. And that's the case for  
36 every segment of this.

37           Whereas we're doing 855 technical  
38 reviews in a really short amount of time. So  
39 everything's compressed. Each phase has been  
40 given a maximum amount of time. And in every  
41 phrase it's not enough. We'll lay out a detailed  
42 schedule for you so you can see what to expect in  
43 the coming days.

44           CHAIRMAN ANSON: Tom?

45           MR. NIES: Well, I'm going to talk out  
46 of both sides of my mouth here just to warn you  
47 ahead of time. But we really appreciate you  
48 giving us a greater role in the S-K Program.

1 I have one question. Either I missed  
2 or I don't believe I received any request for  
3 naming people for the constituent review panel.  
4 So if you could resend that to me, it would be  
5 appreciated.

6 The other problem is that we're  
7 involved in some other technical review programs.  
8 For example Research Set Aside Programs that are  
9 within our own region. And you combine that with  
10 the S-K Programs and you know, typically, my  
11 staff gets tagged for technical reviews.

12 And we like to help out. But the  
13 reality is that our ability to support technical  
14 reviews from a wide range is falling. And you  
15 know, to tie this to your earlier discussion,  
16 additional budget support would be helpful. And  
17 you know, in the future I don't know how much  
18 support we're going to be able to give this  
19 program.

20 I know this year we had to scale back  
21 our technical review. And the amount of staff  
22 time we devoted to technical reviews. And I  
23 recognize it's kind of shooting ourselves in the  
24 foot because we all benefit from the S-K Program.  
25 But it's just a reality.

26 We went through a priority setting  
27 exercise this past fall with our council. And it  
28 was clear that when they give input on what they  
29 want the council staff to do, performing these  
30 technical reviews for external research programs  
31 falls pretty low. So that's a problem going  
32 forward.

33 DR. DOREMUS: Point's well taken Tom.  
34 And we certainly recognize those pressures and  
35 feel them across the board. Thank you. And  
36 we'll make sure you get information sent out  
37 before all the constituent panels.

38 Thank you Mr. Chairman.

39 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you. Any other  
40 questions? Yes, Eileen?

41 MS. SOBECK: Are we about ready to  
42 break?

43 CHAIRMAN ANSON: I think we are about  
44 ready, yes.

45 MS. SOBECK: Hey, I was just going to  
46 make one comment about the budget, which is we  
47 really appreciate your support and participation  
48 in the budget process going forward for 2016.

1 And we've had a lot of discussions about the  
2 points at which we can share with you and work  
3 collectively towards our budget goals and the  
4 points during which we can't.

5 And obviously before the President's  
6 budget is released, we really can't share much  
7 about how that has been undertaken. And now we  
8 are at the point where we can share more. And we  
9 are. And this is the beginning of that.

10 I wanted to just make it clear that  
11 Paul is our diplomatic spokesperson here. But we  
12 all participated. I participated. NOAA  
13 leadership participated in the work up of these  
14 budgets. The President's budget as you guys know  
15 full well goes all the way up to the ethereal  
16 reaches at OMB and then rolls back down to us.

17 And so, what goes in and what comes  
18 out is sometimes different. But at the end of  
19 the day, I still think that we have an incredibly  
20 strong budget compared to some of the other  
21 agencies that are out there.

22 And I fully support it. So please  
23 don't shoot the messenger. Thanks.

24 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, thank you.  
25 So I guess we'll go ahead and break for lunch.  
26 We'll still try to maintain the schedule and  
27 reconvene at 1:45.

28 Brian can we leave the computers here?  
29 Will someone be here? Or will it be locked up?  
30 You'll be here? Okay. All right, thank you.

31 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
32 went off the record at 12:24 p.m. and  
33 resumed at 1:46 p.m.)

34 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, everyone,  
35 we're going to go ahead and reconvene. Our next  
36 item on the Agenda is the Legislative Outlook.  
37 And then we have our Rob Moller, Kiel Weaver,  
38 Matt Strickler, and Sara Decker, here. And I  
39 don't know, Rob, if you have any comments, or  
40 anything, do you want to start it off?

41 MR. MOLLER: Yes. I want to first  
42 thank, of course, these three --

43 (Off microphone discussion)

44 MR. MOLLER: Oh, okay. Sorry about  
45 that. I want to start just by thanking these  
46 three for taking the time to come up and do this.  
47 We actually sent out a document earlier today  
48 that shows each of the committees that have

1 jurisdiction over NOAA and the membership thus  
2 far, including the ranking members and chairman.  
3 So you should have gotten an email from Bill  
4 Chappell with that document.

5 So you can, sort of, see how the lay  
6 of the land has shaken out and who the committee  
7 chair is and ranking members are for our  
8 committees and subcommittees.

9 Obviously, there have been some big  
10 changes. I know you guys have questions about  
11 that and thankfully these guys are here to answer  
12 them, probably much, much better than I could.

13 So today we're just going to have a  
14 quick discussion about, you know, where these  
15 guys see things going on MSA in this Congress,  
16 and, sort of, what their bosses' priorities might  
17 be, or will be, going forward.

18 So as Kevin said, we have Sara Decker  
19 here. She's the Legislative Director for Senator  
20 Rubio, and is our main point of contact on the  
21 Senate Commerce Committee and the Subcommittee  
22 for everything fish and MSA.

23 Matt Strickler, he works for the  
24 House's Natural Resources Committee Minority  
25 Staff, and Kiel Weaver, who is the new Staff  
26 Director at the House of Natural Resources  
27 Committee for the new Subcommittee on Water,  
28 Power and Oceans, which has jurisdiction over  
29 fisheries issues. So I'm just going to turn it  
30 right over to Sara. I think that's how the coin  
31 checked out.

32 (Off microphone discussion)

33 MR. MOLLER: No. No.

34 (Off microphone discussion)

35 MR. WEAVER: Can they hear me? Okay.

36 So Matt and I have to do this tomorrow about this  
37 time, so this is a good warmup, so he will  
38 quickly find out that I'm a professional smart  
39 alec, so welcome to the group here. And this is  
40 what I'll say tomorrow too, I'm from the Federal  
41 Government, and I'm here to help.

42 So I want to recognize Bill Ball.  
43 Stand up, Bill. He's actually the expert at the  
44 Subcommittee. I actually hired him about two  
45 weeks ago from Senator Collins' office, which  
46 means he is from Maine, and I forget where from  
47 Maine; it's along the coast somewhere.

48 I'm originally from Minnesota, so

1 walleye fisheries I know all about. But, no,  
2 that said, for the past 12 years I have been at  
3 the Water and Power Subcommittee and dealing with  
4 California water. I don't know if anyone knows  
5 about that, but three-inch smelt and a lot of  
6 salmon have taken a considerable amount of my  
7 time over the years, and we still don't have a  
8 solution, but hopefully we will get there.

9 So one of the things I've been asked  
10 to talk about today is how this subcommittee sort  
11 of came about and sort of where we're going to go  
12 with MSA and some other issues.

13 So I'll just be candid with you; I was  
14 sort of handed this portfolio, and when Chairman  
15 Bishop from Utah took over, and I think he may  
16 have sent all these people out, but Chairman  
17 Bishop is the Full Committee of the House Natural  
18 Resources Committee.

19 He is from Utah. Not sure how many  
20 fisheries there are in the Great Salt Lake, but  
21 he wanted to really create an oversight  
22 subcommittee, and really wanted to focus on  
23 oversight. So as a result of that, you know, one  
24 of the subcommittees had to go, and so what he  
25 ended up doing was he sort of divvied up what was  
26 the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans Subcommittee,  
27 and then divvied it up. The fisheries and oceans  
28 part came to water and power, so now it's called  
29 Water, Power and Oceans. The wildlife part was  
30 given to what's now the Federal Land  
31 Subcommittee.

32 And, am I missing anything? So  
33 that's, and then, there was a third thing, but I  
34 guess it's not important. They may kick my butt  
35 for that, but most importantly for this, the  
36 Fisheries and Oceans is here now.

37 So we do have a Louisianan, as a  
38 Subcommittee Chair, Dr. John Fleming. Although  
39 he is from landlocked Louisiana, I have met with  
40 him numerous times over the past few weeks and he  
41 has a good understanding of these issues.

42 So we also have five other members  
43 from coastal districts, I should say, Louisiana,  
44 Alabama, Alaska, South Carolina, and others. And  
45 if you look at the subcommittee split, it's very  
46 interesting.

47 We have six people from coastal  
48 issues, from coastal states, or from the East,

1 per se, and then you have six people from the  
2 West, so it's really a composite of people. You  
3 have, you know, people from the Inter Mountain  
4 West and you have people from fisheries areas.  
5 So it'll be fascinating to see how we go about  
6 doing this.

7 I actually think there will be a lot  
8 of good interaction, because those in the Inter  
9 Mountain West may not know a whole lot about  
10 coastal fisheries and vice versa, so I actually  
11 think it'll be a good opportunity to create a  
12 dialog on that.

13 But I don't want to leave it just to  
14 the six members of the coastal fisheries part of  
15 this subcommittee. I will say that there were  
16 other members that are on the committee that are  
17 not on the subcommittee, Garret Graves, from  
18 Louisiana, being one.

19 But there are also other members who,  
20 you know, represent coastal areas, other  
21 Republicans, I'll leave the Democrats to you, but  
22 other Republicans who represent coastal areas.

23 And, you know, I have a large  
24 spreadsheet that we're going to meet with each  
25 and every one of the Republican members. I mean,  
26 they go down from Coastal Maine all the way to  
27 Alaska, of course, but if you look at who's not  
28 on the Subcommittee, yes, you'll go from coastal  
29 Maine to Long Island, all the way down to the  
30 Carolinas and, of course, the Gulf.

31 And then, if I recall, there's only  
32 one on the West Coast and that would be Jaime  
33 Herrera Beutler, and so, you know, we're going to  
34 meet with all those folks.

35 And I'm the kind of guy who, I've been  
36 in and out of D.C., or in and out of Congress for  
37 18 years, which, you know, to me is a lifetime,  
38 and it's certainly not what I presumed that I  
39 would be doing, but I enjoy it and I enjoy the  
40 politics of it and I, obviously, enjoy the  
41 substance. And so it'll be interesting.

42 But I will say one of the first things  
43 that we are going to handle is MSA  
44 reauthorization. And I can, if you guys have  
45 questions about that, I can be more than happy to  
46 get those questions.

47 And by the way, I'd rather not speak  
48 at, because you're going to hear me speak enough

1 tomorrow, so I'd rather get some questions from  
2 you all. And, you know, we're here to learn.  
3 We're here to listen, learn, get that input, and  
4 then take it back.

5 But, you know, one of the things I owe  
6 the Republican members is to simply, you know,  
7 listen to them and try to find ways to find  
8 consensus.

9 For those of you in the Gulf, I know  
10 that there are a number of red snapper issues.  
11 And I'm understanding now that there's some sort  
12 of "consensus," and I put that in quotes, between  
13 the five states. I'll be curious to see what  
14 that exactly means and how that translates into  
15 the efforts of the past.

16 But my feeling is this, and poor  
17 Bill's heard me say this again and again, if I  
18 can deal with California water issues and the  
19 divisions of that and all the egos with that, I  
20 could probably deal with anything, so I actually  
21 look, very much look forward to that.

22 But, you know, some of you in the  
23 audience know that we've been meeting with a lot  
24 of people over the last month or so, and I've  
25 noticed quite a few things.

26 Each region is very different in, for  
27 example, Alaska -- and this is just an over  
28 generalization -- but Alaska and the Pacific  
29 Northwest, it's been going along pretty well.  
30 And, you know, when people look at MSA they also  
31 think, hey well, don't fix it if it's not broken.

32 But at the other hand they do have a  
33 few fixes. But there are others, you know, for  
34 example, maybe in the Gulf and sometimes in the  
35 Atlantic that people say, "Hey, we need to look  
36 at this seriously and make some changes."

37 So there are regional differences and  
38 I think whenever we do an MSA it has to reflect  
39 that; a one-size fits all policy is not going to  
40 work.

41 The one thing that I've also heard,  
42 particularly in some regions is, you know, there  
43 needs to be more data; there needs to be more  
44 robust science. Now, of course, science is in  
45 quotes, you know, and it's either the beauty of  
46 the beholder, but, you know, there will be a lot  
47 of focus on, for example, I mean, I hate to go  
48 back to red snapper, but there will be some data

1 collection efforts on red snapper without  
2 question. And there ought to be, you know, from  
3 what I'm hearing, better data collection period,  
4 but then the question is, how do you pay for  
5 that, and who does it?

6 You know, I'll just conclude by saying  
7 MSA is at the top of our agenda and, you know, I  
8 would presume that we were going to focus on that  
9 in March or April. You know, I would presume  
10 that the bill that was passed out of the  
11 Committee last Congress will be, or last, yes,  
12 last Congress, will be the main vehicle thus far  
13 and then we'll, sort of, go through the Committee  
14 and through the Floor, and see what amendments  
15 are added at that point.

16 And then, you know, we also are going  
17 to focus on something called the National Ocean  
18 Policy. We're also going to focus on Marine  
19 Mammal Protection Act and how it interacts with  
20 fisheries.

21 And so, you know, I wrote this on the  
22 cab ride down here, and I need reading glasses,  
23 but the bottom line is, you know, we're going to  
24 do a lot of things, but we're obviously not going  
25 to do it on our own.

26 I'd like to say, you know, Washington  
27 doesn't know best. Some people may disagree with  
28 that, but, I mean, again, we're here to learn,  
29 we're here to listen, and, you know, I'm not king  
30 for a day, although sometimes I wish I was, you  
31 know, we're going to really focus and try to work  
32 with you guys as much as we can and go from  
33 there. So with that, I'll just defer to you  
34 guys.

35 MR. STRICKLER: Hey, everybody. My  
36 name's Matt; I work for the Natural Resources  
37 Committee on the minority side. Mr. Grijalva  
38 from Arizona there is in the Third District, he's  
39 our new ranking member.

40 As Kiel mentioned, we've had a lot of  
41 turnover on our Committee, both member-wise at  
42 the top and with staff. We've gone from having  
43 two ranking members and a chairman from coastal  
44 states to a ranking member, and a chairman from  
45 not coastal states that don't, you know, have a  
46 lot of baseline knowledge, or constituencies in  
47 fisheries, but I guess that's what we're here for  
48 is to help educate and serve them, so looking



1 forward to doing that.

2 And as Kiel mentioned, the  
3 Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans is going  
4 to handle Magnuson reauthorization and all things  
5 fisheries.

6 Our ranking member on that  
7 subcommittee is Jared Huffman, from California,  
8 who some of you all might know. He's a really  
9 bright guy. He has commercial and recreational  
10 fisheries in his district, so he's really looking  
11 forward to, you know, getting more involved with  
12 some of these issues and playing a role in  
13 reauthorization.

14 As I mentioned before, last year, and  
15 talking to some of you all throughout the year  
16 and throughout the process of considering  
17 Chairman Hastings' bill and some of the other  
18 legislation that was moving through Congress at  
19 various times, our members have been and remain  
20 very interested in seeing, you know, what  
21 problems can be solved by the revisions to the  
22 National Standard Guidelines.

23 I know that those were released last  
24 month, which we think is a great step. We've  
25 taken a look at those and are curious to see what  
26 all of your reactions are to those proposed  
27 revisions and kind of hopefully be able to, you  
28 know, to make some positive changes to Magnuson  
29 implementation through that process.

30 You know, as far as reauthorization,  
31 I think, you know, a lot of folks agree that it  
32 would be good to re-authorize Magnuson, it is the  
33 most important fisheries law that we have.

34 At the same time, we and our members  
35 on the democratic side, didn't think that the  
36 bill from last year, HR4742, was a constructive  
37 starting point for a lot of reasons, and so we're  
38 looking forward to working with Kiel and Chairman  
39 Fleming on the Subcommittee and others, to see if  
40 we can find a little more common ground this time  
41 around.

42 So like Kiel, I'm more interested in  
43 your questions and what you all have to say, I  
44 think, today, and I'm happy to, you know, to  
45 answer those at the right time.

46 MS. DECKER: Thank you. First of all,  
47 thank you for having us here today. It's a  
48 pleasure to be in front of you, a couple of new

1 faces and old faces and great to see everyone.

2 As Rob mentioned, I'm Sara Decker, and  
3 I'm currently serving as Senator Marco Rubio's  
4 Legislative Director, but prior to that position,  
5 I was his Professional Staff Member on the Ocean  
6 Subcommittee.

7 We are working to have somebody fill  
8 that spot, and in the interim you guys are stuck  
9 with me. But, as far as committee structure in  
10 the Senate, my boss is, obviously, now serving as  
11 Chairman of the Subcommittee.

12 We just found out last week our  
13 ranking member is Senator Peters from Michigan, I  
14 believe, also not an ocean's member, but a Great  
15 Lakes member, so that should add a new  
16 perspective.

17 And, of course, at the Full Committee  
18 level, we have now Chairman Thune, and then  
19 Ranking Member Nelson from Florida. So I think  
20 that the structure of the Committee says a lot  
21 about the prospects of MSA going forward.

22 You know, I think last year we did a  
23 lot of work with then-Chairman Begich, meeting  
24 with folks from all over the country to hear some  
25 of these issues out and pull together what we  
26 thought in the Senate was a workable draft,  
27 unfortunately, we were never able to introduce  
28 the draft we worked on with Mr. Begich, but my  
29 boss did introduce his own bill, the Florida  
30 Fisheries Improvement Act, speaking to the  
31 regional differences that I think we all are  
32 fully aware of.

33 Naturally, our legislation focused  
34 very much on the Gulf and the South Atlantic. We  
35 too feel that that bill is probably the best  
36 starting point for us in the Senate. You know, I  
37 think that hearing the House's time line is great  
38 to know, it's why I wanted you guys to go first.  
39 I was very curious about that.

40 (Off microphone discussion)

41 MS. DECKER: But I do think that if we  
42 do do anything on MSA it will happen sooner  
43 rather than later, and I think that, I think it's  
44 going to be, perhaps, even hyper regional focus,  
45 given the politics and dynamics in the Senate.

46 You know, we know that it's working  
47 for a lot of folks, particularly in the Pacific  
48 that are happy with the bill; we know that the

1 conservation community is not interested in any  
2 broad changes and feels that if it's not broken  
3 don't fix it. And what that leaves us with is  
4 the Gulf coast snapper issue, which I know Dr.  
5 Crabtree is very familiar with.

6 So I can tell you that there's already  
7 conversations happening at the staff level to  
8 sort of figure out how we want to handle that and  
9 if we want to handle it legislatively.

10 Conversations are not broader than that.

11 And, I guess, we would be curious to  
12 know if they should be broader than that, but at  
13 this point, you know, particularly, with our  
14 Ranking Member also being from Florida, we know  
15 where we would like to focus our efforts.

16 In regards to the rest of the agenda  
17 for the Subcommittee, I think that there will be  
18 a lot of oversight of the Agency, whether they're  
19 happy to hear that, or not, I suppose, and I also  
20 anticipate, you know, as Kiel mentioned, there's  
21 a focus on the National Oceans Policy.

22 There's also a focus on the current  
23 sanctuaries nomination process and what that will  
24 mean going forward for access to fisheries. And,  
25 you know, should legislation be incapable of  
26 moving within the first few months of this  
27 Congress, then I would expect the turn to be much  
28 more oversight than a focus on any legislative  
29 priorities. So with that, I will open it for  
30 questions.

31 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, thank you  
32 for the comments thus far. Any questions? Don?

33 MR. MCISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
34 Don McIsaac, with the Pacific Fishery Management  
35 Council. One question about timing, and then,  
36 maybe, just a clarification on your request that  
37 you want to hear from us, or you want to listen  
38 to our perspectives.

39 But on the timing matter, we're going  
40 to talk a little bit about this tomorrow. It's  
41 going to be a strong thing on our agenda when we  
42 get back together for our annual meeting in June,  
43 so when we hear something like something might  
44 happen soon, is that something that you conceive  
45 of happening before June, and that you are  
46 interested in hearing from us well before June,  
47 or is this something that if we refine positions  
48 that June is still going to come in advance of

1 something soon?

2 MR. WEAVER: I'll try that first. I  
3 will say that the bill that was passed out of the  
4 Committee last Congress is going to be the base.  
5 But that's not to say that it's going to be the  
6 end product.

7 And so what I sort of envision is us  
8 marking something up, passing something out of  
9 the Committee in April, but it's going to take  
10 some time to sort of focus on that when it comes  
11 to the Floor.

12 Frankly, when you look at something  
13 between when it passes the Committee and the  
14 Floor, it usually takes a while, so I can't give  
15 you a definitive time line. But, I will say that  
16 June is probably, June/July, would probably be  
17 the time, it all depends on how much time we have  
18 on the Floor.

19 And, frankly, it depends on how  
20 confrontational it might be, which is why I'm  
21 relying on this guy to be a nice guy and not  
22 offer a lot of amendments. But we have to feel  
23 that out. But I would say that June, you'll  
24 probably have some time before June, but my guess  
25 is June/July that we pass it.

26 But, again, you know, to be honest, I  
27 mean, once of the questions I have, and this is  
28 internal baseball to D.C., but the last Congress,  
29 you know, the last Congress' bill that passed out  
30 of Committee, normally what happens is the  
31 Congressional Budget Office, you know, assesses  
32 the cost of these bills and assigns the cost to  
33 it and, you know, it had a \$1.5 billion cost to  
34 it.

35 So one of the questions I have to the  
36 Congressional Budget Office is: okay, out of that  
37 \$1.5 billion cost, how much of that is already  
38 ongoing versus how much of it is new?

39 And so to be candid, I mean, I don't  
40 have an answer to that, yet. So we need to find  
41 that out, because, you know, if members from, you  
42 know, Iowa, or landlocked states come up and say  
43 hey, why are we giving \$1.5 Billion to coastal  
44 fisheries? You know, I got to come back with a  
45 response to say hey, bottom line is a lot of this  
46 is already being spent this is baseline spending,  
47 it's not necessarily new. But, you know, I got  
48 to work with CBO in finding that out.

1                   So I guess what I'm, it's a long way  
2 of telling you that I may have a good goal, and I  
3 think my Chairman has told Mr. Young from Alaska  
4 that the goal is to pass it out sooner rather  
5 than later.

6                   My guess is, you know, passing it on  
7 the Floor will come June/July at the earliest.  
8 But I will tell you this: the goal is to get this  
9 out of here and potentially done by the end of  
10 the year.

11                   MR. STRICKLER: If I could just add a  
12 little bit to that? I mean, Mr. Bishop and Mr.  
13 Fleming and Kiel have the luxury of being able to  
14 drive the train on this. We in the minority kind  
15 of read and react, so the timing is going to be  
16 largely up to them.

17                   That said, I would like to reiterate  
18 that our members don't think that it's  
19 appropriate to be considering reauthorization  
20 legislation without first hearing from the  
21 councils and from others on the National Standard  
22 Guideline revisions, which the public comment  
23 period is open until June.

24                   So to the extent that we hear from  
25 people before anything moves, that's great;  
26 however, you know, we think that it's important  
27 to let that process pay out, or play out, excuse  
28 me, and give, you know, give people time to  
29 review and give, you know, good, thorough  
30 comments.

31                   MS. DECKER: I'll just say, from the  
32 Senate perspective, I mean, and from my boss'  
33 perspective, we put a lot of effort into this  
34 process in the last Congress, and I don't think  
35 that there's appetite to sort of reinvent the  
36 wheel in those discussions and the things that we  
37 look at.

38                   That said, you know, having just got  
39 a ranking member, you know, I don't currently  
40 have the ability to say how they'd like to run  
41 the Subcommittee and deal with the issue, and  
42 that's a conversation that I think the members  
43 need to have.

44                   All of that said, I will just  
45 reiterate that there's already conversations  
46 happening at the staff level, in particular  
47 related to the Gulf Coast snapper issue. It's a  
48 regional conversation.

1                   And the other thing I'll add is that,  
2 you know, the Senate now has a functioning  
3 amendment process, and so there are many more  
4 opportunities for us to move something a little  
5 bit more quickly than perhaps we would've in the  
6 last Congress.

7                   So with all of that said, if you have  
8 concerns that we should be aware of that maybe  
9 weren't raised in the last Congress, I think  
10 those are the issues that I would be most  
11 interested in hearing about.

12                   And the other thing I will say is  
13 that, should we go in a regional direction,  
14 that's not to say that further down the road we  
15 couldn't have a more broader overview of the  
16 issue, generally, and be looking at a broader  
17 reauthorization, so it won't be necessarily the  
18 first bite at the apple.

19                   CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right. John  
20 Bullard?

21                   MR. BULLARD: Hi. My name's John  
22 Bullard. I'm the Regional Administrator from the  
23 Greater Atlantic Region, which used to be the  
24 Northeast, now Greater Atlantic.

25                   And I don't want to talk about  
26 Magnuson-Stevens, but you said after that you  
27 might focus on ocean policy, or ocean planning,  
28 and I wanted, and you said you were here to  
29 listen and learn, and so I wanted, not knowing  
30 what focus might mean, to give you a perspective  
31 from our region on that, because ocean planning  
32 can be a loaded term.

33                   And I just wanted to tell you, kind  
34 of, what it means in practicality with the two  
35 councils that I work with in the Mid-Atlantic in  
36 New England.

37                   And because, one way, when you hear  
38 the term ocean planning it's all the agencies  
39 involved in the oceans in some way, it can be  
40 positioned as government over-reach, and it's a  
41 bad thing.

42                   But in our region there's a lot lease  
43 sales going on with renewable energy, and I come  
44 from a fishing port in New Bedford and the  
45 fishing industry there looks at renewable energy  
46 and sometimes feels left out of that  
47 conversation, or maybe the last to be consulted.

48                   And their voice box to be consulted

1 are the councils -- the New England Council in  
2 the case of New Bedford, but further down the  
3 coast it's the Mid-Atlantic.

4 And so the way that you deal with a  
5 potential conflict between a fishing industry and  
6 an emerging industry, like renewable energy, is  
7 with science, first of all, what usage should go  
8 where, and then, frequent and science-based  
9 communication between various users and various  
10 regulatory agencies.

11 And that has happened in our regions  
12 with the New England Council and the Mid-Atlantic  
13 Council and BOEM and others, being the forum.  
14 And often times the science is provided by data  
15 provided by the fishing industry, shared with  
16 BOEM, by lots of energy meetings.

17 So when you don't call it ocean  
18 planning, it seems to work really well. And  
19 everyone learns a lot from each other and better  
20 decisions get made.

21 But it is involvement by lots of  
22 government agencies, Coast Guard, BOEM, NOAA, et  
23 cetera, and convening of existing historical  
24 industries like fishing, new emerging industries,  
25 like renewable energy together. And it is  
26 facilitated, or it can fall under the rubric of  
27 ocean planning.

28 And all I wanted to say is that I  
29 think it is not just a good thing; it is  
30 absolutely an essential thing, because without it  
31 an industry like fishing gets walked over.

32 And so when something like ocean  
33 planning gets this moniker that makes it easy to  
34 attack just because a) it's big government and,  
35 you know, all right, a real service to an  
36 industry like fishing that provides a necessary  
37 form through the people in this room, through the  
38 councils, it's collateral damage, and on the  
39 ground this exchange of information is really,  
40 really helpful.

41 And so when you look at it in  
42 specifics, on the ground, that exchange of views  
43 that use of data and science to make decisions  
44 happen better, works. It's just, somehow, the  
45 name it doesn't work.

46 And so as you focus on that, after you  
47 do MSA, I think if you get examples of things  
48 like that, you'll see, well there's some things,

1 they don't necessarily cost any money even; it's  
2 just a way of having people come and converse,  
3 and you can get examples from the Mid-Atlantic  
4 and from New England of how these conversations  
5 take place, and they provide a real service, and  
6 decisions get made in a much better way. Thank  
7 you.

8 MR. WEAVER: That's very helpful. I  
9 appreciate that. I will say that, I don't know  
10 how many field hearings I've done, or how many  
11 oversight hearings I've done, probably, probably  
12 more than I can count, but, you know, oftentimes  
13 when you do those you obviously go into a  
14 situation, you know, that you have the answers,  
15 but that doesn't necessarily bear fruit all the  
16 time.

17 And so, I mean, one of the things I  
18 expect us to hear more about how government  
19 agencies are actually working together better as  
20 a result of this.

21 That said, there, of course, other  
22 people on the other side of the spectrum, so that  
23 would be just one of those things that we go  
24 about. But what we're not going to do, though,  
25 is not have any hearings and just assume  
26 everything is well.

27 Because, to me, what I've heard, and,  
28 you know, correct me if I'm wrong, but there sort  
29 of has to be, there's a lack of transparency, I  
30 guess, from the feds, in general, that's been the  
31 notion anyway, and so one of the things the  
32 hearing will focus on is transparent data,  
33 transparent communication, and all that kind of  
34 stuff.

35 And, you know, frankly, if NOAA, which  
36 is very good at marketing itself -- I'm used to  
37 agencies that are, you know, basic, bottom line  
38 is they just wants us to go away and then hide in  
39 caves; NOAA's the exact opposite. They're very,  
40 very good at marketing themselves, and so they  
41 will have every opportunity to talk about how  
42 transparent they are and how well they  
43 communicate.

44 MS. DECKER: I just want to concur  
45 with that. I mean, I think nobody is against  
46 having a dialog and making sure that  
47 stakeholders, you know, all stakeholders are  
48 involved in whatever process moves forward, but



1 it's really on the Administration to keep that  
2 process transparent. And, you know, frankly, I  
3 think the mistrust of the planning policy is the  
4 result of their lack of transparency up to this  
5 point.

6 MR. WEAVER: But thank you, though; we  
7 appreciate that.

8 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, I have  
9 Kitty Simonds, followed by Rick Robins.

10 MS. SIMONDS: Two things. One is,  
11 because I knew it was going to be introduced, do  
12 all our comments from last year get dumped and we  
13 have to resend them to you?

14 MR. WEAVER: No, I have all the files.

15 MS. SIMONDS: Okay. That's good to  
16 hear, though. As do I.

17 MR. WEAVER: You know, if I just had,  
18 you know, I've finally been cleared to go to the  
19 gym, and so I'm going to start taking all my  
20 files and reading them on the elliptical and all  
21 that. I don't have time to work out like --

22 MS. SIMONDS: Yes, I know.

23 (Simultaneous Speaking)

24 MR. STRICKLER: You have our  
25 permission to revise and extend your remarks,  
26 however.

27 MS. SIMONDS: Well, I might just do  
28 it.

29 MR. WEAVER: No, I have all them. So  
30 no, I don't think you need to resubmit them.

31 MS. SIMONDS: My other question is I'm  
32 very curious, you mentioned that, that you would  
33 be, you all would likely be looking at the Marine  
34 Mammal Protection Act, and so I'm curious to  
35 know, are you thinking about adding things, or  
36 deleting things, because I hope you get rid of  
37 two words: zero tolerance.

38 MR. WEAVER: I think what we'll do,  
39 there have been a number of conflicts that we've  
40 heard between the statutes. And, well, Marine  
41 Mammal Protection Act, ESA.

42 MS. SIMONDS: Yes.

43 MR. WEAVER: You know, the whole deal.  
44 And if you look at, you know, I'm putting on my  
45 other hat now for power stuff, if you look at  
46 what's happening at Bonneville Dam, for example,  
47 you have a number of sea lions coming in just  
48 gobbling up salmon at the base of Bonneville Dam,

1 and that's a serious issue. And that's just one  
2 of numerous things that I've been told.

3 (Off microphone discussion)

4 MR. WEAVER: So I don't want to say  
5 that we have something specific in mind in terms  
6 of legislation, but I think there needs to be a  
7 big emphasis on, sort of, where they're  
8 compatible and where they conflict. So stay  
9 tuned.

10 MS. SIMONDS: Right. Well, our  
11 problem is with the false killer whales, they're  
12 gobbling up our fish too, and they just leave the  
13 heads. So that's kind of cute right? You're  
14 looking at all these lines and all you see are  
15 fish heads.

16 MR. WEAVER: Where are you from,  
17 ma'am? I couldn't see over there.

18 MS. SIMONDS: Honolulu.

19 MR. WEAVER: Oh, okay. All right,  
20 thank you.

21 (Off microphone discussion)

22 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, Rick.

23 MR. ROBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
24 I'm Rick Robins, with the Mid-Atlantic Council.  
25 I want to thank you all for the briefing today  
26 and being with us to do this.

27 I just wanted to see the -- it sounds  
28 like the starting points are going to be  
29 potentially significantly different between the  
30 House and the Senate, if the Senate is going to  
31 be focused on mainly a more regionally-focused  
32 bill.

33 And so given the time line, again, the  
34 CCC won't reconvene until June, so I just wanted  
35 to see if you all were open to the individual  
36 councils refreshing their regional priorities and  
37 transmitting those to you, relative to the  
38 reauthorization process? Because, you know,  
39 there are a number issues that regionally-  
40 specific that are going to be particularly  
41 important.

42 Just thinking about the Northeast, or  
43 now the Greater Atlantic Region, we share  
44 resources together with the New England Council,  
45 then the Mid-Atlantic State Fisheries Commission,  
46 but one of the challenges we face -- and this is  
47 particularly acute, I think looking forward to  
48 the next decade -- is just making sure that we

1 have the tools we need there in legislation to  
2 effectively monitor our regional fisheries.

3 And if you look at the provisions for  
4 the observer program that are spelled out in  
5 Section 313 of the Act, those establish very  
6 clear authorities and provisions for the North  
7 Pacific Council. And those are limited to that  
8 Council.

9 But, you know, I think in the  
10 Northeast Region, we have been significantly  
11 limited in our ability to meet our, just for  
12 example, our observant coverage requirements. I  
13 mean, there are a lot of factors that restrain  
14 our ability to be successful there.

15 But we really need a long-term  
16 solution that ensures that we have the tools that  
17 we need there in the Act to effectively monitor  
18 our fisheries. And, you know, it may be an  
19 expansion of Section 313, but whatever it is, it  
20 needs to be robust to the needs of the future.

21 And we've highlighted that some in our  
22 previous testimony, but, you know, I think, just  
23 thinking about it at a reasonable level, we're  
24 ultimately going to need to make sure that we  
25 have those provisions, or adequate provisions, in  
26 the Act.

27 And, obviously, the, you know, some of  
28 the discussion about monitorings, the shifting  
29 over, and being driven by changes in technology,  
30 we need to make sure the Act is ready for those  
31 technological changes, as well.

32 But I think that's going to be an  
33 important priority. And that won't be our only  
34 regional priority brought up to the  
35 reauthorization, but I just want to see if you  
36 all are open to hearing from us about updating  
37 regional priorities before that June time frame,  
38 because if you're going to try to move something  
39 in April, I would think that time would be of the  
40 essence for that.

41 MR. MOLLER: I'm very open to that.

42 MR. WEAVER: When you say tools, what  
43 do you mean? Do you mean money, or what else?

44 MR. ROBINS: Well it's a combination  
45 of things. The, you know, in the Northeast  
46 Region, we've had several amendments between our  
47 two councils where we identified levels of  
48 observer coverage that we wanted to require in

1 the fishery management plans, and we haven't been  
2 able to implement those.

3 And the inability to implement those,  
4 in part, it's been funding. And one of the  
5 difficulties is, you know, we talked about trying  
6 to create a cost sharing mechanism, and the  
7 industry has come forward and said in some cases  
8 that they're willing to fund a certain amount of  
9 FC portion of the observer coverage, but we  
10 haven't been able to fully implement that yet.

11 And there is an amendment that would  
12 essentially be a work around to that challenge,  
13 but I think, ultimately, those tools need to be  
14 specified in the Act.

15 MR. WEAVER: Okay. All right, thank  
16 you.

17 (Off microphone discussion)

18 MR. WEAVER: Thank you.

19 MR. ROBINS: Sure.

20 MS. DECKER: Like I said, I don't  
21 think that, you know, I don't think that whatever  
22 moves, at least in the Senate, will be the first  
23 bite at the apple, so we would absolutely welcome  
24 any additional, specific comments that you guys  
25 feel are necessary.

26 But I would also encourage you to work  
27 with your delegation state senators on the  
28 Commerce Committee with that, as well; I think  
29 they'd be best positioned to help you with that  
30 part.

31 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, Dorothy.

32 MS. LOWMAN: Thank you, Chair. This  
33 is Dorothy Lowman, Pacific Council. And thank  
34 you all for coming here today; we really  
35 appreciate it. Last year, as we were working on  
36 the bill that you are going to have as a startup  
37 for your markup, we didn't have the National  
38 Standard 1 Guideline proposed rules.

39 And, you know, there was a lot of  
40 discussion, well, does this really have to be in  
41 the Act, or could it be handled through the  
42 Guidelines, et cetera, but we didn't see any  
43 language.

44 So now that they are there and you're  
45 thinking about your next markup, I heard Matt  
46 talk about wanting to hear our comments on the  
47 proposed rule before something was finished, but  
48 I was wondering what your strategy is to thinking

1 about them in the, sort of, bill that will be  
2 marked up?

3 (Off microphone discussion)

4 MR. STRICKLER: It's not going to be  
5 our bill.

6 MS. LOWMAN: So I think I was really  
7 directing this towards you, Kiel.

8 (Off microphone discussion)

9 MR. WEAVER: Well, I mean, of course,  
10 I want to hear from everybody on that, but I  
11 guess, my question back to you is, well, do you  
12 think there will be unanimity between the regions  
13 on the Standard 1? I would assume not, but I may  
14 be wrong.

15 MS. LOWMAN: Well, you know, this is  
16 a discussion where, next on our agenda, --

17 MR. WEAVER: Yes.

18 MS. LOWMAN: -- as a beginning place.  
19 I think in our little meeting yesterday we talked  
20 about how important it will be for us to be  
21 talking about where we have the levels of, and we  
22 didn't have a complete consensus on --

23 MR. WEAVER: Right.

24 MS. LOWMAN: -- the Magnuson --

25 MR. WEAVER: I'll just get a --

26 MS. LOWMAN: -- Act, so.

27 MR. WEAVER: I'll get a stay for some  
28 of that, if that's okay?

29 (Simultaneous Speaking)

30 MS. LOWMAN: Oh yes.

31 MR. WEAVER: Yes.

32 MS. LOWMAN: Yes. And we hope to, you  
33 know, flush that out a lot between now and our  
34 June council meeting too, so.

35 MR. WEAVER: All right.

36 MR. STRICKLER: Just to follow-up real  
37 quick. And thank you, Dorothy, for the question.  
38 You know, we had the Managing Our Nation's  
39 Fisheries Conference almost two years ago now,  
40 and what came out of there is that there were a  
41 lot of things that; there were some things that  
42 people thought needed to be handled through  
43 revisions to the law, there were a lot of things  
44 that people thought could be dealt with  
45 administratively, and this National Standard 1,  
46 3, and 7 Guideline Revision Proposal is the  
47 vehicle for doing that.

48 And what came out of that conference

1 was that potentially as much as 80 percent of the  
2 changes that people thought needed to be made to  
3 implementing Magnuson can be done in this way.  
4 So what we're curious to find out is, you know,  
5 how much of that do you all think got in, how  
6 good of a job has NOAA done in meeting the needs  
7 that everyone has, and can, in a final rule, they  
8 do even more, based on the comments that you all  
9 submit?

10 So that's the information that we  
11 want, and then, after that, then I think the goal  
12 would be to see, kind of, what's leftover that  
13 needs to be done through a reauthorization, if  
14 that makes sense?

15 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Tom.

16 MR. NIES: Hi. I'm Tom Nies, with the  
17 New England Fishery Management Council, Executive  
18 Director. I guess, I think a couple of us have  
19 hinted at a question, and I just want to make  
20 sure I get a clear answer. And then the other is  
21 related to the National Standard Guidelines.

22 The first is that, I think last year  
23 when we were working on the, when the draft bills  
24 were being worked on, the councils all got  
25 specific requests from the various subcommittees  
26 to provide comments.

27 And I'm assuming from your comments  
28 that you feel like those requests are still out  
29 there, and that we should feel free with giving  
30 you those comments and educating you on the  
31 implications?

32 The other thing relates with National  
33 Standard Guidelines. You know, we get very  
34 nervous about the timing of these things, because  
35 we've got a draft rule out with a comment period  
36 ending June 30th, we don't really know how long  
37 the Agency's going to take to refer to the  
38 comments.

39 And so often there's a big gap between  
40 the draft and the final. And so we get, kind of,  
41 put in a bind when you ask us the question, well,  
42 do you think the draft guidelines address all  
43 your issues, or not, because the draft might  
44 address many of our issues, but we don't know  
45 what's going to be in the final.

46 MR. WEAVER: Okay. Those are both  
47 fair points.

48 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Any other questions?

1 I just wanted to follow-up on Kiel, your  
2 statement, I appreciate you all coming and  
3 providing your remarks. I'm with the Gulf  
4 Council, and red snapper is an issue, and so I'll  
5 take a few more minutes to talk about red  
6 snapper.

7 And that, certainly, we are engaged,  
8 at least at the state level, and we had a meeting  
9 last week with the state directors, and we'll be  
10 supplying you some information on specific ideas  
11 and thoughts for the plan, and so be looking out  
12 for that in the next couple of weeks. And  
13 hopefully that will be useful for you all and the  
14 time line that you described.

15 MR. WEAVER: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN ANSON: But, again, thank you  
17 for your time. So I guess that will take us, if  
18 there are no other questions then, for the group?  
19 You are all welcome to stay, of course --

20 MR. WEAVER: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ANSON: -- and listen to the  
22 rest of the meeting. But that'll take us to the  
23 next item on the Agenda is National Standard 1.  
24 Sam.

25 (Off microphone discussion)

26 MR. RAUCH: All right, so we've issued  
27 National Standard 1. I think you've heard a  
28 little bit about the history; I won't repeat all  
29 that history. We have our expert on National  
30 Standard 1, who is going to walk you through the  
31 high level of presentation, Wes Patrick. He'll  
32 come up here and guide you through all the  
33 details.

34 We're also intending -- and I think  
35 many of you know this -- to talk specifically to  
36 each council. The comment period goes through  
37 June in large measure, so that we can have  
38 adequate time to talk with all the councils, so  
39 that you can fully understand what we're  
40 proposing here, what the implications are, and  
41 those kinds of issues.

42 So without any further issues, I'm  
43 going to be up here and can help, but Wes will  
44 lead us through the presentation.

45 MR. PATRICK: Hello, everyone. So as  
46 you've all already heard, we had the proposed  
47 rule out, it came out in January, the 20th, of  
48 this year, and we're accepting comments through

1 June 30th. We did the long comment period to  
2 make sure that the councils had enough time to  
3 meet a few times and provide us with some good  
4 feedback.

5 We are going to be setting up some,  
6 hopefully, some presentations with you all at  
7 your council meetings. We already heard back  
8 from many of you, and some of the ones here  
9 coming up.

10 Just to give you another, kind of,  
11 background slide here is that, you know, National  
12 Standard 1 is about achieving optimum yield while  
13 preventing overfishing, and the last time that we  
14 revised these guidelines was back in 2009 when we  
15 were implementing the annual catch limits and  
16 accountability measures that came out of the  
17 Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act.

18 And since we've implemented those  
19 Guidelines in 2009, we've been getting a lot of  
20 comments and issues raised by councils and  
21 fishery managers, NGOs, a lot of different  
22 comments.

23 We had our Managing Our Nation's  
24 Fisheries 3 that we mentioned earlier. And so  
25 through this process over the last couple of  
26 years, we've been taking that information that  
27 we've been gathering and trying to resolve those  
28 issues in this proposed rule that we have.

29 The real takeaway you need to have  
30 about these guidelines is that they do not  
31 establish any new requirements; they don't  
32 require councils to revise their current  
33 management plans.

34 What they mainly do is they provide  
35 clarity and some potential flexibility in how we  
36 can meet the current MSA mandates, and so what  
37 this proposed rule does is try to stay within  
38 those sideboards of what we have in the MSA.

39 So what you're going to see is that  
40 we're still, the proposed rule still requires  
41 that stocks in need of conservation management  
42 must have annual catch limits, the accountability  
43 measures, and other reference points.

44 And that some of the issues, as you've  
45 all mentioned, will hopefully be addressing some  
46 of the points raised by Congress over the last  
47 couple of years with MSA.

48 And lastly, we wanted to point out



1 that any type of proposed flexibilities that we  
2 have in the Rule still need to meet the National  
3 Standard 2 requirements, so using the best  
4 scientific information available.

5 So we have seven major elements that  
6 we're going to be talking about in this  
7 presentation. This kind of hits on the  
8 highlights of the proposed rule, and it will  
9 touch on things like rebuilding, stability, and  
10 annual catch limits, and looking at the routine  
11 review of management plans.

12 So starting with rebuilding plans.  
13 There's five sub topics that we cover in the  
14 proposed rule. The first one is on calculating  
15  $T_{max}$ , then I'll move into adequate progress,  
16 interim measures, extending rebuilding time  
17 lines, and then, just continuing rebuilding  
18 plans.

19 So first up is  $T_{max}$ . So what the  
20 proposed rule has here is that we're trying to  
21 address the concerns of: how do you calculate  
22  $T_{max}$  whenever you're developing a rebuilding  
23 plan? And our current approach now is that you  
24 have to calculate that by doing  $T_{min}$  plus one  
25 generation time.

26 However, the calculation of generation  
27 time can be a data intensive process, because you  
28 have to know a lot of information about that  
29 stock to calculate generation time.

30 And so what we have here are two  
31 additional methods of calculating  $T_{max}$  that are  
32 not as data intensive but also give you some of  
33 the same results in calculating  $T_{max}$ .

34 The first one is two times  $T_{min}$ . This  
35 was the approach that was mentioned in the  
36 National Research Council's report on rebuilding,  
37 and it's an approach that New Zealand uses for  
38 the rebuilding stocks.

39 And the second approach is the time  
40 needed to rebuild  $B_{msy}$  when fished at 75 percent  
41 of your fishing mortality rate. And, as you all  
42 are probably aware, we already have that in the  
43 guidelines, this 75 percent of  $F_{msy}$ .

44 We say that when you reach the  
45 rebuilding plan and you haven't yet rebuilt, you  
46 can continue with your rebuilding plan with the  
47  $F_{rebuild}$ , or setting 75 percent of  $F_{msy}$ ,  
48 whichever is lower.

1                   And what this slide here shows you is  
2 how these three different ways of calculating  
3 Tmax compare with one another. As I said, they  
4 are very comparable with one another.

5                   On the X axis here, what I have is the  
6 productivity of the stock. So if you're on the  
7 far left-hand side of this graph, you're a slow  
8 growing species, like a shark, and if you're on  
9 the right-hand side of this graph, you're a fast  
10 growing species like tuna.

11                   And then, on the Y axis we have years  
12 for rebuilding. And so as you can see here, all  
13 of these lines here pretty much overlap. You are  
14 going to see a little bit of variation here and  
15 there, but for the most part, they're very  
16 similar.

17                   The next topic under rebuilding was  
18 Adequate Progress. So our current guidelines  
19 don't really provide any advice on what Adequate  
20 Progress is. We do know from the Magnuson Act  
21 that the Secretary is supposed to determine if  
22 adequate progress is being made in a rebuilding  
23 plan and that they should be doing that every two  
24 years.

25                   And in the past, the way that we've  
26 done this is relied on stock assessments to  
27 determine if adequate progress is occurring. But  
28 with our implementation of annual catch limits in  
29 2009, we know that several councils have been  
30 using that to look at adequate progress, and  
31 there may be some other appropriate measures.  
32 And so what we've done here is added in these  
33 other ways of looking at adequate progress.

34                   We also wanted to point out that, give  
35 kind of a definition for what adequate progress  
36 is, and it's, you're not making adequate progress  
37 if your catch is exceeding your Frebuild, or the  
38 associated annual catch limit, and the AMs are  
39 not effective.

40                   And so this isn't if you exceed your  
41 ACL for one year; it's if you are continually  
42 exceeding your ACLs, or your Frebuild, and your  
43 accountability measures aren't adequate for  
44 correcting that overage, you could be determined  
45 to not be making adequate progress.

46                   And the other way you can do that is  
47 if you have a new stock assessment that  
48 significantly changes your understanding of the

1 status of the stock.

2 A good example of that is what  
3 happened a few years ago in New England with  
4 Atlantic cod. They were rebuilding the stock and  
5 having catch limits less than their annual catch  
6 limit, but they got a new stock assessment that  
7 totally revised their understanding of the status  
8 of the stock, and therefore triggered inadequate  
9 progress determination.

10 So following on with what happens when  
11 you have an inadequate progress determination  
12 with a significant change in understanding of the  
13 status of the stock is that you can sometimes  
14 have the Secretary implement interim measures  
15 that reduce, but not necessarily, end  
16 overfishing.

17 And so in our guidelines, we have this  
18 section in our guidelines, and it basically  
19 repeats verbatim what's in the Magnuson Act. And  
20 what we wanted to do in this proposed rule is  
21 actually outline, what does it mean, or when can  
22 you use interim measures, and what are the  
23 criteria that's needed to trigger those?

24 And so we've only triggered interim  
25 measures twice that we're aware of, in recent  
26 history. One was in Northeast, like I just said,  
27 and then also, more recently, in the Southeast, I  
28 think, with tilefish.

29 And so the guidance that we've been  
30 providing in the past is what we've put in the  
31 proposed rule here, which is that, as I said  
32 before, there's an unanticipated and  
33 significantly changed understanding of the status  
34 of the stock that ending overfishing immediately  
35 would result in severe social and ecological, or  
36 economic impacts, and that whatever measures you  
37 do put into place, you need to make sure that the  
38 biomass must increase during that interim period.

39 Next up is on extending time lines.  
40 With rebuilding plans, you go through this  
41 process of calculating a minimum time to rebuild  
42 and a maximum time to rebuild, and then you  
43 identify some target time in between that  
44 balances out the quickest time to rebuild that  
45 stock.

46 And as you get new stock assessments,  
47 you might want to revise those reference points.  
48 And that can be a process that is very time

1 consuming to the council process, and so what we  
2 wanted to do is try to emphasize that needing to  
3 revise, or routinely modify, your rebuilding plan  
4 -- or changing these reference points -- isn't  
5 always needed.

6 And sometimes the driving force behind  
7 those revisions is because you're looking at the  
8 biomass of the stock to see how well it's meeting  
9 your milestones for rebuilding. And then our, I  
10 think, you know, the last year the National  
11 Research Council had their rebuilding report that  
12 said that we shouldn't be putting so much  
13 emphasis in looking at the biomass of the stock,  
14 but what we should be focusing on is the fishing  
15 mortality rate for that rebuilding plan.

16 And so what we're trying to emphasize  
17 here is not focus so much on the biomass of the  
18 stock, which you can partially manage through  
19 fishing mortality rates, but also has a huge  
20 component to it of environmental factors that you  
21 don't have any control over. And so rather than  
22 modify your reference points to try to meet that  
23 deadline that you can't really control, because  
24 of environmental factors, let's try to focus more  
25 on just maintaining your F below F rebuild.

26 And then the last part under this  
27 rebuilding section is about discontinuing  
28 rebuilding plans. As you all know, currently,  
29 what we do is, once you're in a rebuilding plan  
30 you need to stay in the rebuilding plan until  
31 that stock's been rebuilt.

32 But we know, from recent studies, like  
33 the National Research Council, that there's a lot  
34 of scientific uncertainty about the biomass of  
35 stocks, and that whenever they did a review of  
36 our currently rebuilding stocks, 30 percent of  
37 those stocks were found to never have been  
38 overfished whenever they did a new stock  
39 assessment later down the road.

40 And so if you're in this situation  
41 where you're in a rebuilding plan, but you find  
42 out that you shouldn't really ever have been in a  
43 rebuilding plan, it can cause some problems.

44 And so what we're trying to do here is  
45 allow for these rebuilding plans to be  
46 discontinued, and so our proposed rule here is  
47 just outlining that if the Secretary determines  
48 that the stock was never overfished, as

1 originally thought, then you can discontinue that  
2 rebuilding plan.

3 So you have a new stock assessment,  
4 you find out that the stock was never overfished  
5 in the past, like you originally thought, well  
6 then, you can come off of that rebuilding plan,  
7 if you also find that the current biomass of the  
8 stock is not overfished. So there's kind of a  
9 two-point criteria there.

10 The next element I'm going to talk  
11 about is Improving Management of Data-Limited  
12 Stocks. Basically, what we're doing in the  
13 guidelines here is that we're trying to resolve  
14 some of the problems that we've had in more of  
15 our data-poor regions, where our scientists  
16 weren't able to calculate maximum sustainable  
17 yield for these data-limited stocks.

18 And what that resulted in was that you  
19 had several stocks that maybe had an annual catch  
20 limit and acceptable biological catch, but they  
21 wouldn't have an overfishing limit, because there  
22 was no equivalent estimate of what that would be  
23 in maximum sustainable yield, or its proxy.

24 And since these 2009 guidelines came  
25 out, there's been a lot of differently viewed  
26 data-poor methods that have been developed to  
27 help you all estimate what the sustainable levels  
28 of catch are for these data-poor stocks.

29 And while those estimates aren't  
30 MSY-based in some cases, they do provide you with  
31 a sustainable level of catch. And so what we're  
32 clarifying in the guidelines here is that when  
33 you can't estimate MSY, or MSY proxy, it is okay  
34 to calculate some sustainable level of catch and  
35 still set your annual catch limits and  
36 overfishing limits with those new methods out  
37 there.

38 So I just have a couple of examples  
39 here of ones that councils are already using and  
40 we just highlighted those in the guidelines as  
41 appropriate ways of calculating catch, like, Only  
42 Reliable Catch Methods, which they use down in  
43 the Southeast, or the Depleted Correction  
44 Adjusted Catch is a method that they commonly use  
45 on the West Coast.

46 Let's see here. We also wanted to  
47 emphasize that, in our guidelines here, that  
48 another approach for managing data-poor stocks is

1 using stock complexes, which is basically putting  
2 a lot of data-limited stocks into one complex and  
3 measure them as one unit.

4 And in our guidelines we found that  
5 sometimes whenever you have this stock complex  
6 and you would go in and assess one of those  
7 stocks within the complex, it would often be  
8 taken out of the complex, because our guidelines  
9 would say, well if you were able to identify the  
10 status of the stock, you should be managing it on  
11 an individual basis.

12 But then we also said later on in the  
13 guidelines that if you have an indicator stock we  
14 would like you to use that in your stock complex.  
15 And so there was some discontinuity in what kind  
16 of guidance we were giving on these stock  
17 complexes.

18 And so what we've done is we've taken  
19 out that statement about needing to manage stocks  
20 on an individual basis, and that where  
21 practicable, we would prefer that indicator  
22 stocks be left in the stock complexes to better  
23 manage them.

24 So here's another section that is on  
25 stocks that require conservation and management.  
26 This was essentially a lot of revisions to the  
27 guidelines.

28 It looks like a lot, but what all  
29 we've really done is consolidated the guidance  
30 that we had in National Standard 1, National  
31 Standard 3, and National Standard 7, on what  
32 stocks need conservation and management.

33 And so currently what we have in the  
34 guidelines is that guidance for councils for  
35 identifying what stocks need to be included in  
36 the FMP occur throughout those three guidelines,  
37 and it can be confusing.

38 So what we've done is consolidated all  
39 of that information, we haven't really deleted  
40 any of that guidance, we just put it all together  
41 and we moved it up to the General Section of the  
42 National Standard Guidelines, so that it's all  
43 there in one place.

44 And what those guidelines say is that  
45 stocks that need conservation management and need  
46 to be included in an FMP are those stocks that  
47 are predominantly caught in federal waters and  
48 are overfished, subject to overfishing, or likely

1 to become so.

2 So if you have those two criteria,  
3 then you should be including an FMP and you  
4 should have annual catch limits, MSY estimated  
5 for those stocks, et cetera.

6 We also have a list of ten other  
7 factors that come from National Standard 7 that  
8 kind of lay out all these other factors that  
9 councils have been using over the years for what  
10 stocks could be included in the FMP.

11 This list of ten factors aren't must  
12 be included in the FMP, these are factors that  
13 you can consider, as well as other factors that  
14 you might come up with.

15 So it's not exhaustive list, but it  
16 gives you some guidance on what kind of other  
17 factors you might want to consider for including  
18 the stock in the FMP.

19 So for example, if we were to look at  
20 Number 6, the fishery is important to the Nation  
21 and to the regional economy. Just because maybe  
22 that stock is important to the regional economy,  
23 doesn't, by itself, maybe mean it needs to be  
24 included in the FMP and managed with ACLs. You  
25 might want to have multiple objectives that gets  
26 you into that next level.

27 It's only those first two criteria  
28 about, in federal waters, and you're overfished,  
29 or likely to become so that definitely gets you  
30 in the FMP.

31 And through this process of  
32 consolidating the different guidance we had in  
33 National Standard 1, 3, and 7, we re-labeled what  
34 stocks are in need of conservation and  
35 management, and then we had stocks that are not  
36 in need of conservation and management, and we  
37 have other managed stocks.

38 And we realized that the last time  
39 that we went through the guidelines and created  
40 new categories it caused some frustration,  
41 because it meant that the councils needed to go  
42 through and revise their FMPs to use these new  
43 terminologies and align with the annual catch  
44 limit terminology.

45 And so in this round we were trying to  
46 minimize any of your council's work to have to go  
47 through and re-categorize stocks again. And so  
48 basically, what we say is that, currently, what

1 you have in your FMP as stocks in the fishery,  
2 which is the old term, are stocks that require  
3 conservation and management, and we're going to  
4 assume that those stocks are equivalent.

5 The same thing for ecosystem component  
6 species. We're going to assume those are  
7 equivalent to stocks in need of conservation and  
8 management.

9 And then there's this oddball group  
10 here, other managed stocks that are stocks that  
11 are captured in two different FMPs. One FMP will  
12 be the primary FMP, the other FMP will be the  
13 secondary FMP. And you really only need to have  
14 your annual catch limits and reference points and  
15 stuff described in the primary FMP, not in the  
16 secondary.

17 The next element is on Ecosystem  
18 Approaches to Management and Optimum Yield. So  
19 our guidelines, we've heard a lot from the  
20 councils and from stakeholders that we weren't  
21 very clear in how optimum yield aligns with  
22 annual catch limit framework.

23 And so we're just clarifying here, as  
24 many councils here have already done in their  
25 guidelines, is that optimum yield is equal to  
26 annual catch limit. If you were to do that on an  
27 annualized basis, it's the same thing as MSY's  
28 equivalent to the over fishing limit.

29 We also put in the guidelines some new  
30 ways of calculating maximum sustainable yield.  
31 Currently, the way that we calculate maximum  
32 sustainable yield in most cases is on an  
33 individual basis.

34 And what we wanted to do is introduce  
35 this term called aggregate maximum sustainable  
36 yield that scientists have been using for years,  
37 but you don't often see it in FMPs, because it's  
38 one, not what we're used to, because we're  
39 supposed to be, in the past we had used status  
40 determination for individual species. Aggregate  
41 MSY, what it does is it treats multiple stocks  
42 together and calculates the maximum sustainable  
43 yield.

44 And so the reason that we wanted to  
45 introduce this is that it takes into account some  
46 of those multi-species interactions that go along  
47 with ecosystem-based management, and it may come  
48 in handy with the optimum yield specification, if



1 you wanted to try to identify optimum yield at  
2 the higher fishery level, rather than on an  
3 individual species level.

4 And the last point I'll make about  
5 this slide is that, in the past when we've been  
6 talking about optimum yield specifications, we've  
7 always had it in there as a quantitative  
8 analysis, and that's caused some problems with  
9 different councils where maybe they don't have  
10 the information on socioeconomics of the  
11 fisheries.

12 And so whenever you go through your  
13 analysis you have, maybe, a lot of quantitative  
14 information about the biology of the stock, but  
15 not so much the socioeconomic factors. And so  
16 we're just clarifying in the guidelines here  
17 that, when you don't have the quantitative  
18 information to do these analyses, a qualitative  
19 approach is acceptable.

20 This fifth element is to provide more  
21 stability to catch levels in fisheries. This is  
22 one of the major things that we've heard over the  
23 last couple of years from you all and from other  
24 stakeholders, is that our annual catch limit  
25 framework has thought to cause instability in our  
26 fisheries, and that we do these knee jerk  
27 reactions to when we have a new stock assessment,  
28 we have to reset ACLs, and it can cause this  
29 instability in the fisheries.

30 And so we have three main things here  
31 that we have in the guidelines, to try to help  
32 stabilize these levels of catch in fisheries.  
33 First one is our multi-year overfishing  
34 definitions, which is relating to how we make  
35 status determinations for our stocks.

36 The second one's going to be on  
37 phase-in of stock assessment results, and so  
38 that's how do we react to new information from  
39 stock assessments?

40 And then the third one is about  
41 carryover of unused portions of annual catch  
42 limits, and that's more related to how we handle  
43 projections from stock assessments, and also  
44 address some of these safety at sea concerns with  
45 how fishery managers have to work with this  
46 annual catch limit and developing quotas.

47 So the reason that we keep hearing and  
48 recognize that there's issues with stability with

1 fisheries is that we, of course, work in a very  
2 uncertain field where, even though we have stock  
3 assessments for these data-rich species, there's  
4 often a lot of uncertainty related to them.

5 And so for example, you all are  
6 familiar with retrospective bias where the stock  
7 assessment's most uncertain point often is the  
8 newest, or terminal year, point in the stock  
9 assessment.

10 So if you had a stock assessment in  
11 2014 that's looking at the first year of data is  
12 in 2012 that data is usually the most uncertain,  
13 often because of these retrospective biases. And  
14 as you look further and further back in time  
15 those uncertainties tend to dissolve away and  
16 become more accurate.

17 Another reason that we're looking at  
18 stability in fisheries is because we recognize  
19 that the reference points that you all use will  
20 vary from year to year.

21 And so for example here, what I've  
22 done is I looked at some West Coast fisheries  
23 that have stock assessments every couple of  
24 years, and what we have is their reference points  
25 for Fmsy, Bmsy, and maximum sustainable yield.

26 And you look down at the bottom here,  
27 what you can see is that the average variability  
28 in those reference points from one assessment to  
29 the next varies by 20 percent. And so you can  
30 definitely recognize that whenever you get a new  
31 stock assessment and these reference points  
32 change that can sometimes result in very  
33 different changes in catch, even though, maybe,  
34 your catch has been stable but the reference  
35 points have started changing.

36 So one of the things that we're  
37 introducing in the proposed rule here is that  
38 maybe we can look at multi-year overfishing  
39 definitions to try to smooth out some of this  
40 uncertainty from stock assessments.

41 This might come in handy whenever  
42 you're trying to look at the status of the stock.  
43 So this is more of, you've done the stock  
44 assessment, you're trying to determine the  
45 status, and may or may not affect how you show up  
46 on these Red Lists with the different groups out  
47 there that do eco-labeling.

48 And so currently what we do in our

1 guidelines is you look at the most terminal year  
2 in a stock assessment and determine the status of  
3 that stock. Is it overfished? Is it under going  
4 overfishing, or not? What we want to do is try  
5 to minimize some of those false negatives and  
6 false positives that occur from the stock  
7 assessments.

8 And so through a multi-year  
9 overfishing approach in the proposed rule, we're  
10 saying that you can look at a three-year period  
11 from the stock assessment to look at the status  
12 of your stock.

13 As long as you go through the process,  
14 if you do decide to use this approach, that  
15 documents how this approach will not jeopardize  
16 the capacity of stock to produce MSY.

17 And so what that might look like is,  
18 what the Southeast is already doing and as, you  
19 know, a good example that we built our proposed  
20 rule off of, is the snowy grouper stock  
21 assessment.

22 They realized that they do have a lot  
23 of uncertainty in that terminal year estimate  
24 from their stock assessment, and so what they've  
25 been doing is using a three-year average from  
26 their stock assessment.

27 And it shows that if you use the  
28 three-year average here that the overfishing rate  
29 here, or the fishing mortality rate, is actually  
30 below the overfishing level.

31 So if you're below the green line  
32 here, you're not overfishing. And they have a  
33 ratio of .59, so they're well below the  
34 overfishing level. But if they'd only looked at  
35 the last data point in their stock assessment, it  
36 would have showed them up here around 1.2 and  
37 they would have labeled them as overfishing.

38 And so understanding the uncertainty  
39 related to your stock assessment and using a  
40 multi-year approach can help resolve some of  
41 those false negatives and false positives.

42 So the next one was on Phase-in of ABC  
43 Control Rules. So this is basically a tool that  
44 we're using to try to minimize those dramatic  
45 shifts in catch that can occur from stock  
46 assessment to stock assessment.

47 They've been used in other places like  
48 the International Pacific Halibut Commission, as

1 used in the European Union has these types of  
2 control rules.

3 And just like the multi-year  
4 overfishing approach, we're proposing in our  
5 guidelines that you can use a phase-in approach,  
6 if it doesn't exceed more than three years, and  
7 that you provide a comprehensive analysis of how  
8 this phase-in control rule prevents overfishing,  
9 and when the control rule should and should not  
10 be used.

11 So you might find some situations,  
12 such as a declining population, where using a  
13 phase-in approach isn't maybe a proper tool to  
14 use. So with this approach you'll want to make  
15 sure that whatever method you use doesn't  
16 jeopardize the capacity of the stock.

17 Example of how a phase-in approach  
18 might work is here I have what you're used to is  
19 an overfishing limit, it's the red line at the  
20 top, and the blue line down at the bottom is your  
21 acceptable biological catch.

22 And for this example I'm going to  
23 pretend that the ABC is 75 percent of OFL. And  
24 you can see that this assumes that there's a  
25 stock assessment every three years. And rather  
26 than have projections, they just set their  
27 overfishing limit as the static level for those  
28 three-year periods.

29 And so you can see that, here in 2014,  
30 they got a new stock assessment, it says that the  
31 catch should be something much lower. So they  
32 would need to reduce their catch, if they were to  
33 use their ABC Control Rule, as written, reduce it  
34 from 500 metric tons down to 360 metric tons.

35 And so what a phase-in approach could  
36 do is, maybe, you could phase-in that catch over  
37 that three-year period. And so rather than  
38 taking that 140 metric ton cut in the first year,  
39 maybe you take only, say, 100 metric tons, or 60  
40 metric tons, in that first year and continue on  
41 until you finally hit that point in your third  
42 year. And just to note here that that dotted line  
43 in 2015 is still below the overfishing limit for  
44 that year, so this would be acceptable.

45 Lastly, Carry-over ABC Control Rules.  
46 This is something that we put in, as I said, as a  
47 way to improve safety at sea, but also, looking  
48 at how we use projections from stock assessments

1 and thinking about how much of the catch do we  
2 actually take of our annual catch limit, and how  
3 does that affect next year's yield? We also have  
4 used this a lot in catch share fisheries over the  
5 past, and the more recent years we've been using  
6 it in other fisheries.

7 And we actually got sued over the way  
8 that we were using carryover a year or two ago,  
9 on where the catch limit was being set above the  
10 acceptable biological, ABC, set by the SSC. So  
11 the reason we lost on that is because we're not  
12 allowed to set catch above what the SSC has  
13 specified.

14 And so we've put this into a control  
15 rule so that we can always modify our ABC with  
16 the carryover approach. Or, if your carryover  
17 never, say, if you have an ACL that is set below  
18 ABC, and the amount of carryover you have doesn't  
19 exceed the ABC, well then, maybe, you don't need  
20 to mess with an ABC calculation, because you  
21 already have that buffer built into your existing  
22 system.

23 And I understand that's the way that  
24 several of the councils have been handling  
25 carryovers, that there's already a buffer between  
26 the ACL and the ABC, you might have that  
27 flexibility to take some carryover without  
28 adjusting your ABC.

29 But if your carryover's going to  
30 exceed your ABC, well then, you will need to  
31 modify your ABC so that it's in line with the  
32 court case.

33 So what we have here is in the  
34 guidelines is we recognize that carryover is a  
35 very useful tool in fisheries and want to  
36 encourage its use.

37 And I have an example here, you know,  
38 it's just like your cell phone bill where you can  
39 carryover the minutes, you can carryover the  
40 catch that you didn't use in last year's fishing  
41 year to the next year, because you realized that  
42 in fisheries we kind of always assume that we're  
43 going to catch the ACL perfectly, especially in  
44 these stock assessments where we have projections  
45 of catch.

46 And if we don't catch ACL perfectly,  
47 well then that's some additional biomass that  
48 could be taken in the following year. And our

1 example here, what we've done is we're saying  
2 that it's not really a one-to-one carryover,  
3 because you could account for a thing such as  
4 annual survival rate and natural mortality.

5 The sixth element is on Defining  
6 Depleted Stocks. This is something that we've  
7 been hearing for decades. I think we actually  
8 had this in a proposed rule in 2005. And we've  
9 decided to bring it up again here in this  
10 proposed rule, which is that we understand that  
11 our current definition for an overfished stock  
12 means that the biomass of the stock has fallen  
13 below this limit, the minimum stock size  
14 threshold, and when it does we call it  
15 overfished, regardless of whether that decline in  
16 the population was due to fishing, or  
17 environmental factors, or some other unknown  
18 factor that we don't know.

19 And so our stakeholders have been  
20 saying for years that, you know, when we call it  
21 overfished it puts the onus on the fishermen as  
22 the cause when maybe they weren't.

23 And so what we did here was try to  
24 separate out the difference between what an  
25 overfished stock is versus a depleted stock. And  
26 what we're trying to resolve here is that, if we  
27 keep both definitions of an overfished and a  
28 depleted stock, we need to have some period of  
29 time where we know for sure overfishing hasn't  
30 been occurring, so that your scientists can  
31 easily identify an overfished stock versus  
32 depleted stock.

33 And so if your -- depleted is whenever  
34 you have declined below your minimum stock size  
35 threshold and the stock hasn't been experiencing  
36 overfishing at any point over a period of two  
37 generation times of the stock.

38 Or, if you have a stock that's already  
39 overfished, it's in a rebuilding plan, and you've  
40 been rebuilding that stock for years and you've  
41 reached your Ttarget time, or your target time to  
42 rebuild, and the stock, its biomass, hasn't shown  
43 any significant signs of increase, despite being  
44 fished at, or below, levels consistent with  
45 Frebuild, then you can call that stock depleted.

46 Depleted stocks still need to have  
47 rebuilding plans, however, but what a depleted  
48 stock does is it changes the onus from it being a

1 fishing-related cause to something else, and so  
2 in that process in your rebuilding plan, you  
3 might want to focus on some other  
4 non-fishery-related issues like looking at  
5 habitat, or other environmental mitigation  
6 issues.

7 And the last element I have here is  
8 about Improving the Routine Review of Fishery  
9 Management Plans. And so this is, basically, a  
10 reflection of things that we've been hearing from  
11 our stakeholders, in that, we recognize that the  
12 councils have very busy agendas, and some  
13 stakeholders believe that some of the goals and  
14 objectives of these fisheries need to be  
15 re-evaluated on a more regular basis.

16 For example, looking at the allocation  
17 of how harvest is distributed among different  
18 sectors of the fishery. And also, if you have  
19 more up-to-date goals and objectives of your  
20 fisheries, they become more relevant whenever  
21 you're looking at your optimum yield  
22 specifications for your fishery, also.

23 So what we have in the proposed rule  
24 is that you should reassess the goals and  
25 objectives of your fishery on a regular basis.  
26 We do not define what a regular basis is, only  
27 that it's set upon the schedule that the council  
28 agrees upon, will be a review period every five,  
29 ten, 15, 20 years, whatever they agree is a  
30 regular basis.

31 We did give you all an example,  
32 though, in proposed rule, like in the Magnuson  
33 Act they have the catch shares re-evaluation  
34 period, which I think is, the first time is seven  
35 years, and then after that it's five years after  
36 you review the performance of these catch share  
37 programs. And so we gave that as an example,  
38 but, again, we didn't define it.

39 So just to summarize, the main points  
40 is that what we're trying to do here is improve  
41 and clarify and streamline the guidelines to one,  
42 recognize the great things that the councils have  
43 been doing and put those into the codified text.

44 We're trying to stay within the guide  
45 rails of the Magnuson Act, and trying to address  
46 all of the different comments that we've been  
47 receiving over the last five, or six, years,  
48 since we've been implementing the annual catch

1 limits.

2 And if you want we have a lot more  
3 resources online, if you'd like to go visit that.  
4 We also have a redline version that you can  
5 download and see all the individual comments, or  
6 revision stuff we made to these guidelines. With  
7 that --

8 MR. RAUCH: All right. So that was a  
9 lot of information, as I said, we're going to try  
10 to get to all the councils, but we're happy to  
11 take questions now while you've got the expert  
12 here.

13 Let me just reiterate at the outset,  
14 our purpose here was, after listening to a lot of  
15 what we'd heard through Managing Our Nation's  
16 Fisheries and everywhere else, is to make the  
17 changes that we thought the statute gave us, the  
18 flexibility that we thought the statute gave us  
19 that we were willing to make.

20 There are some things we've heard, a  
21 few things that we've heard that we can't  
22 address. This works within the current statutory  
23 construct.

24 This deals with a lot of the kind of  
25 issues we've heard from people who thought there  
26 should be more flexibility. They thought that  
27 there needed to be more stability, this sort of  
28 the tyranny of the last data point, something we  
29 heard a lot of, so this is an attempt to address  
30 a lot of that. But, Mr. Chairman, we're happy to  
31 take questions now, if there are any questions.

32 CHAIRMAN ANSON: And, are there any  
33 questions? Don.

34 MR. MCISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
35 Sam, you heard the folks earlier say that,  
36 perhaps, compared to all the ideas that came out  
37 in our Nation's Fisheries 3 Conference that maybe  
38 80 percent could be taken care of by National  
39 Standard 1 Guidelines.

40  
41 One of the slides here said it doesn't  
42 look like there would be a mandatory FMP  
43 amendment, by any of these ideas. So could you  
44 speak to whether or not you see this as a major  
45 overhaul that could be accomplished this way, or  
46 not, or if when you went through this you  
47 thought, well, this will certainly take care of  
48 the councils' concern about Magnuson



1 reauthorization on that, or this, or the other  
2 things?

3 MR. RAUCH: So the one thing that we  
4 heard repeatedly through the entire process is  
5 that there was not a need for a major overhaul.  
6 Almost universally people believe that the  
7 Magnuson-Stevens Act was working, but there was a  
8 need for some small changes to the whole issue.

9 So it's not a major overhaul. We  
10 didn't hear that. We didn't hear a need for  
11 that. What we heard is that people were -- there  
12 was a lot of fish being left on the table, a lot  
13 of economic value, actually, more so than the  
14 fish, more economic value being left on the table  
15 by the constant raising and lowering of quotas  
16 every year, in response to the last data point.

17 We heard in a lot of data-poor  
18 fisheries that we hadn't give clear guidance that  
19 not every fishery can be managed as if it's the  
20 Alaska pollock fishery. All right? That there  
21 are a lot of fisheries around the country in  
22 which we have very limited data, and to try to  
23 model them on a data-rich fishery creates  
24 inequities, creates difficulties, not only for  
25 the councils, but for the fishermen and the  
26 scientists who have to deal with it.

27 So part of what we're trying to do is  
28 outline tools that the councils can use, with our  
29 blessing. And many of the tools we have on here  
30 are tools that one or more councils have already  
31 used, to say this is an acceptable approach.

32 This addresses a lot of the concerns  
33 we had by the fishermen in this part of the  
34 country, to look at somebody that what we're  
35 doing in another part of the country and it works  
36 there. So they give the councils tools to do  
37 that.

38 So there are not in here requirements  
39 on the councils to change what you've done, other  
40 than we believe you should set out that process  
41 for regularly reviewing your goals and  
42 objectives.

43 But, it does give you the flexibility  
44 when you're doing a fishery management plan, a  
45 few more tools that you've had that we've  
46 pre-cleared that says these are the kinds of  
47 things that you can do, to try to give some  
48 stability, or flexibility, or to deal with

1 data-poor situations, or these other things that  
2 we've mentioned.

3 So I don't know what percentage,  
4 didn't you do the report on Managing Nation's  
5 Fisheries 3? You can calculate up how many of  
6 these that that addressed. I don't, we didn't do  
7 that percentage.

8 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Doug.

9 MR. GREGORY: Yes, certainly, in the  
10 Gulf we don't have the, I guess, the major  
11 problems in the Caribbean that Western Pacific  
12 does, with terms of catches and stuff, but the  
13 thing that's been causing us a lot of trouble is  
14 the incidental species that are caught by a major  
15 fishery, and they're very minor components of the  
16 catch, to the point where they'll never be a  
17 stock assessment.

18 The different techniques that were  
19 listed on one of the graphs, slides, aren't  
20 applicable. So what it does is it forces the SSC  
21 to develop arbitrary methods of pigeon-holing  
22 these stocks into ACLs.

23 And if we could consider these stocks  
24 ecosystem species, or something, where they  
25 didn't require ACLs, then our headaches would go  
26 away, the scientific community's headaches would  
27 go away, because they really don't appreciate,  
28 you know, being forced into developing arbitrary  
29 approaches to things.

30 So the Item Number 2, if the stock is  
31 caught in the fishery and if the fish are kept,  
32 you know, that's the dilemma we have, and this  
33 approach doesn't seem to obviate that.

34 MR. PATRICK: So just to address that  
35 point, we were trying to resolve that issue with  
36 our old definition for ecosystem component  
37 species, which had those, had four criteria that,  
38 two of them were problematic.

39 One was that the stock had to be a  
40 non-target, and the other one was that it was  
41 generally retained, and that seemed to be one of  
42 the main problems for not being able to classify  
43 stock as an ecosystem component species.

44 What we've done in these guidelines is  
45 we've taken away those four criteria, actually,  
46 two of those criteria, because we still say that  
47 if you're likely to become overfished, or you  
48 know that it's overfished, or undergoing a

1 re-fishing, well then, you're in need of  
2 conservation and management. That was part of  
3 our old guidelines, too.

4 And so what we've done is try to  
5 streamline what stocks should be in the fishery,  
6 or in need of conservation and management, and be  
7 less stringent on what these EC species are.

8 And so if your stock assessment  
9 scientists, or SSC, recognize that these minor  
10 components of the fishery aren't overfished,  
11 aren't overfishing, or likely to become so, then  
12 they should have no problem adding them as an EC  
13 species.

14 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Thank you. And thank  
15 you for the good presentation.

16 (Off microphone discussion)

17 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Yeah it's, it's  
18 almost appropriate. It's almost siesta time.  
19 So, Chris.

20 MR. OLIVER: I have two questions. On  
21 the defining depleted stocks, and it's I'm  
22 thinking of a particular, a specific example in  
23 the North Pacific, the walleye and the blue king  
24 crab, which hasn't been fished for decades, and  
25 the small amount that's taken is by catch and  
26 some other fisheries, but we've done the  
27 calculations that basically say, there's nothing  
28 we can do that will either effect, or affect,  
29 rebuilding for this stock.

30 And so the way that this was phrased,  
31 you still would require rebuilding plans, so it  
32 doesn't get us out of that sort of circular,  
33 circular situation where there's nothing we can  
34 do in a rebuilding plan.

35 And so is there, I don't know what my  
36 question is there, exactly, but I don't -- what's  
37 the net effect really of providing a definition  
38 for depletage?

39 (Off microphone discussion)

40 MR. RAUCH: First of all, we can't  
41 change the congressional requirement. The stocks  
42 are technically overfished by the congressional  
43 definition -- the statutory definition, I'm  
44 sorry, the statutory definition, and if you're  
45 overfishing you have to do a rebuilding plan.

46  
47 It does change the kinds of measures  
48 that you might put in a rebuilding plan. You

1 might recognize that their current depressed  
2 status is not being influenced by fishing, at  
3 this point.

4 The only way to rebuild that might be  
5 habitat improvements, or other kinds of things  
6 that can address the more systemic issues. So  
7 you could lay out a plan for that that does not  
8 require, does not focus so much on fishing.

9 But we cannot exempt you from the  
10 requirement to have a rebuilding plan that is a  
11 statutory requirement. Do you want to add  
12 anything to that?

13 MR. PATRICK: Only that another way  
14 that you could look at it, too, but I'm sure you  
15 already have, is looking at whether the  
16 environmental conditions that that species of  
17 crab is experiencing, is it a long-term or  
18 short-term effect that would make you consider  
19 revising the reference points, if you don't think  
20 that that population can rebuild to your  
21 reference point, based on older data of when the  
22 environment was different to a new environment  
23 that maybe will never support that stock to  
24 rebuild to the old levels.

25 (Off microphone discussion)

26 MR. OLIVER: Follow-up. So this may  
27 be an example of where these revisions, sort of,  
28 partly get at some of the concerns that came up  
29 last year, but there may still be legislative  
30 action in tandem that would fully affect, I  
31 guess, some of these issues.

32 But my other question has to do with  
33 allocation and I know we've had a lot of  
34 discussion and some debate about the initiative  
35 to mandate the councils' revisit allocations, and  
36 I know we're going to get to that later in the  
37 Agenda.

38 But I do note that two, or three  
39 places in this proposed rule it refers not only  
40 to reviewing objectives, but to reviewing  
41 allocations. And, I guess, my question is, what  
42 is the net effect of that in here, why is it in  
43 the NS1 revisions, and what's its relationship to  
44 the Agenda item we're going to talk about  
45 tomorrow?

46 (Off microphone discussion)

47 MR. RAUCH: So the relationship to the  
48 -- so if one requires you to revisit, in order to

1 make sure that your optimum yield is set in the  
2 manner that meets the best needs of the country,  
3 the best interest of the Nation, you have to  
4 continuously determine that it meets the best  
5 interest of the Nation today, not three decades  
6 ago.

7 That is one of the drivers for  
8 something we've talked about a lot here. I've  
9 asked you a lot. In order to do that you have to  
10 be able to look at all your goals and objectives.  
11 One of them is the allocations.

12 In determining what is the best  
13 interest of the Nation today? That involves a  
14 determination of what the allocation today is the  
15 right allocation.

16 NS1, as part of our overall objective,  
17 would ask you to set a regular schedule for  
18 looking at that. It doesn't say that you have to  
19 go through the full amendment, but to, much like  
20 you look at your catch share issues today and say  
21 is this still meeting the needs for which we  
22 thought when we designed the program? You would  
23 do something similar to the rest of your goals  
24 and objectives and let people know when that's  
25 going to happen, so that it is not, it is not  
26 random.

27 Now, right now you're going through  
28 the allocation trigger question, which is a very  
29 similar kind of question, figuring out what your  
30 review process should be, when should the  
31 councils look at it? So we do see those as  
32 related. Allocation is merely a subset of the  
33 broader issue, but you can apply many of those  
34 same principles that you're going to talk about  
35 in the allocation triggers to this kind of  
36 question.

37 And we intentionally leave it somewhat  
38 broad, recognizing that different councils will  
39 want to address these on different cycles. And  
40 that's okay, as long as folks know when that's  
41 going to happen. That's what we're asking for.

42 MR. OLIVER: And so if this rule sets  
43 out that requirement, is it moot, our discussion  
44 that's slotted for later in the meeting, or --

45 MR. RAUCH: Well it's a -- first of  
46 all, it's a proposed rule, so it doesn't mean  
47 anything at this point, is what, I think, Tom  
48 said earlier.

1           But, no, I don't think so. I mean, I  
2 think that that discussion is talking about how  
3 the councils might want to, in particular, apply  
4 something like this for the allocation part of  
5 the question. I view that as a subset.

6           I mean, if you look at the National  
7 Standard 1 Guidelines Requirement, it is very  
8 broad. And I think that the effort that the CCC  
9 is undertaking is an effort to put some of its  
10 own internal boundaries on that, or provide some  
11 of their own guidance to the councils on how you  
12 might want to do that. Alan, did you have a  
13 follow-up on that?

14           MR. RISENHOOVER: No that was really  
15 the point. This is, kind of, what needs to be  
16 done. How you do it is what the CCC Subcommittee  
17 is looking at, in particular, allocation.

18           MR. RAUCH: Yeah and as Wes pointed  
19 out to me, there is -- because this was meant to  
20 be in NS1 Guidelines, but it also, it accumulates  
21 parts of 3 and 7, there's also a general revision  
22 to the -- this requirement is in the general  
23 section, so you asked why it's in NS1, it's not  
24 technically in NS1 it's in the general, the  
25 revisions toward General Guidelines.

26           CHAIRMAN ANSON: Tom.

27           MR. NIES: I guess I'm struggling to  
28 understand a little bit about rebuilding and  
29 requirements, or not having the requirement to  
30 modify rebuilding periods and extending time  
31 lines.

32           You know, the Slide 12 says you're not  
33 required to revise Frebuild throughout the course  
34 of a plan, the primary objective is to maintain F  
35 less than Frebuild.

36           And it says unless adequate progress  
37 is not being made, and I assume that means the  
38 official Secretarial determination that adequate  
39 progress is not being made.

40           And it just seems that you could very  
41 easily, and I can probably think of one or two  
42 examples, get in a situation where your catch has  
43 not exceeded your ACLs, so you don't get a  
44 determination that adequate progress is not being  
45 made, but your biomass isn't increasing  
46 appropriately, because your Frebuild really isn't  
47 low enough.

48           And it seems like this is tap dancing

1 around the statutory requirement to have  
2 rebuilding accomplished by a certain end date.  
3 So I struggle to understand exactly how these two  
4 provisions interact with each other and don't  
5 conflict with the statute.

6 MR. PATRICK: So within the statute,  
7 you know, we are supposed to develop a rebuilding  
8 plan to try to rebuild stocks within ten years,  
9 where possible, unless the life history of the  
10 stock doesn't allow for that, or other conditions  
11 like international.

12 And so the approach that we've used in  
13 the past has been somewhat focused on what is the  
14 biomass of the stock. And as we've learned over  
15 the years, and as other research groups have  
16 analyzed what we've been doing, rebuilding plans,  
17 we're kind of coming to the realization that  
18 we're focusing too much on trying to make a stock  
19 rebuild when, maybe, the environment isn't trying  
20 the same thing.

21 So we can't make a stock rebuild  
22 within a certain time frame if the environment,  
23 or average recruitment isn't going to cooperate  
24 with us. And that's caused some problems where  
25 you get toward the end of a rebuilding plan, and  
26 some stakeholders and councils have looked at  
27 dramatically reducing the fishing rate, in order  
28 to rebuild that stock by that specified time,  
29 which was based on a stock assessment projection  
30 that was done, maybe, five, ten, 15, 20 years  
31 ago.

32 And we know that the uncertainty  
33 related to those projections are enormous. And  
34 so trying to, you know, push a stock to rebuild  
35 within a certain time frame, based off an old  
36 estimate, we were trying to de-emphasize and look  
37 more at, you've gone through the process of  
38 identifying how quickly you'd like to rebuild the  
39 stock and you've applied an F rebuild to it, and  
40 we would prefer to just focus on the fishing  
41 mortality rate of the stock.

42 And the stock will rebuild, on  
43 average, on T<sub>max</sub>, but if it doesn't, it's more  
44 than likely related to environmental factors that  
45 were out of our control. Does that help any?

46 MR. NIES: Yeah, I think I understand  
47 the logic pretty well, coming from New England.  
48 But, I guess, with the adequate progress line,

1 when you say, and maybe I'm misinterpreting this,  
2 when you say, Paragraph 1 on your Slide 10,  
3 catches greater than Frebuild, do you mean that  
4 the F that resulted from the catch is greater  
5 than Frebuild, or the catch was greater than the  
6 catch that was projected to come from Frebuild?

7 MR. PATRICK: You could use both. So  
8 we were trying to use language here where we were  
9 looking at adequate progress, and we're supposed  
10 to do it every two years. You may not have a  
11 stock assessment done every two years, but you  
12 might want to rely on the comparison of catches  
13 to your annual catch limit that also aligns with  
14 your Frebuild.

15 And so we were trying to write this  
16 requirement so that it was flexible for those  
17 councils that maybe could use stock assessments  
18 every two years, or those that, maybe, had to  
19 rely on their annual catch limits, catch relative  
20 to annual catch limits.

21 So I would assume that we always would  
22 prefer a stock assessment that tells us what we  
23 think the appropriate catch amount was, but  
24 whenever you don't have that information you can  
25 rely on your catch relative to ACL. That's where  
26 we were trying to make that determination more  
27 flexible, depending on the data that you have.

28 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Rick.

29 MR. ROBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 My question relates to rebuilding, also. And I'm  
31 looking at the slide that has those options for  
32 stocks requiring more than ten years to rebuild.  
33 And it appears that you've explored some  
34 flexibility for those stocks and alternative  
35 methods.

36 But, you know, there's still an  
37 incongruity at the ten-year mark where, you know,  
38 if a stock can be rebuilt within ten years, for  
39 example, if you had a stock that could be rebuilt  
40 within eight, or nine, years, you'd have to do  
41 that, whereas, if it's longer than that, you're  
42 going to treat it very, very differently. And,  
43 you know, I guess, it appears that the guidelines  
44 can't remedy that incongruity.

45 I mean that, you said right up front  
46 that you're operating within the current  
47 statutory framework, you know, I don't know if  
48 there was any exploration of those stocks that



1 can be rebuilt in less than ten years, but it  
2 seems like that's still one of the constraints  
3 we've had.

4 I think the example that we've  
5 discussed in the past was spiny dogfish where,  
6 you know, the initial rebuilding period was five  
7 years, whereas, if it had been Tmax plus a  
8 generation time it would have been closer to 30,  
9 you know, you would have had a very different set  
10 of consequences.

11 I mean, if we had had that range of  
12 flexibility in approaching a rebuilding schedule,  
13 we might have been able to optimize a schedule  
14 that would have considered the biological, as  
15 well as some of the economic considerations.

16 But, I wonder, was there any  
17 expiration on the stocks that can be rebuilt  
18 within ten years, or was that simply off the  
19 table?

20 MR. PATRICK: I think your assumptions  
21 are correct in that we weren't able to look at  
22 those stocks that could rebuild within ten years,  
23 because of that statute.

24 And so the only places where we could  
25 try to help out in rebuilding with this  
26 computation of Tmax is with those stocks that are  
27 greater than ten years, and looking at the type  
28 of data you need to calculate Tmax and try to  
29 provide some flexibility there.

30 (Off microphone discussion)

31 MR. RAUCH: And I think, and you guys  
32 can correct me if I'm wrong, when we looked at  
33 this nationally, there are only a handful of  
34 stocks that actually are less than ten-year  
35 stocks.

36 Most of the stocks are greater than  
37 ten years already, so this does affect the  
38 majority of our stocks. There are ten or so -- I  
39 don't know what the actual number is, maybe it's  
40 a little bit more than that, that can be rebuilt  
41 in less than ten years, where that dichotomy, or  
42 that disjunction, that ten years may make a  
43 difference. But the majority of our stocks are  
44 already beyond ten years, and so this would apply  
45 to all of those.

46 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Chris Moore.

47 MR. MOORE: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.  
48 I've got two questions, one for Sam and one for

1 Wes. Sam --  
2 MR. RAUCH: Which one first?  
3 MR. MOORE: Yes, Sam.  
4 MR. RAUCH: Okay.  
5 MR. MOORE: So I'm a little caffeine  
6 deprived this afternoon, but I really didn't  
7 understand your answer to Chris' question. And,  
8 specifically, if this proposed rule became the  
9 final rule, what would it require the councils to  
10 do, as it regards to allocation and/or planned  
11 goals and objectives?  
12 MR. RAUCH: So what it would require  
13 you to do, well, first of all, it's guidelines,  
14 it doesn't require you to do anything. It's the  
15 National Standard 1 Guidelines and these are our  
16 guidelines.  
17 MR. MOORE: Right.  
18 MR. RAUCH: What we would like you to  
19 do is to articulate for the public, or articulate  
20 a schedule, at which you would regularly revisit  
21 your goals and objectives and determine whether  
22 those are still the right ones, or not, or  
23 whether you wanted to tweak them.  
24 It doesn't mean that you have to do a  
25 fishery management plan amendment, but to go  
26 through a process to decide whether you want to  
27 do a fishery management plan amendment.  
28 So to let the public know, we are  
29 going to in ten, we are doing this fishery  
30 management plan now, in ten years we're going to  
31 revisit it and then you will have an opportunity  
32 then to come back in and see whether it worked,  
33 or not.  
34 But it doesn't require you to do a  
35 fishery management plan amendment, at that time,  
36 just to determine whether or not the goals and  
37 objectives are still the ones, whether you're  
38 still getting the goals and objectives and if  
39 those are the right ones now.  
40 Many of these goals were set in the  
41 '80s. But, so it doesn't actually require you to  
42 do it, but what we want you to do is to set, is  
43 to articulate for the public a schedule at which  
44 you will look at these things.  
45 MR. MOORE: Thanks. Thanks for that,  
46 Sam.  
47 MR. RAUCH: Okay.  
48 MR. MOORE: Mr. Chair, one more. So,

1 Wes, you have a slide. I just lost it, it's an  
2 ABC carryover. It's like towards the end, like,  
3 four.

4 Yes that one. Can you explain that to  
5 me? And, specifically, how does this work if you  
6 have a target out within a given year? How do  
7 you not exceed your target up, if in fact you're  
8 carrying over, I think in your example you say,  
9 500 metric tons?

10 MR. PATRICK: Sure. So under this  
11 example here, we're going to pretend that we did  
12 a stock assessment and we have, at least, a  
13 two-year projection that says in year one the  
14 overfishing limit is 200,000 pounds and in year  
15 two it's 205,000 pounds.

16 And we're going to also assume that we  
17 know that the ABC control is going to be some  
18 percentage of the OFL. And whenever you come  
19 through we're going to also assume that ACL  
20 equals ABC, which most councils have.

21 So in this first year you only caught  
22 169,500 pounds, and so that left 500 pounds, or  
23 metric tons, whatever units you want to use, left  
24 those on the table.

25 And your stock assessment projection  
26 model would assume that you caught those fish  
27 perfectly. It assumed that you caught 170,000  
28 pounds, but because you didn't, that means  
29 there's 500 extra pounds of fish out there that  
30 you could add to next year.

31 But in this example, we're taking into  
32 account natural mortality, because we know some  
33 of those fish will die from the first year to the  
34 second year, so that's going to leave us over  
35 here on this, let's see here, that's going to  
36 lead us over here where we have, instead of 500  
37 pounds leftover, we're only going to carryover  
38 410.

39 And so next year's overfishing limit,  
40 instead of doing 205,000, now it's going to be  
41 205,410, and then we can apply your ABC control  
42 rule again to that, and that's going to be,  
43 instead 174,250, it's going to be 174,498.

44 So all we're doing is taking away  
45 those assumptions from the stock assessment and  
46 those projections about, if you were to catch  
47 your ACL perfectly, this is how much we think you  
48 can take in the following year.

1           If you don't do that and leave some on  
2 the table, how much can you carryover to that  
3 following year and bump up your OFL and your ABC  
4 and your ACL to take advantage of those loss  
5 yield?

6           MR. MOORE: So, if I may, Mr. Chair,  
7 just as follow-up. So you actually then have to  
8 do a recalculation and you have to go through a  
9 new, or an updated year assessment, before you  
10 actually could figure out how much you can  
11 carryover, is that what you're saying, or are you  
12 saying there's an automatic, sort of, way of  
13 doing this without additional stock assessment  
14 analysis?

15           MR. PATRICK: We think that you can  
16 use this without updating your stock assessment.  
17 If you could update your stock assessment, that  
18 would be the best way to do it. So if you were  
19 able to turn the crank, and get the new numbers,  
20 that works the best.

21           But from talking to Rick Methot, the  
22 stock assessment process, you can do other things  
23 like, he talked about how you can develop, when  
24 you do a stock assessment you could have your  
25 stock assessment scientists develop a matrix of  
26 what if statements, what if we only took a 90  
27 percent, 50 percent of the catch and it would  
28 give you what the new value of the overfishing  
29 limit would be for the following year.

30           And then, I'm assuming also that your  
31 SSCs could come up with an approach where they  
32 could do this kind of analysis themselves on an  
33 annual basis to revise those estimates, too, so  
34 you don't need to update your stock assessment,  
35 but it would be the best way.

36           MR. MOORE: Thanks.

37           CHAIRMAN ANSON: Don.

38           MR. MCISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
39 A follow-up on that. You indicated earlier that  
40 some of these things are being used in certain  
41 parts of the country already.

42           The to address safety at sea issues  
43 caught my eye. If there was a need to do this  
44 that's unassociated with safety at sea, but maybe  
45 business planning for a catch year program, you  
46 think that's an eligible consideration here?

47           And I'm not sure if those three  
48 bullets at the bottom get to the point of, you

1 led up to carryover. We had talked about ten  
2 percent carryover in our council arena, for  
3 example.

4 So in the guidance, if it was adopted  
5 now, as proposed here, is there a limit on the  
6 amount of carryover, and is that at safety at sea  
7 issue some sort of critical qualifier?

8 MR. PATRICK: So the safety at sea is  
9 not a qualifier for using this carryover  
10 provision. I brought that up, because it was one  
11 of the primary things back in the day when it was  
12 just primarily used for catch share fisheries.

13 That made it a very appealing type of  
14 management tool, because it meant that these  
15 folks with their catch shares maybe didn't have  
16 to go out at the end of the year and try to use  
17 up their entire quota. If there was a bad storm  
18 they could carry that over to the next year.

19 And so those good management tools  
20 have spilled over into non-catch share fisheries.  
21 And like you said, there were some councils, or  
22 some discussions of being able to carryover large  
23 portions of catch.

24 And in some cases that large portion  
25 of the catch that they did do at some councils,  
26 exceeded the SSC's recommendation for ABC, and we  
27 got sued over that and lost.

28 And so any type of carryover that we  
29 have that our proposed rule lays out is that you  
30 need to make sure that it still prevents  
31 overfishing and that the amount of carryover  
32 doesn't exceed the ABC specified by the SSC.

33 So the reason we put it in this ABC  
34 Control Rule Section of the proposed rule is so  
35 that if it did happen to exceed what you thought  
36 the ABC would be for this year, that the SSC  
37 could take that opportunity to go through and  
38 revise their ABC Control Rule so that it wouldn't  
39 be illegal under that case law that we've had.

40 MR. RAUCH: Yes, the issue with just  
41 the ten percent carryover that was the measure,  
42 the kind of measure that we lost on, and the  
43 situation there was a declining stock.

44 The new stock assessment comes in that  
45 approves his stock, but the stock was more  
46 healthier, and the new stock assessment says it's  
47 not as healthy and we have to cut the cord a lot,  
48 and so can you carry that over?

1           If you carry it over ten percent that  
2 would result in overfishing in the next year when  
3 the chords are reduced, and so you can't just do  
4 a blanket ten percent, or a de minimis carryover,  
5 it's essentially, the word de minimis, well, what  
6 the court said is, yes, you have to evaluate the  
7 impact of that carryover on overfishing.

8           And that's what we're trying to say  
9 here, carryover is a good useful tool, to safely  
10 say well that's a good use for it. It's a tool,  
11 but we do have to evaluate the overfishing  
12 implications, you can't just do a blanket ten  
13 percent carryover, without analyzing what effect  
14 that might have.

15           CHAIRMAN ANSON: And so, I guess, Wes,  
16 or Sam, a stable fishery, I didn't catch it  
17 earlier if you described what a stable fishery  
18 is, is that just one that's frequently assessed  
19 and it's, you know, it's not the, ABC's not being  
20 exceeded, is that a stable fishery, or what does  
21 that mean?

22           MR. PATRICK: So a stable fishery,  
23 related to carryover, or just our general  
24 statement about how to stabilize the catch in  
25 fisheries?

26           CHAIRMAN ANSON: Well, you just had  
27 the title up there, Stable Fisheries, so for as  
28 it relates to carryover ABC and a --

29           MR. PATRICK: Oh, okay.

30           CHAIRMAN ANSON: -- stable fishery,  
31 what is a stable fishery?

32           MR. PATRICK: So in my example here,  
33 yes, it was trying to look at fisheries where you  
34 know that carryover wouldn't contribute to more  
35 overfishing in the stock.

36           Just like Sam just said, is that, yes,  
37 there is going to be ebbs and flows in the  
38 population of the stock, but if you have one that  
39 is continuing declining carryover, you'd have to  
40 be very careful on how you use that, if at all.

41           MR. RAUCH: Yes. So let me tell you  
42 some of the things that we've heard, in terms of  
43 economic stability, a fisherman goes out there  
44 and fishes at 100 fish this year. And next  
45 year's stock assessment comes back and says well,  
46 you need a huge reduction, you can only catch 30  
47 percent. Well, that's going to destabilize it,  
48 right, because he's going to have to take those

1 economic losses.

2 The same would be true if it went up,  
3 though, if they say, all of a sudden, now you can  
4 take 10,000 fish, then there would be no  
5 infrastructure to be able to do that.

6 And so stability is an effort to try  
7 to get to where you can own the value of the  
8 fishery, by giving the fishermen a little bit  
9 more certainty that they will get a similar  
10 amount of fish every year. That's what, when I'm  
11 thinking about stability, I'm looking at it in  
12 terms of those economic terms.

13 Now there are environmental primers  
14 that you still have to deal with, you can't allow  
15 fishing, those kind of things. But in the  
16 efforts to try to build in some stability there,  
17 so that we can eliminate where we can some of  
18 these wild swings that we've seen in some of our  
19 fisheries, which doesn't do anybody any good.  
20 And, as we've seen in the most, we're reacting to  
21 the most uncertain data point when we do that.

22 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Do we have any other  
23 questions? All right. Well, Sam and Wes, thank  
24 you very much for the presentation.

25 MR. RAUCH: Thank you.

26 CHAIRMAN ANSON: That puts us a little  
27 ahead of schedule, and so we could do a couple of  
28 things here. I'm going to throw out some  
29 suggestions, or some options. We could take the  
30 break now, a little earlier, and then continue on  
31 with the rest of the Agenda, we could go forward  
32 with the rest of the agenda items without a break  
33 and finish up a little early, potentially, any  
34 thoughts? Take a break? All right, so we'll  
35 take a break.

36 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
37 went off the record at 3:40 p.m. and resumed at  
38 4:05 p.m.)

39 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, we're  
40 going to continue on with the Agenda. The next  
41 item is, Eileen is going to talk about the  
42 Presidential Task Force on Combating IUU Fishing  
43 and Seafood Fraud.

44 MS. SOBECK: Great. Thanks. I wanted  
45 to give you guys a short overview of where we are  
46 on this issue, partly because this is probably  
47 the main area where Dr. Sullivan, the NOAA  
48 Administrator, has really dug in and spent

1 personal time on a NOAA Fisheries issue.

2 And so it's been a good, but  
3 different, point of entry. But she's interested.  
4 She's been really depending on NOAA Fisheries and  
5 the support that we've been giving her, along  
6 with Russell Smith, from the NOAA International  
7 Office, to help her formulate her views.

8 But there are a couple of portions  
9 that may well affect you guys more directly than  
10 others, so I wanted just to do a quick recap on  
11 where we are and what you might want to be  
12 looking for in terms of milestones on this in the  
13 upcoming weeks and months.

14 So as you know, this Task Force arose  
15 out of our ocean conference hosted by Secretary  
16 Kerry last spring, and there was a Presidential  
17 Memorandum that set up this IUU and Seafood Fraud  
18 Task Force.

19 It does acknowledge that IUU fishing  
20 is a global threat to sustainable management of  
21 the world's fisheries, and it undermines efforts  
22 to enhance food security, and it allows for  
23 unfair market advantage to nations and parts of  
24 industry that engage in IUU fishing, to the  
25 detriment of fisheries like U.S. fisheries that  
26 are sustainably managed.

27 There is also, in addition to the IUU  
28 portion of the Task Force, the Task Force is also  
29 charged with looking into seafood fraud, which is  
30 focused mainly on seafood mislabeling, with  
31 respect to species, country of origin, quantity,  
32 quality, and which undermines the economic  
33 viability and the ability of consumers to make  
34 informed purchasing choices and threatens  
35 consumers' confidence.

36 So where are we, the NOAA is Co-Chair  
37 of the Task Force. Dr. Sullivan is our  
38 representative, along with Department of State,  
39 under Secretary Cathy Novelli, is the State  
40 Department Co-Chair.

41 And as you can see, with the agencies  
42 listed below there are a number of different  
43 agencies that have been actively engaged in the  
44 work of the Task Force. It has been an  
45 inter-agency collaborative effort.

46 And, actually, I think that one of the  
47 main benefits we're going to get from this Task  
48 Force is having a number of these agencies, among



1       them, FDA and Homeland Security, give some of our  
2       seafood enforcement at the border issues a higher  
3       priority.

4               And we have engaged at a pretty high  
5       level on those efforts and I actually think that  
6       that's going to pay off. Some of these areas  
7       we've been trying for a number of years to get  
8       some traction, and we've had good interactions at  
9       the staff level, but I think that we have an  
10      opportunity here to bump this up a couple of  
11      priority levels.

12              Because these other agencies'  
13      sustainable fisheries is not necessarily their  
14      highest priority, and so having this window of  
15      opportunity for the President and the  
16      Administration to tell them that they need to pay  
17      a bit more attention is one that we want to take  
18      advantage of.

19              Okay. Yes, the President, this is  
20      just the, kind of, basic milestones, the  
21      Presidential Memorandum came out in June of last  
22      year. Then there was a period of public  
23      engagement where we got feedback.

24              There was a Federal Register Notice.  
25      There were a number of public meetings. There  
26      were some demarches that went out to some of the  
27      major nations that we have significant fisheries  
28      imports from, to get their input.

29              Then in December, the Task Force put  
30      out 15 recommendations. Those recommendations  
31      are final. We did solicit public input on the  
32      implementation of those recommendations, and the  
33      comment period on asking for that input on  
34      implementation closed, I think, January 20th,  
35      towards the end of January, and so we are  
36      currently reviewing the public comments and  
37      developing an implementation plan.

38              So of the 15 recommendations, they  
39      fall, generally, into four categories,  
40      International Governance, Enforcement,  
41      Partnerships, and Traceability.

42              The international recommendations are  
43      the first seven. The first seven  
44      recommendations, the first one has to do with  
45      Port State Measures, specifically, securing U.S.  
46      implementation legislation and seeking global  
47      entry and to force of the port states measures  
48      agreement, by getting the requisite number of

1 other nations necessary to sign on.

2 Number 2 directs us to help develop,  
3 refine, and seek RFMO, adoption of best  
4 practices. Number 3, regarding Maritime Domain  
5 Awareness, is focused on ensuring that IUU  
6 fishing is included in the larger U.S. Government  
7 Maritime efforts.

8 Number 4 is to use existing and future  
9 free trade agreements to combat IUU and seafood  
10 fraud. Number 5 is to pursue international  
11 commitments to eliminate fisheries subsidies that  
12 contribute to excess fishing capacities and  
13 overfishing by 2020.

14 Number 6 is a capacity building  
15 measure, which directs us to work with partners  
16 to prioritize sustainable fisheries management  
17 and efforts to combat IUU and seafood fraud.

18 And Number 7 just addresses diplomatic  
19 efforts, generally, to maintain IUU fishing and  
20 seafood fraud is a priority and to enhance  
21 international political, the will to make this  
22 happen.

23 I don't mean to minimize these, these  
24 are all extremely important, and I think that  
25 NOAA fisheries has an interest in, essentially,  
26 all of these. We don't necessarily have the lead  
27 on these, but to the extent that you all have any  
28 recommendations about how these should be  
29 implemented, by all means, let us know.  
30 Enforcement recommendations. And I know we have,  
31 I think I saw Todd here, yesterday?

32 If anybody has questions about these,  
33 we have a number of recommendations that pertain  
34 to enforcement. Number 8 directs us to develop a  
35 strategy with deadlines to optimize the  
36 collection, sharing, and analyses of information  
37 resources, including forensic analysis.

38 Number 9 directs the agencies to  
39 leverage existing and future customs mutual  
40 assistance agreements to make sure that we can  
41 exchange relevant information and work with  
42 foreign customs administrations.

43 Number 10 requires us to standard, or  
44 directs us to standardize and clarify  
45 identification rules and try to adjust U.S.  
46 Tariff Codes to enhance identification in trade  
47 of species that are subject to IUU fishing.  
48 Obviously, that's a heavy lift over a significant

1 period of time.

2 Eleven is, I think this is an  
3 interesting one to improve, information sharing  
4 for enforcement purposes, and develop tools for  
5 state and local action.

6 Some of the transactions that have  
7 been identified in this process having to do with  
8 seafood fraud and improper species identification  
9 of what the consumer is getting, some of those  
10 are happening at the state and local level and  
11 the reality is NOAA, FDA, there's probably no  
12 federal enforcement authority, so we need to work  
13 with our state and local partners to see that  
14 they are appropriately engaged.

15 And that leads us to the last, which  
16 is to really identify what authorities, if any,  
17 are lacking to accomplish some of the goals that  
18 folks really want us to have to combat IUU and  
19 seafood fraud.

20 I think that one of the things that we  
21 did accomplish in the discussions surrounding  
22 this Task Force is that federal agencies don't  
23 necessarily have a firm understanding of what  
24 each other's authorities are, and that Customs,  
25 we don't necessarily have a perfect understanding  
26 of what authorities Customs and Homeland Security  
27 has, they don't have a perfect understanding of  
28 our authorities.

29 We all didn't necessarily understand  
30 what FDA's authorities are, and so I think that  
31 there are some potential enforcement gaps, and if  
32 people want us to enforce particular links in the  
33 supply chain, or particular kinds of activity, we  
34 will need some additional enforcement authority.  
35 So that is what the aim of Number 12 is.

36 The third category is Partnership  
37 Recommendations. Just one in this category. I  
38 think that there was a consensus during the  
39 outreach effort that there were a lot of good  
40 ideas from harvesters, importers, dealers,  
41 retailers, processors, NGOs, about what  
42 priorities are out there, how they should be  
43 addressed, what can be done by the private  
44 sector, what should be, must be done by the  
45 Government?

46 And I think that we're all looking for  
47 a more regular forum to enhance those  
48 collaborative efforts and make sure that we have

1 a constant back and forth flow of information.

2 And then, the final category are the  
3 Traceability recommendations. And in a minute  
4 I'm going to ask Sam to talk a little bit more  
5 about what this might mean.

6 Interestingly, there are only two of  
7 the 15 recommendations that pertain to  
8 traceability, and I think it's worth emphasizing  
9 that, you know, there are a lot of other, you  
10 know, the first 13 really are important for us to  
11 get a handle on IUU and seafood fraud, it's not  
12 all about traceability, but this was an area that  
13 there was, of course, a lot of input from the  
14 public and from all sectors of the public.

15 So the first recommendation, Number  
16 14, directed us to identify and develop a list of  
17 information and types of operational standards  
18 and gave us six months to figure out what those  
19 types of information, operational standards,  
20 should be, with input from industry and other  
21 stakeholders, regarding a traceability system.

22 And then, Number 15 gives us 18 months  
23 to establish the first phase of a risk-based  
24 traceability program to track seafood from the  
25 point of harvest to entering into U.S. commerce.

26 So Sam's going to talk a little bit  
27 about those two elements in a minute, I just want  
28 to talk to you for one more second about where we  
29 are and where we're going.

30 The next steps is that we did receive  
31 public comment, 48 comments, through the Federal  
32 Register Notice, many of them quite comprehensive  
33 and lengthy.

34 And then, interestingly, 28 countries  
35 responded to the demarches we sent out, so a lot  
36 of nations that export to the United States have  
37 views about what we're going to do.

38 We are in the process, as we are  
39 reviewing these public comments, to develop a  
40 Task Force report with further implementation  
41 steps.

42 And we are going to be at the Boston  
43 Seafood Expo in March and expect to have an  
44 opportunity for stakeholder engagement at that  
45 event. So hope to see some of you there.

46 And we will keep you up-to-date.  
47 There is a Web page, so if you're looking for the  
48 text of the Presidential Memorandum, or the text

1 of the specific recommendations, and when we have  
2 the implementation plan it will also be posted on  
3 this Website, and we will be happy to give you  
4 more detail, if you need it.

5 And before we end, I want to let Sam  
6 opine a little bit more on what, parse out a  
7 little bit what those last, the Recommendations  
8 14 and 15, what we think they mean. Thanks.

9 MR. RAUCH: All right. Thank you,  
10 Eileen. So before I talk about the details, I  
11 want to reiterate a point that the efforts here  
12 apply both domestically and internationally.

13 Some of the tools that we were talking  
14 about are different, but in part, because of Free  
15 Trade Agreements and everything, we have to  
16 maintain equity in what we apply internationally  
17 that we make sure we also do domestically.

18 The fact of the matter is we think,  
19 domestically, we manage our fisheries very well.  
20 We think that there is very little IUU fishing  
21 and what little there is, some of our enforcement  
22 agents here do a really good job dealing with it.

23 Seafood fraud's a little bit different  
24 issue. NOAA Fisheries doesn't have a lot of  
25 great tools to deal with that, unless you are  
26 partnering with our Seafood Inspection Program.  
27 We're concerned about that, but on the IUU, at  
28 least, we have a robust program that deals with  
29 it, and we've been dealing with it for decades.

30 So let me talk about the traceability  
31 aspects. And at the moment it keys on species  
32 that are at risk of significant IUU fishing, or  
33 seafood fraud. So that is a subset of all of the  
34 species that we deal with.

35 There is a goal in the recommendations  
36 of eventually going to a more comprehensive,  
37 system dealing with something broader than that  
38 list of at-risk stocks.

39 And, at the moment, the  
40 recommendations are all focused on for  
41 enforcement purposes only. The federal  
42 government would collect this information, share  
43 it with the various enforcement elements within  
44 the federal government, but not share it with the  
45 public.

46 In part that's because of the Magnuson  
47 Act, which is one of our main information  
48 collection tools, precludes sharing this, because

1 of the confidentiality requirement.

2 But there's also part of this that  
3 would look at mechanisms to be able to share it  
4 more broadly. It doesn't say that that's the  
5 ultimate goal, unlike the conferences system.

6 So right now, though, I want to talk  
7 about how we're going to, how this envisions it  
8 being implemented for those at-risk stocks. The  
9 first step is to identify what kinds of  
10 information you would need.

11 And there's, in the recommendations  
12 there's examples, it's basically the who, what,  
13 where, when, who did the fishing, what's the name  
14 of the vessel, what the fish was, what kind of  
15 gear?

16 Where? Where has been a big issue,  
17 because, currently, in many instances we can  
18 collect a generic where, you know, off the State  
19 of Virginia, maybe, but for a longitude thing we  
20 don't collect very many questions, and that's  
21 very difficult. So getting the specificity for  
22 where down has been an issue, will be an issue.

23 So you would do that. The operational  
24 standards, we've got a lot of questions about  
25 what that is. Well, what that is, file it  
26 electronically. No matter what we do we want it  
27 electronic.

28 For the international things, does it  
29 have to be filed with the International Trade  
30 Data System, or the system that Customs  
31 maintains, is there a form? This is what we mean  
32 by operational standards. How you actually have  
33 to file it. How long do you have to keep that  
34 information? Is it verifiable? Those are  
35 operational standards, as opposed to the types of  
36 information.

37 So within six months you identify  
38 that, and we're still working out exactly the  
39 details of that, but at some point they, my view  
40 is there will likely be a set of minimum  
41 standards that we would like to seek, recognizing  
42 that in many of the fisheries we collect much  
43 more of this data.

44 I mean, we have fisheries around the  
45 country that collect a lot more data than I can  
46 see are going to be needed for traceability, but  
47 there'll be a minimum set.

48 Then, once we've collected that, we

1 are to work with our fellow agencies in  
2 identifying what the at-risk species are. Now,  
3 domestically, we've been looking into this. I  
4 think we collect the who, what, where, and when,  
5 in some fashion, on the vast majority of our  
6 federal fisheries.

7 It's not 100 percent, but it is, seems  
8 to me, it's maybe more than 70 percent. And I  
9 don't know the exact percentage. And it varies  
10 in different parts of the country. It actually  
11 varies into one that is a federally-collected, or  
12 whether the states collect it and share it with  
13 us.

14 But we collect the who, what, where,  
15 and when, on the vast majority of domestic  
16 federal fish stocks, and many state stocks, as  
17 well. Certainly, Mid-Atlantic States Commission  
18 where you've got a better sense of that, there  
19 may be some purely state stocks in other areas of  
20 the country. But, in the U.S. we collect that.

21 So as I've been trying to think about  
22 what definition of at-risk stocks we would apply  
23 that would actually increase the data collection  
24 requirement in the United States, and it's not  
25 clear to me that there are any. There might be.

26 There might be a stock which is  
27 at-risk of significant IUU fishing or seafood  
28 fraud that we currently don't collect the who,  
29 what, where, and when. But I'm having trouble of  
30 thinking of what that would be.

31 I think that it is very likely for  
32 domestic stocks, when we do the list of at-risk  
33 stocks, it will be some subset of stocks that we  
34 currently collect in some fashion that kind of  
35 information, but there may be others.

36 For the domestic stocks, if indeed we  
37 come up, we find at the end of the day that there  
38 is an at-risk stock that we don't collect the  
39 who, what, where, and when, the recommendations  
40 envision that we, as a federal agency, will come  
41 back to you for federally species to try to  
42 create a data collection program for that.

43 I think it's unlikely that we'll be  
44 doing that, but it may happen. And we would work  
45 with you on that. We would say this stock is  
46 at-risk of illegal fishing and we need more data  
47 on that. The kind of thing that we talk about  
48 with you all the time. But I think it's very

1 unlikely we'll do that, because I would imagine  
2 we already have a data collection program, and we  
3 won't know until we go through the process.

4 That'll be domestically. It's also  
5 possible that there will be a state species, in  
6 which case we'll reach out to our state partners  
7 similarly. That, whether we can actually get a  
8 program implemented, or not, remains to be seen,  
9 with our state program, partners.

10 Internationally, we collect, there is  
11 a much smaller subset of fisheries that we  
12 collect that who, what, where, and when, data.  
13 Some of our tuna fisheries we do. The two fish  
14 fisheries from Antarctica we do, and a few  
15 others. We usually collect them through the  
16 electronic forms that apply at the border through  
17 Customs.

18 But at the moment that's all we do,  
19 and it is unclear, right now, whether we have the  
20 authority to impose a stronger requirement on  
21 those international stocks. So if, indeed, we  
22 find that an international stock is subject to  
23 significant IUU fishing, and I think we will, and  
24 we find that we currently don't collect that data  
25 at the border, and I think we will likely will  
26 find that, unlike domestic fisheries, we are  
27 still working with our friends at the Customs  
28 Agency about how, how and under what authority we  
29 would go through and impose additional data  
30 collection on importers.

31 So I can't talk about that, because  
32 we're still working through that. But the idea  
33 is that we would do that, for a list of at-risk  
34 stocks we would either, under existing authority,  
35 or we would seek authority to impose similar data  
36 collections on importers to the kinds of data  
37 that we impose on ourselves.

38 So when we do that at the port of  
39 entrance, so that's, for importers, the point of  
40 first sale, point of entry, where ever you file  
41 your Customs form there, we would then, so  
42 that's, within 18 months they want that program  
43 to be up and running.

44 It's unclear exactly, we are working,  
45 in the next report we will spell out more of what  
46 we think that up and running looks like and  
47 what's going to happen between now and 18 months  
48 from now.



1                   But there will be some sort of process  
2 in which we identify the at-risk stocks, which we  
3 will come back, if we think that there is one,  
4 domestically, that we need more information to  
5 come back to you. If we think there's one  
6 internationally, when we go through whatever  
7 process we identified to do that.

8                   Within a year we are supposed to  
9 evaluate the program and come up with proposals  
10 for how you would expand it to be more  
11 comprehensive, which is to mean all fish stocks,  
12 and also, what it would look like if you were  
13 going to share it more with the consumer, which  
14 we currently are not envisioned, this system is  
15 not envisioned to do.

16                   So that is, basically, the  
17 Traceability Program, as it's laid out there. It  
18 is an important piece, it is not the only piece  
19 in there, but it is an important tool to get at  
20 this IUU issue.

21                   MS. SOBECK: And I'm happy to open it  
22 up to questions, and would only note that, you  
23 know, the Administration takes this seriously and  
24 has really been pushing us to deliver and to come  
25 up with these recommendations and the  
26 implementation plan.

27                   We made it really clear that part of  
28 what makes U.S. fisheries sustainable is having a  
29 viable and real enforcement effort, and that if  
30 we wanted to expand, to encompass all of the  
31 kinds of recommendations that were made here, we  
32 would need some additional enforcement resources,  
33 and you see that reflected in the President's  
34 budget that \$3 Million Dollar bump. So just  
35 mentioning that. It continues to get high-level  
36 Administration attention, so it is going to  
37 happen.

38                   So with that, we're happy to open it  
39 up to questions and, you know, stay tuned for the  
40 implementation plan in the next few weeks, or  
41 couple months.

42                   CHAIRMAN ANSON: Kitty.

43                   MS. SIMONDS: Just to say that, we  
44 sent in four pages of comments. And, obviously,  
45 we agree on many of these things. I guess, the  
46 problem is the how, because if you expect our  
47 territories to inspect logs and things like that,  
48 you know, they're going to need training and

1 funds to do that.

2 In fact, the biggest bust that  
3 happened out there was not on the water, but was  
4 at port in American Samoa. Those logbooks of a  
5 Spanish purse seiner was reviewed, you know, and  
6 that's how they, they had to pay \$5 Million  
7 Dollars. So I mean, for us out there that's  
8 important, port state inspection.

9 And the other thing is that, you know,  
10 one of the things that's talked about is curbing  
11 subsidies. I, you know, China is the biggest  
12 company that, I mean nation, that subsidizes  
13 everything. I wonder how you'd go about dealing  
14 with China and curbing their subsidies?

15 I mean, these are really, really  
16 difficult things to do. And, obviously, when we  
17 go to these international meetings and  
18 conservation measurers are agreed upon, the U.S.  
19 is the only country that comes back and does  
20 regulations, domestic relations, you know, the  
21 foreign countries don't do that.

22 So I mean, that's another problem that  
23 we have out there. Because when all the  
24 countries report back in, everybody makes a  
25 checklist of yes, yes, yes, yes, but you can  
26 never, I mean, you know, you don't know, because  
27 they don't have legislation, so people are just  
28 BS'ing, is what's happening.

29 I mean, there's just a lot to deal  
30 with. That's all I'm saying. Because we, you  
31 know, we witnessed many of these problems  
32 ourselves out there, so I wish you luck.

33 MS. SOBECK: I think you're absolutely  
34 right, these solutions are not going to be easy  
35 and it's not as if we haven't been trying to  
36 tackle some of them for many years.

37 And I guess all I can say is, you  
38 know, we have the opportunity here to get some  
39 support from some of the other federal agencies  
40 and to, sort of, get a bit more awareness and  
41 maybe a bit more, in terms of resources.

42 That being said, we can't snap our  
43 fingers and have an immediate solution. You  
44 know, a lot of these are going to be over time  
45 and we're setting time frames and being pushed to  
46 meet them, so hopefully they'll be, but I hear  
47 you, and I think we tried over and over and over  
48 again at every opportunity at these Task Force

1 meetings to, you know, point out that our  
2 industry is sustainable and has done that at a  
3 significant price, and so we're happy to do all  
4 of these things that are, hopefully, going to  
5 result in a more level playing field. But, yes,  
6 we've got a ways to go.

7 MS. SIMONDS: Well here's an example,  
8 a Costco in Honolulu, they sale fish from  
9 Indonesia, and they use our Hawaiian name,  
10 Opakapaka. And that's not Opakapaka. So, you  
11 know, I suppose, as long as the stores, and some  
12 of them do that, all the fish are labeled from  
13 the Philippines, or from here, or there, that  
14 does happen in certain stores, but that's one  
15 that has always bothered us all these years about  
16 using Hawaiian names on fish that comes from  
17 other countries.

18 MS. SOBECK: But that's a good example  
19 of that's not a violation of federal law, right?  
20 So --

21 MS. SIMONDS: Not yet.

22 MS. SOBECK: Yes, exactly. But, I  
23 guess, I'm just saying, so the question is how  
24 are we going to address that? And I do think  
25 that there has been an educational process that  
26 there were a lot of Task Force members and  
27 members of the public, who thought that we could  
28 do a lot that we can't do, in terms of  
29 enforcement.

30 And that's a good example, you know,  
31 why aren't the feds in there doing something  
32 about that? And so the question is, if people  
33 want us to do that, we have to get the authority,  
34 or we have to figure out who has it and try to  
35 implement it effectively. Sam, what were you --

36 MS. SIMONDS: Well, what we try to do  
37 is work with the State, of course, you know, so I  
38 wasn't saying that you should do that, I was just  
39 giving you an example of, you know, one of those  
40 seafood labeling things that you had up there.

41 MR. RAUCH: If I could? That, I don't  
42 know the details of that, the two things that  
43 you, there is a country of origin labeling law,  
44 so all food products, unless it's processed,  
45 have, and it sounds like they do that.

46 But that may well be fraud, if  
47 something is marketed as one thing and it's not.  
48 But all frauds aren't federal. So that is a,

1 usually, fraud is a state law, or local law,  
2 issue, consumer fraud, and that's how it's  
3 prosecuted.

4 That is why one of the provisions,  
5 which one was it, 11, was to provide tools to  
6 state and local governments, so that they can  
7 better prosecute that kind of fraud.

8 A lot of that is genetic testing of  
9 the seafood. The state, they don't even know who  
10 to ask to verify whether this species is the  
11 right species. Well, we can help them with that.  
12 We can help them with kind of the model pleadings  
13 and things like that.

14 We can't bring cases for them, but we  
15 can make it easier for them to bring cases. And  
16 that's why Number 11 is very important to get to  
17 that kind of thing.

18 CHAIRMAN ANSON: Any other questions?  
19 All right. Well, thank you, Eileen. That takes  
20 us to our next topic, and that's Update on MSA  
21 Operational Guidelines by Marian Macpherson.

22 MS. MACPHERSON: Okay. Hi. I'm  
23 Marian Macpherson. I work in the Office of  
24 Sustainable Fisheries, and have been working with  
25 many of you guys on the Operational Guidelines  
26 Project for a while, so I don't need to spend too  
27 much time talking about the background.

28 But, basically, just as the overview,  
29 what are they? They are the document that we  
30 have for explaining how the councils can work  
31 together to comply with all of our legal  
32 requirements that come from Magnuson Act, and all  
33 the other applicable laws we have to comply with.

34 And the first operational guidelines  
35 were developed back in 1979, and they have  
36 changed periodically throughout the years when  
37 there's been a need, change in the law, change in  
38 other situations, and the last update was in  
39 1997, although, we did a draft in 2005, that was  
40 never finalized.

41 So why are we doing it now? Lots of  
42 good reasons. A big one is just to reflect the  
43 changing relationships, the working relationships  
44 that have evolved between NMFS and the councils  
45 over the last few years, we've made a lot of  
46 progress in moving ahead, in terms of teamwork  
47 and better transparency, and our guidelines need  
48 to reflect that.

1           Also, back in 2013, the Office of  
2 Inspector General did a review of our procedures  
3 for doing rulemaking and the Magnuson Act and  
4 they found, for the most part, we were doing  
5 things right, and that we were complying with all  
6 our requirements, but there were some ways we  
7 could improve.

8           And one of their recommendations was  
9 that we finalize the 2000 draft operational  
10 guidelines. So we developed a response to those  
11 recommendations, and we sent in an action plan  
12 explaining that it really wasn't appropriate to  
13 finalize the 2005 draft, because things have  
14 changed since then.

15           We've adopted a lot of those  
16 recommendations. We pilot tested some things  
17 that didn't work out well, and we're currently in  
18 a different spot and we think we can make better  
19 process by moving forward with something new.

20           So we've been working, the CCC  
21 convened a subcommittee back in 2013. This is  
22 the progress we've made on this initiative, this  
23 most recent initiative, and the schedule that  
24 we've submitted, we've been following along the  
25 schedule, was to begin with developing, take a  
26 fresh look at our goals and objectives.

27           Are we still, what are trying to  
28 achieve with this? And we've worked with the CCC  
29 Subcommittee to do that. We presented an options  
30 paper last February at the meeting here to, you  
31 know, illustrate different approaches of moving  
32 forward.

33           Out of that effort, we developed the  
34 idea of having a best practices workshop, which  
35 Fisheries Forum helped convene press in Seattle  
36 last summer where we had council people, agency  
37 people together in an facilitated room, just  
38 sharing approaches that work.

39           I mean, just having each region  
40 council share how the details actually are  
41 working today in their particular areas and  
42 everyone trying to learn from each other, what's  
43 working, what can we memorialize, where do we  
44 have commonalities that, you know, that we can  
45 describe, uniformly, in a national document and  
46 where are things really functioning fine through  
47 more region-specific agreements?

48           So based on that information, we've

1 put together this draft, which is highlighted in  
2 red, this is today. This is going to be most  
3 people's first opportunity to really talk with us  
4 about what the draft looks like. It's our first  
5 draft, so I just want to point that out.

6 We're looking for feedback on  
7 approach. Some of the details haven't even been  
8 filled in yet, if this is a good approach, then  
9 our target for finalizing this document is in  
10 September, so we've got some time to work on it.  
11 But we just want to see, are we going in the  
12 right direction, based on where we've been so  
13 far?

14 Okay, so what is the approach?  
15 Basically, we have a very short operational  
16 guideline document, it's four pages. It has an  
17 introductory section that sets forth our goals  
18 and objectives, and then there's a set of six  
19 overarching guiding principles and a discussion  
20 of how those can be used at the region council  
21 level.

22 It then includes another 26 pages of  
23 appendixes that build on some of the information  
24 in previous drafts that are not crafted as  
25 guidelines, per say, and that are intended to be  
26 able to, sort of, be living documents, because  
27 they will evolve over time as our relationships  
28 evolve.

29 But the idea was to lay them out there  
30 to enhance transparency, I mean, among ourselves  
31 for us to learn from each other and for the  
32 public, also, to be able to easily identify how  
33 to effectively participate.

34 So what are the goals? The goals that  
35 we were trying to achieve were, basically, to  
36 promote and continually improve the quality of  
37 fishery management decisions and documentations,  
38 and then also promote a better process, a timely  
39 effective, and transparent public process.

40 So objectives help us achieve those  
41 goals are simplifying and speeding the flow of  
42 work, increasing transparency, and where  
43 appropriate, achieve standardization, recognizing  
44 that it's not always appropriate in every  
45 situation, there are reasons for the variations  
46 that we have.

47 So the guiding principles, these are  
48 the heart of the draft operational guidelines.

1 The intent of this approach would be, this would  
2 be the part that's not so much of a living  
3 document, not as regularly changing and adapting,  
4 but these are, not necessarily carved in stone,  
5 but more permanent principles that we need to  
6 keep in mind.

7 It basically talks about how important  
8 our partnership is. That the Agency and the  
9 councils are working together to achieve common  
10 goals and with that in mind, we should be able to  
11 share our documentation where it's appropriate,  
12 and achieve efficiencies that way.

13 The concept of frontloading. That  
14 really came forward in the 2000 draft, is the  
15 idea of getting, preventing surprises at the end  
16 by having people who were going to be reviewing  
17 the document, or providing pieces of it, or  
18 input, get everybody working together, as much as  
19 possible, early in the process and providing  
20 early input.

21 And a lot of that is currently being  
22 achieved through the Fishery Management Action  
23 Teams and our disciplinary plan teams and that  
24 sort of thing. That was a good thing to see at  
25 the Seattle workshop of how much of that is being  
26 implemented as the best practice.

27 So management decisions need to be  
28 supported by facts and analysis in the record.  
29 So that just gets down to, basically, common  
30 sense, but an acknowledgment of how important the  
31 record is and how important it is to have all of  
32 our analysis of all our applicable laws available  
33 while the decisions are going through the  
34 process.

35 Clear and concise document. That's  
36 just an important goal, to be clear and concise,  
37 and promoting meaningful public participation.  
38 And there's a new emphasis here on making it  
39 meaningful, not just identifying opportunities  
40 for public comment, but giving the public the  
41 tools they need and the directions and the  
42 navigational tools to know how to make their  
43 participation as effective as possible and really  
44 inform the decision-making process.

45 With those guiding principles in mind,  
46 we then attached the appendixes where there's  
47 terminology, there's going to be some terms, you  
48 know, thrown out there.

1           The description of the process. And  
2 this is where, if you're looking at the '97  
3 document and wondering where it went, a lot of  
4 that information got carried forward, which was  
5 just useful descriptors. It's been updated to  
6 more realistically reflect reality.

7           The descriptions of the phases is in  
8 that section. That section's been slightly  
9 modified to highlight some extra steps in the  
10 phases that we thought were worth talking about.

11           ROAs. That term, sorry for the  
12 acronym, Regional Operating Agreements. Every  
13 council region here, I believe, now have their  
14 Regional Operating Agreements, which set forth,  
15 you know, the plans and the relationships for  
16 who's going to be doing what during the fishery  
17 management process.

18           This document contains a five, or  
19 six-page overview of Regional Operating  
20 Agreements, how they're structured, what's in  
21 them, to give, you know, to identify the  
22 commonalities, give the public an idea of what  
23 they are, but then at the end the additional  
24 resources section at the bottom there actually  
25 links out to each council's individual Regional  
26 Operating Agreement.

27           So if you're a member of the public  
28 wanting to participate in a South Atlantic  
29 Fishery Management Council Action, you can go  
30 find out what their Regional Operating Agreement  
31 says and how the specific details of that  
32 relationship between the agency and the council's  
33 working there.

34           We have a section on the OAL, sorry  
35 for the other acronym, Other Applicable Laws  
36 Section. The idea is to have a very brief  
37 overview checklist identifying what all the  
38 requirements are, where they effect the process  
39 and where you can go for detailed guidance on  
40 those laws.

41           And then we've added a new section on  
42 rulemaking issues, kind of comparing the, and  
43 it's also in a checklist format, currently, so  
44 I'll see what kind of comments we get from you on  
45 that.

46           But there are several different  
47 rulemaking authorities that we have under the  
48 Magnuson Act, and the considerations that each of



1 them have for timing, for different comment  
2 periods, for teaming, people seem to be  
3 interested in that and so we try to provide a new  
4 section.

5 The documentation section would be  
6 where we provide guidance on records. We wanted  
7 to provide examples, you know, that different  
8 councils have different templates, different  
9 models for combining their FMPs, and underlying  
10 analyses.

11 We're looking for really good models  
12 so that people can see, you know, you can see  
13 what each other are doing, you can see if there's  
14 a model that you like, the public can see what  
15 things look like in the different regions, and  
16 then the additional resources would just be the  
17 out links to other policy directives, regional  
18 operating agreements, and other useful documents.

19 So really, we wanted to present this  
20 to you and get reaction on the approach and hear  
21 back from you. Do you guys want to add anything?

22 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right. Thank  
23 you, Marian. Any questions, or comments? Kitty.

24 MS. SIMONDS: Well, just to say, good  
25 job. I like it. It's very easy to read. Even  
26 my council members won't be bored reading this  
27 document.

28 So really, I mean, after, you know,  
29 what, have we been talking about this for a  
30 year-and-a-half, but I think it reads well, and I  
31 think it's good. Thank you.

32 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, Alan.

33 MR. RISENHOOVER: Just one quick  
34 thing, if you do have comments we need to keep it  
35 moving. So I think I'm hearing a general  
36 consensus from Kitty that folks think it's going  
37 in the right direction, and I agree. It's very  
38 aspirational instead of very, you know, got to do  
39 this step then this step then this step.

40 Yes, bureaucratic. So it's very  
41 aspirational. It may need some smoothing, some  
42 organizing, some this that and the other, but  
43 hopefully the Subcommittee, or working group,  
44 whatever it was, can get some comments back to us  
45 and we can get another draft out and, you know,  
46 maybe finalize this thing before September.

47 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, thank you.  
48 Well that wraps up the items that were on the

1 printed agenda, but there is one other item that  
2 Alan you would like to bring up?

3 MR. RISENHOOVER: Yes, just a couple  
4 things. We all go to a lot of meetings and this  
5 meeting, like any other meeting, is pretty  
6 complicated to do, and yesterday was a little bit  
7 of a challenge for us.

8 So I just want to thank Brian, back  
9 there, who, yesterday, as near as I can tell, had  
10 no water and no electricity, but still went into  
11 the office to get all the materials, so that we  
12 could be comfortable today. I don't know if he  
13 went into the office just because he thought  
14 maybe there was heat, but he drove in.

15 Yes, he clipped the beard yesterday.  
16 So thank you, very much, Brian, for all your  
17 efforts. And then, also, I think you all know  
18 Bill.

19 And Bill has been doing CCC meetings  
20 before there was a CCC, back when we called it  
21 the councils chairs meeting and we're eventually  
22 told there were no council chairs meetings, so  
23 that resulted in the CCC.

24 But Bill has let me know that he's  
25 going to retire in a couple of months. So this  
26 may be, well no, this will be Bill's last CCC  
27 meeting.

28 So I just want to recognize him and we  
29 will do all the appropriate retirement things in  
30 a couple of months when he decides to go, but I  
31 think we're all going to head to the bar tonight  
32 where there's probably going to be a band  
33 playing, but if you see Bill in the bar tonight,  
34 and he's got an empty hand, shake it, or put a  
35 drink in it.

36 But, I just want to say, Bill, thanks  
37 for, you know, the ten years I've been doing this  
38 you've always been there and they've always come  
39 off well, and we've always had everything smooth.  
40 So for me, and I think the rest of the CCC here,  
41 thanks, Bill.

42 (Applause)

43 CHAIRMAN ANSON: All right, with that,  
44 we'll recess for today and see everybody tomorrow  
45 at 9 o'clock.

46 (Whereupon, the meeting in the above-  
47 entitled matter was concluded at 4:51 p.m.)  
48

## A

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Council Coordination Committee

Before: NOAA

Date: 02-18-2015

Place: Washington, D.C.

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
my direction; further, that said transcript is a  
true and accurate record of the proceedings.



-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

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COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

+ + + + +

MEETING

+ + + + +

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 19, 2015

+ + + + +

The Committee met in the Holiday Inn  
Capitol, Capitol Ballroom, 550 C Street, S.W.,  
Washington, D.C., at 9:00 a.m., Kevin Anson,  
Chair, presiding.

PRESENT

KEVIN ANSON, Gulf of Mexico Council, Chair  
LEE ANDERSON, Mid-Atlantic Council  
JOHN BULLARD, Greater Atlantic Region  
ROY CRABTREE, Southeast Region  
MICHELLE DUVAL, South Atlantic Council \*  
ED EBISUI, Western Pacific Council  
CARLOS FARCHETTE, Caribbean Council  
JOHN GOURLEY, Western Pacific Council  
DOUGLAS GREGORY, Gulf of Mexico Council  
DON HANSEN, Pacific Council  
BEN HARTIG, South Atlantic Council \*  
JOHN HENDERSCHIEDT, North Pacific Council  
DAN HULL, North Pacific Council  
BILL KARP, New England Council  
DOROTHY LOWMAN, Pacific Council  
DON McISAAC, Pacific Council  
GLENN MERRILL, Alaska Region  
CHRIS MOORE, Mid-Atlantic Council  
TOM NIES, New England Council

CHRIS OLIVER, North Pacific Council  
MICHAEL PENTONY, Greater Atlantic Region  
GENO PINEIRO-SOLER, Caribbean Council  
HERB POLLARD, Pacific Council  
JOHN QUINN, New England Council  
RICK ROBINS, Mid-Atlantic Council  
MIGUEL ROLON, Caribbean Council  
KITTY SIMONDS, Western Pacific Council  
MIKE TOSATTO, Pacific Islands Region  
BOB TURNER, West Coast Region  
DAVID WITHERELL, North Pacific Council

ALSO PRESENT

SAM RAUCH, Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Regional Programs  
BILL CHAPPELL, Sustainable Fisheries  
JESSICA COAKLEY, MAFMC  
KELLY DENIT, Sustainable Fisheries  
BRIAN FREDIEU, Sustainable Fisheries  
ROGER GRIFFIS, National Climate Coordinator  
GEORGE LAPOINTE  
TERRA LEDERHOUSE, Habitat Conservation  
RICHARD MERRICK, Director, Scientific Programs  
ALAN RISENHOOVER, Director, Sustainable  
Fisheries

\* Present via telephone

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(9:01 a.m.)

1  
2  
3 CHAIR ANSON: We are going to continue  
4 with the agenda and we are going to start with  
5 the first item, the Climate Science Strategy.  
6 Roger Griffis, if you are here -- you are here up  
7 front, okay. Welcome. Are you ready to begin?

8 MR. GRIFFIS: Sure. Good morning and  
9 thank you for the opportunity to brief you on the  
10 Draft Climate Science Strategy that NOAA  
11 Fisheries Services developed over the past year.  
12 I know that at least three of the councils have  
13 already had briefings on this and I welcome input  
14 and feedback from you all, sharing some of the  
15 questions that we got at your briefings. And I  
16 know that three of the councils have not, so we  
17 welcome your questions as well.

18 My goal today is to describe the  
19 rationale for why we developed the strategy, the  
20 content, some of what it says, and then  
21 specifically clarifying our request to you for  
22 input review and input on the strategy.

23 So, we developed the strategy, as you  
24 know, in part to respond to the growing demands  
25 and requirements for information to fulfill our  
26 mission on how climate is affecting our marine  
27 and coastal systems. The goal is to increase the  
28 production, delivery and use of climate-related  
29 information to support agency and stakeholder  
30 decisions. And as I said, our request to you is  
31 for your input on the strategy to help improve  
32 the strategy and make sure it is articulating  
33 both the information you need and how that  
34 information should be delivered.

35 I don't need to remind you that our  
36 world is changing. It is changing dramatically  
37 in all sorts of ways. And these are the  
38 findings, some of the key findings from the most  
39 recent IPCC 2014 report particularly related to  
40 the changing climate and its effect on oceans.  
41 And as you can see, the findings are pretty  
42 dramatic and should give us pause. The climate  
43 change in ocean acidification are profoundly  
44 altering ocean ecosystems globally. There is a  
45 projection and some current observations of  
46 negative impacts expected for fisheries globally.  
47 Some positive projected impacts expected,  
48 particularly for high latitude fisheries with

1 warming ocean temperatures and changing ocean  
2 conditions in high latitudes.

3 But these changes in climate and  
4 oceans will exacerbate other stressors and those  
5 stressors will exacerbate those impacts. And the  
6 combination of these changes present significant  
7 challenges for fishery management in changing  
8 conditions.

9 And as you all well know, we have  
10 known for over 100 years, perhaps 200 plus years,  
11 that climate dramatically effects ocean  
12 ecosystems. That is not news but the pace and  
13 scale and change of our global climate is  
14 projected to have some serious impacts on our  
15 marine ecosystems. So, changes in climate,  
16 increasing temperature, perhaps changes in  
17 precipitation, increasing CO2 levels dramatically  
18 and directly and indirectly affect the physical  
19 chemical conditions of our marine and coastal  
20 ecosystems.

21 Increasing ocean temperature, the  
22 oceans absorb about 50 percent of the increased  
23 heat that has been generated by this blanket of  
24 CO2 around the planet. So, oceans are the giant  
25 buffer of the planet at the moment and they are  
26 absorbing most, at least half of that heat load  
27 that we are trapping.

28 There are some consequences of that:  
29 declining sea ice, increasing sea level. Most of  
30 the sea level rise that we have observed globally  
31 is due to that warming ocean temperature. Water  
32 expands as it heats. So, the sea level rise is  
33 largely attributable to the physics of water  
34 expanding. And of course the great concern is  
35 that most of the models, until recently, have not  
36 incorporated the additional water being added to  
37 the ocean with the melting of ice caps.

38 Changes in fresh water in coastal  
39 areas affecting estuaries. And of course, this  
40 whole other issue of great concern of changing  
41 ocean chemistry and ocean acidification because,  
42 again, the ocean is one of the major buffers of  
43 the planet. The ocean is absorbing about 25  
44 percent of all the human-emitted CO2 that has  
45 gone up in the atmosphere. About a quarter of  
46 that goes into the ocean. So again, the oceans  
47 are buffering but that buffering has consequences  
48 for the ocean ecosystem. And of course, those

1 physical conditions have serious implications,  
2 both direct and indirect on the biological  
3 resources that we are all concerned about;  
4 changing temperature, sea level, other kinds of  
5 things, salinity, can have direct effects on  
6 productivity, survivorship, species distribution,  
7 species abundance, and then the mixture of those  
8 species as well. And then of course, changes in  
9 those things can directly affect fishing  
10 activities and other human uses of the oceans,  
11 including subsistence use and public health.

12 So, that is the context within which  
13 the National Marine Fisheries Service developed  
14 this climate science strategy, realizing that we  
15 are facing some dramatic additional challenges in  
16 fulfilling our mission from fishery management to  
17 endangered species conservation to habitat  
18 conservation. This Draft Climate Science  
19 Strategy was developed to articulate, as clearly  
20 as we can, the challenges we face and the  
21 information that we need to be producing and  
22 providing you all so that you all can do your job  
23 for fisheries management in a changing world.

24 And these kinds of changes, as you  
25 know, have some implications for fishery  
26 management with climate change and variability  
27 affecting ecosystem impacts, such as  
28 productivity, the distribution of key habitats,  
29 even the interactions of those species or even  
30 the direct effects on species themselves, growth,  
31 maturation, recruitment, mortality and the  
32 distribution. Those are the fundamental building  
33 blocks, as you know, for many of the key tools  
34 that guide us in fishery management.

35 Changes in those things, either at an  
36 ecosystem level or on the species-specific  
37 population level can affect key things that we  
38 use in fishery management, such as the biological  
39 controls and reference points, stock  
40 identification, bycatch, rebuilding plans, et  
41 cetera.

42 So, there are, as you know, and as we  
43 are increasingly discovering, a cascade of  
44 potential impacts on the fishery management from  
45 these changes.

46 So, this strategy was developed to  
47 help identify the key needs so that we can  
48 provide that information to you for effective

1 fishery management in changing times.

2 This is kind of a cartoon version  
3 representing much of the input that we have  
4 gotten from you or your science center partners  
5 or other partners in each region, representing,  
6 kind of articulating some of those changes on a  
7 global scale. And my main point here, I will  
8 just click through it, is that no matter what  
9 region you are in, your ocean system is changing.

10 And one of our major challenges, as  
11 you know, is to distinguish between what we might  
12 call the natural variability or that natural  
13 cycle from a more long-term trend or shifts in  
14 that cycle, which is really what we refer to as  
15 climate change.

16 In this case, this climate strategy is  
17 designed to provide better information, provide  
18 you with better information on both of those  
19 aspects because we can't understand one without  
20 the other.

21 If you look, as I said, in the Arctic  
22 region, we have got concerns warming oceans, loss  
23 of sea ice and impacts upon fisheries, rising sea  
24 levels, as well. That is what the little  
25 thermometer is to represent, ocean temperature  
26 changes. The ruler is sea level rise.

27 In the Western Pacific, of course,  
28 again, concerns about increasing ocean  
29 temperatures, affecting reef systems and  
30 productivity in the broader Pacific. Obviously,  
31 sea level rise, also some concerns about  
32 protected species that depend on those shallow  
33 island areas. The west coast having a long  
34 history of tracking decadal shifts in climate and  
35 ocean conditions, a very complicated system, an  
36 upwelling system but, obviously, some concerns  
37 about probably our most well-documented example  
38 of ocean acidification and hypoxia, hypoxic  
39 waters being upwelled into those coastal  
40 estuaries and affecting shellfish; concerns about  
41 sea level rise on the west coast; and then  
42 particularly and perhaps most well-documented on  
43 the west coast are shifts in temperature, shifts  
44 in species distribution and concurrent effects on  
45 fisheries and fishing; and also lots of concerns  
46 about sea level rise and its effect on nursery  
47 habitats in the estuaries.

48 The blue dots representing changes in



1 precipitation, which also affects salinity, of  
2 course, in those coastal areas, and the  
3 productivity of those nursery areas.

4 So, my main point here is that we know  
5 that changes are happening but there is a  
6 tremendous need for more information to  
7 understand both what the natural variability and  
8 where that natural variability may be shifting in  
9 a more long-term climate change-related way. And  
10 the better we understand these trends, the better  
11 we confide information to you to prepare and  
12 respond to these changes in fishery management.

13 So, just capturing some of these  
14 changes in the observations and concerns in  
15 particular regions, many regions have been  
16 observing shifts in distribution. Some places  
17 observing changes in productivity.

18 In the Arctic regions, as I said,  
19 projected impacts of reduced sea ice on Arctic  
20 food webs and particularly pollock productivity.  
21 Across the Atlantic, a number of concerns but  
22 increasing research and understanding potentially  
23 projected impacts on, again, primary  
24 productivities, zooplankton and some key stocks.

25 Now, the subtropics, expanding species  
26 thermal habitat and expanding species  
27 distribution from south up into northern waters,  
28 the Atlantic croaker on the east coast and the  
29 Humboldt Squid on the west coast examples.

30 Tropical areas, climate-related  
31 stressors were a major driver in the recent ESA  
32 coral listing and so great concern about the  
33 health and future of reef systems. And the  
34 broader Pacific projected declines in the Central  
35 Pacific primary production zones and other kinds  
36 of findings.

37 These are just a sampling of the kind  
38 of research that has been done, the kind of  
39 projections that are being done that indicate  
40 that, that suggest that we actually need quite a  
41 bit more information to be able to prepare for  
42 and anticipate the kinds of changes that we are  
43 going to be facing, so that we can make effective  
44 management decisions.

45 So, and lastly, of course, probably  
46 the most challenging aspect of this is to then  
47 understand what the implications may be for the  
48 people that depend on these resources. This is,

1 perhaps, as I said, the most challenging part.  
2 How do we track these changes and their impacts  
3 on fishing communities and how do we better  
4 assess what is vulnerable and who is vulnerable  
5 and what is at risk? These are illustrations of  
6 two projects underway by the fisheries service,  
7 developing indicators of vulnerability for  
8 fishing communities. This is showing the east  
9 coast but it is now nationwide. And some  
10 interesting work assessing the vulnerability of  
11 fishing communities on the right, Alaskan fishing  
12 communities, given some projected changes and  
13 vulnerability of fish stocks in the Alaska  
14 region.

15 This is probably the most difficult  
16 and our least well-studied area to understand the  
17 implications of these changes.

18 So, obviously, a number of key  
19 information requirements to be climate ready, to  
20 be able to make fishery management and other  
21 decisions in a changing world.

22 Some key information requirements:  
23 one is having our finger on the pulse of the  
24 system to understand what is changing. We don't  
25 want to manage to a system that existed 10 or 20  
26 years ago. We need to understand what that  
27 system is now and what it is going to be  
28 tomorrow. What is changing and can we have early  
29 warnings of what is coming up?

30 Why is it changing? This is  
31 absolutely critical so that we can better  
32 forecast what is coming up. If we don't  
33 understand why things change as sea temperature  
34 changes, what the connections are when one  
35 species moves and how it affects other species,  
36 we will not be able to effectively project what  
37 is coming up and plan for the future. And that  
38 is that key other point. How will it change?  
39 What will the future hold five years, 10 years,  
40 25 years from now? I know that seems like a long  
41 time for all of us. I know fishery management  
42 doesn't usually function on a 25-year scale but  
43 we need to be thinking about what is coming and  
44 how it will change out into the future on a  
45 variety of scales.

46 And finally, how should we respond?  
47 How can we prepare? How can we manage to perhaps  
48 build these resiliencies in not only the natural

1 resources but perhaps in the fishing communities  
2 and the fisheries themselves? Can we provide you  
3 all with better evaluation of management options  
4 through management strategy evaluation through  
5 other tools so that you have the best information  
6 in front of you for your fishery management?

7 So, that is the context for why  
8 developed the draft climate science strategy. It  
9 was important to acknowledge that the world is  
10 changing, our marine ecosystems are changing, and  
11 we have got to have better information to be able  
12 to prepare for and respond to these changes.

13 The goals are to increase, then, the  
14 production, delivery and use of climate-related  
15 information across the agency to support  
16 decisions. The strategy identifies seven key  
17 objectives that we believe are core information  
18 requirements to meet NOAA Fisheries information  
19 needs in a changing climate. And it is intended  
20 to guide our science enterprise at a whole  
21 variety of levels. And in fact, it is intended  
22 to help guide that broader science enterprise  
23 that we depend on, our partners in the academic  
24 community, our partners in state agencies. We  
25 are trying to help galvanize our broader science  
26 enterprise, as well as our own fishery science  
27 centers and other tools, our partners within  
28 NOAA, help guide that enterprise by clearly  
29 articulating our requirements so that we can  
30 better harness their tools and harness their  
31 efforts, we well as shape our own.

32 Specifically, this national-level  
33 climate science strategy is intended to provide a  
34 framework, then for the development of regional  
35 action plans that will be developed over the  
36 coming year by each of our fishery science  
37 centers with partners. Because the answer to the  
38 question of what information is needed is really  
39 regionally-specific. These broad seen  
40 objectives, we believe, capture the seven core  
41 areas and type of information that are needed.  
42 But in fact what is needed is for each region to  
43 look at those and say which of these can we do  
44 well now; which of these are we weaker on; and  
45 what are our priorities for the next three to  
46 five years? And that is what those regional  
47 action plans are designed to do.

48 So, the climate science strategy, as

1 I said, designed to meet climate-related  
2 information requirements across the Fisheries  
3 Service mission areas. It was specifically  
4 designed by looking at not only fishery  
5 management requirements but our ESA requirements,  
6 our Marine Mammal Act requirements, aquaculture,  
7 habitat, NEPA. We looked across these and we  
8 said what is the core climate-related information  
9 this agency needs to do its job in a changing  
10 world.

11 And out of that, we looked across the  
12 science enterprise from the observations through  
13 the research and modeling, the synthesis and  
14 assessment, and then into the delivery of  
15 management advice. And it was out of that we  
16 developed, identified these seven core areas that  
17 we believe the agency has got to build capacity  
18 on, in order to provide the information you all  
19 need that the red arrows represent.

20 And so the seven areas actually track  
21 across that science enterprise because the  
22 increases, the strengthening of our science  
23 enterprise to deliver climate-related information  
24 has to come across end-to-end across that  
25 spectrum. And those seven areas that I am going  
26 to show you next cross that spectrum.

27 So, these are the seven areas  
28 identified in the climate science strategy, the  
29 core seven objectives that the strategy says are  
30 critical to providing the information to  
31 decision-makers in a changing world. I usually  
32 start at six because it works across the number  
33 six, the status, trends, and early warnings.  
34 This is that what is changing. One of the key  
35 areas identified by the strategy is we need to  
36 increase our ability to track the change and  
37 provide early warnings of impending changes. And  
38 that is what that first building block is.

39 Five is then use that information  
40 combined with process research to understand why  
41 things are changing. Those two things are  
42 critical to then four, having more robust  
43 projections of what the future conditions are  
44 going to hold and that is really critical to  
45 effective management. And then those three  
46 things enable us to provide you all with some of  
47 the more specific critical tools you need:  
48 robust management strategies, evaluations of what

1 the management options are, and the pros and cons  
2 of those, and also the uncertainty and the risks  
3 in each of those.

4 Having, three, an adaptive management  
5 process then enables us to use this information  
6 and be responsive as we see the results.

7 And then, finally, number one, to have  
8 climate-informed reference points, the guideposts  
9 by which we make the actual management decisions,  
10 ensure that those guideposts are informed and as  
11 realistic as we can make them, given the changes  
12 that we are seeing and the changes that we  
13 anticipate.

14 Finally, the base of the pyramid is  
15 the science infrastructure necessary to deliver  
16 the other layers on top. If we continue to have  
17 degradation of our fleet or other core  
18 observation capabilities, the other pieces of a  
19 science infrastructure, we will not be able to  
20 deliver this kind of thing.

21 So, those are the seven core elements  
22 of the draft climate science strategy. We would  
23 be happy to talk more about the details of those  
24 and I hope that you will look. The strategy has  
25 about a page and a half, two pages on each one of  
26 those, that goes into more detail and also has  
27 specific recommendations on how to move forward  
28 on each one of these.

29 The strategy also identifies several  
30 immediate actions. So, each of the seven  
31 objectives, as I said, has a specific example,  
32 specific actions that we believe are necessary to  
33 move forward quickly on those. Overall, though,  
34 we identify three immediate actions that we  
35 thought were just critical to move this whole  
36 enterprise forward. First, was to conduct a  
37 living marine resource vulnerability analyses in  
38 each region. Again, this is a proven approach to  
39 understand what is at risk. What are the most  
40 highly vulnerable species or communities in each  
41 of these regions that enables us to then identify  
42 what we might do about it and perhaps where the  
43 information gaps are.

44 Number two is maintain and develop  
45 these ecosystem status reports to track change  
46 and provide early warnings. Many regions are  
47 well on their way in doing this but this bubbled  
48 up. It was clearly one of the key tools to

1 enable you to both track the change and then  
2 anticipate what may be coming one, two, three  
3 years down the pike.

4 And then third, increase the capacity  
5 to conduct climate-informed management strategy  
6 evaluations, that is to evaluate what all of this  
7 science is saying and what the management options  
8 may be and to be able to give you the best  
9 possible evaluation of both what the  
10 uncertainties are, what are we confident about,  
11 and what the potential management scenarios may  
12 be, if you choose door number one, or door number  
13 two, or door number three.

14 The strategy also identifies a series  
15 of actions to move this portfolio forward over  
16 the near-term, mid-term, and longer term. The  
17 first would be to complete these region-level  
18 action plans. As I described, this is where this  
19 strategy becomes real, becomes tailored to each  
20 of your regions. Our vision is that each of the  
21 regional action plans will identify the strengths  
22 and weaknesses of the science enterprise in your  
23 region to do this strategy. And then, based on  
24 that, identify the priorities for moving forward  
25 over the next three to five years. This allows  
26 us to clearly say to both our partners, our  
27 funders, and our stakeholders that we understand  
28 the challenges, we have assessed the information  
29 we need, and we have made it specific in this  
30 region. We know what we need to do our job.

31 Number two, strengthen climate-related  
32 science capability nationwide. At the heart of  
33 this is also being able to use more effectively  
34 the information we have. We believe that we can  
35 better harness the information we have in new  
36 ways.

37 Three, is increase resources for  
38 process-oriented research. One of the critical  
39 gaps that came up over and over again is  
40 understanding why things are changing and what  
41 the implications are. There is a critical need  
42 for that kind of process research at this stage,  
43 if we are going to improve our ability to  
44 forecast or project future conditions.

45 And lastly, establish climate-ready  
46 terms of reference across all of our mission  
47 mandate areas, so that we are very clear, as an  
48 agency, where we should be using this

1 information, how we should be using it, and how  
2 effectively to use it.

3 Expected results. This is a snapshot  
4 of how we believe by implementing this strategy,  
5 we can more effectively fulfill our mission and  
6 help you all do your job in a better way. We  
7 believe that by improving our observations, and  
8 tracking, and early warning systems, we can do a  
9 better job of tracking ecosystem changes and  
10 provide those early warnings. We believe that  
11 implementing the strategy is going to increase  
12 our understanding of the mechanisms of change and  
13 the vulnerability of stocks. It is critical to  
14 then asking the next question of well how might  
15 we manage to reduce risks. How might we manage  
16 to increase resilience. This strategy puts a  
17 premium on improving our modeling and forecasts  
18 so that we can give you a better glimpse into the  
19 crystal ball for the future.

20 Climate-sensitive stock assessments  
21 and biological reference points, as you know, are  
22 critical to making effective management decisions  
23 in changing times. And we believe that the heavy  
24 emphasis in this strategy on strengthening our  
25 ability to provide you with management strategies  
26 that consider a climate and changing world is  
27 really critical to ultimately having robust  
28 management action.

29 So, our requests. Our requests, as I  
30 said in the beginning is we invite you, please,  
31 to look at the draft strategy. We want to make  
32 sure that it resonates with your needs. Help us  
33 strengthen it. Because this is the clearest and  
34 strongest statement by this agency to date that  
35 the agency is concerned about a changing world,  
36 that changing oceans will affect and are  
37 affecting mission and that we have a clear idea  
38 of what our science and information requirements  
39 are. We want to make sure that this represents  
40 the science and information requirements that you  
41 think are most important.

42 Secondly, we hope that you will join  
43 with us in developing of the regional action  
44 plans. As I said, this is where it becomes real  
45 for you and working with your fishery science  
46 centers and other partners, identify your  
47 critical needs over the next three to five years,  
48 given the kinds of climate-related changes that

1 you all are experiencing.

2 So, in summary, we have developed a  
3 strategy because there are huge demands and we  
4 know that we have core requirements to consider,  
5 ecosystem conditions, changing climate-related  
6 information in doing our mission areas. Our goal  
7 is to provide, increase our ability to provide  
8 you with the information you need to make  
9 climate-ready fishery management decisions. We  
10 hope that you will give us some input on the  
11 draft strategy and engage with us as we try to  
12 train all of our partners in helping us fill  
13 these critical information gaps. Thank you very  
14 much.

15 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you, Roger. Any  
16 questions? Any comments? Yes, Rick.

17 MR. ROBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Roger, thank you for the presentation. We  
19 appreciated the opportunity, as a Council, to  
20 have this presentation at our last meeting. And  
21 I see this initiative very much supporting a lot  
22 of the concerns that we have and efforts that we  
23 have ongoing at the regional level. Climate  
24 change has been presented as a global phenomenon  
25 that also has a lot of heterogeneity within it.  
26 There are important regional differences in the  
27 impacts. As it turns out, the mid-Atlantic is  
28 one of the hot spots around the world, in terms  
29 of anticipated extent of changes. And our  
30 approach to this has really been grounded in  
31 wanting to understand what the implications are  
32 at a regional level, with respect to anticipated  
33 changes in the marine ecosystem, anticipated  
34 implications for our managed species.

35 And so one of the initial engagements  
36 we had, and this goes back probably a year and a  
37 half or two years with the science center was the  
38 idea of having a risk assessment of our species.  
39 And I believe that will be completed momentarily,  
40 so we are looking forward to that.

41 But I think one of the challenges is  
42 figuring out on the management response side,  
43 figuring out how to set a system up that on the  
44 one hand is adaptive and responsive to changing  
45 conditions and, on the other hand, strikes an  
46 effective balance and isn't so sensitive that it  
47 chases noise. But I think one of the challenges  
48 for us is just figuring out how to maybe better



1 detect fundamental changes in the system, when  
2 there is a true shift in the system state or a  
3 regime shift, being in a better position to  
4 detect those types of fundamental changes, so  
5 that we can respond from a management standpoint  
6 as opposed to just using long-term averages of  
7 recruitment when in fact environmental conditions  
8 have changed. I think that is probably one of  
9 the biggest risks to us is just related back to  
10 the business of projecting performance of a  
11 stock, without taking into consideration those  
12 changing environmental conditions.

13 So, those are areas of interest for  
14 us. We happen to be on the east coast in-between  
15 two other councils. So, as conditions change, we  
16 are very concerned about the governance  
17 implications of that and we have been working on  
18 that over the last couple of years.

19 But I see this complementing, at a  
20 national level, a lot of the concerns that we  
21 have had at a regional level. Thank you.

22 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you, Rick. Anyone  
23 else? Don.

24 MR. McISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25 One maybe technical question and then a question  
26 on the regional action plans.

27 On slide seven you have some kind of  
28 impacts of particular areas. And at the  
29 beginning, you said well, there could be some  
30 positive impacts as well. So, for the Pacific  
31 you indicated primary production or something  
32 like that as an impact. I wasn't clear if that  
33 was a negative or a positive impact. When you  
34 think about primary production, we, of course, on  
35 the west coast, think of the upwelling zones.  
36 Slide number seven, yes, there we go.

37 So, we think of the west coast and the  
38 upwelling zones and these have actually been  
39 pretty strong in recent years, particularly for  
40 salmon. So, this is declines.

41 So, I was wondering if you could speak  
42 a little bit to what positive impacts you were  
43 referring to to begin with. And then under this  
44 one, where it is a decline in primary production  
45 zones, if that is relative to the west coast or  
46 is that the central Pacific Ocean, or Hawaii, or  
47 where?

48 MR. GRIFFIS: Yes, thank you for the

1 question. We were trying to pull out some  
2 examples of, in some cases, individual research  
3 or sets of research and that one, in particular,  
4 refers to the Central Pacific, work by Jeff  
5 Polovina, and others, to the Pacific Island  
6 Fisheries Science Center and teams that have been  
7 looking at projections of climate-related  
8 projections of what it might mean for  
9 particularly the Central Pacific. So, that is  
10 what that one refers to. And many of their  
11 projections are showing declines at various  
12 levels in the primary productivity and also the  
13 location of some of those production zones. So,  
14 that is what that refers to. I wasn't trying to  
15 refer to the upwelling system.

16 The IPCC spoke specifically in  
17 reference to high latitude systems, primarily  
18 subarctic systems as far as places where the  
19 projections just are showing potential increases  
20 in productivity and fisheries as well. And so if  
21 you look at the projections for productivity of  
22 subarctic systems, say Norway and across places  
23 like that, it is partly a combination of warming  
24 ocean temperatures and the impact on primary  
25 productivity there. And that was the basis for  
26 their projections but it is a narrow band, a  
27 narrow band in high latitude areas.

28 MR. McISAAC: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
29 Chairman. The question about regional action  
30 plans, I think you have got Slide 16 talks about  
31 them being developed in 2015 and looking for  
32 input maybe from the councils. So, I think we  
33 have got some of this scheduled for our upcoming  
34 March Council meeting. In our arena, once a  
35 year, we try to take on the State of the Union  
36 address, so to speak, the state of the ecosystem  
37 so that the rest of the year will have a little  
38 information on that. We have got a fisheries  
39 ecosystem planned.

40 So, with regard to integrating these  
41 regional action plans into our current FEP system  
42 and when do those come about, I am wondering if  
43 you could speak a little bit more to your  
44 expectations of Council involvement.

45 MR. GRIFFIS: Well, we are hoping that  
46 the Council will provide input to the regional  
47 action plans. Again, these are designed to  
48 identify the core information needs, again,

1 building off of a climate science strategy. So,  
2 if you look at what the mid-Atlantic is doing,  
3 for example, there, they have had a series of  
4 workshops to identify both the challenges for  
5 fishery management but also the information needs  
6 in a changing oceans. And out of that, they have  
7 identified a series of information needs. And  
8 that information, I think, is, in the mid-  
9 Atlantic going to be a real anchor point for the  
10 regional action plan in the mid-Atlantic region.

11 So, I think many of the activities you  
12 are already doing may identify, have identified  
13 information needs that you think would be, could  
14 be brought into this process.

15 I am probably being a bit optimistic  
16 to think that they can be done in 2015 but we are  
17 setting ourselves a goal. The idea is that the  
18 Fisheries Science Center will lead these, that it  
19 will be as inclusive as possible, so inviting  
20 input from the Council, our regional office, our  
21 multiple partners in our science enterprise. And  
22 so, I can't speak in detail about the  
23 requirements or burden or the ask to you. I  
24 think it will be a general ask that you provide  
25 input on your views and what the priority needs  
26 are.

27 I think it would be useful to have you  
28 all help us assess the strengths and weaknesses  
29 of the region in doing the kinds of things that  
30 the strategy has. In your region, for example,  
31 you have a very strong, I would say a very strong  
32 state of the ecosystem report, based on years of  
33 -- you have one of the longest track records of  
34 observations of the regions. You have teams of  
35 people pulling that together. So in some sense,  
36 that may be a real strength for you and you may  
37 want to look at other areas as greater priorities  
38 for investment in the coming years. Thank you.

39 CHAIR ANSON: Kitty.

40 MS. SIMONDS: Thank you, Roger. Nice  
41 to see you again in another life.

42 The Council has a Climate Change  
43 Committee and the chair of the Climate Change  
44 Committee is Eileen Shea, who we know very well.  
45 And what they are doing is developing the climate  
46 change policy for the Council to adopt and they  
47 have been working for several months on this.

48 And so in March, the Council members

1 will be reviewing this draft policy and,  
2 hopefully, adopting it. What we are doing now,  
3 also earlier, we talked about how we review all  
4 of our ecosystem plans and looking at what is  
5 missing, and obviously climate change is missing  
6 from our FEPS. So, this will help the staff and  
7 others to finally get what we need to include in  
8 our plans.

9 And we were talking about the specific  
10 -- we know and Jeff noted for us that our  
11 longliners are catching bigeye a little farther  
12 to the east now. You know those that are fishing  
13 in the northern part above Hawaii. And so that  
14 is very interesting. Pretty soon all the bigeye  
15 will be next to the west coast.

16 And hopefully, we will be able to  
17 continue to fish for bigeye. We don't want it to  
18 go too much into California because then we won't  
19 be able to fish in California. So, anyway, we  
20 need to like somehow figure out a way to get  
21 those fish not to go that far.

22 (Laughter)

23 MS. SIMONDS: Hey, it's for real.

24 CHAIR ANSON: All right. Anyone else?  
25 Is there -- who is on the phone? Terry,  
26 Michelle, Bob, are you with us this morning?

27 MS. DUVAL: I'm here. It's Michelle.

28 CHAIR ANSON: Good morning.

29 MS. DUVAL: Good morning.

30 CHAIR ANSON: Anyone else on the  
31 phone?

32 All right. Do you have any questions,  
33 Michelle?

34 MS. DUVAL: No, I'm good. Thank you.

35 CHAIR ANSON: All right. Doug?

36 MR. GREGORY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 Thank you, Roger, for coming to the Gulf Council  
38 last month and giving the presentation. And now  
39 you have agreed to give the presentation and we  
40 plan on reviewing it in our Sustainable Fisheries  
41 Committee at our March/April meeting. So, I  
42 appreciate that.

43 To me, this is probably the most  
44 important initiative NOAA could possibly do.  
45 Everything else we do is like working on the  
46 margins. This is going to dominate the impacts  
47 of our stocks. And the biggest unknown that  
48 scares me is acidification. We don't even know

1 what the prey items are for our major fish  
2 larvae, juvenile fish in the oceanic environment  
3 and the impact of acidification on their prey  
4 items is going to have impacts and is going to  
5 hit us before we even know what they are. And we  
6 will be reacting to that.

7 So, anything that could be done to  
8 address that aspect of it, what our major  
9 fisheries are praying on, the copepods, the  
10 theropods, whatever, and the impact of  
11 acidification on that I think is going to be  
12 incredibly important. Temperature changes are  
13 tangible. They are easy to see, easy to track.  
14 So, I think they will be less challenging but  
15 they will be challenging enough. And I  
16 appreciate all this and I appreciate the  
17 initiative. Anything we can do to help, we are  
18 more than willing to do.

19 MR. GRIFFIS: Thank you for that. I  
20 appreciate that. I, of course, appreciate the  
21 invitation. And thank you, too, having your SSC  
22 look at the strategy I think will be very useful.  
23 Thank you.

24 You reminded me of two things and, Mr.  
25 Chairman, I don't know if you all have already  
26 had a briefing on the President's budget, but I  
27 was reminded that there are at least two small  
28 items, perhaps others, that do address the  
29 strategy, would fill some critical needs  
30 identified in the Draft Climate Science Strategy  
31 in the President's budget request. And so I  
32 would be happy to provide information on that at  
33 a later date, if you all didn't already get that  
34 kind of lens and look at the budget request for  
35 NOAA and the Fisheries Service.

36 The other thing I wanted to flag for  
37 you all is that the research arm of the U.S.  
38 Congress, the Senate, our Senate Commerce  
39 Committee recently commissioned a study by the  
40 Government Accountability Office, GAO, their  
41 research arm, specifically on climate and  
42 fisheries management.

43 There are three questions on it. The  
44 first question is: What has the National Marine  
45 Fisheries Service been doing to provide  
46 information to understand the impacts?

47 The second question specifically  
48 refers to you. It says: What information needs

1 do the Councils have? What actions have the  
2 Councils been taking? And so I have flagged it  
3 for you because you are named in this study and I  
4 anticipate that the study team will be contacting  
5 you, if you haven't already been contacted. We  
6 have given three initial briefings to help them,  
7 the study team get their head around these  
8 issues. We flagged a series of actions that  
9 either you have taken or information needs that  
10 the science center has been working on. So, I  
11 flag it for you as a heads up.

12 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you. And we did  
13 receive a briefing on the President's budget but  
14 I don't believe that we got into too much details  
15 specific to your two items that you mentioned.  
16 So maybe if you could distribute the information  
17 to the group as it relates to this specific item,  
18 that would be great.

19 MR. GRIFFIS: Yes, I would be happy to  
20 and there is particularly -- Doug reminded me of  
21 it because there is quite a health request to  
22 increase research on ocean acidification impacts.  
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you. All right,  
25 seeing that there are no other questions or  
26 comments, we are a little bit ahead of schedule.  
27 And we had a break scheduled for the next item.  
28 So, I was just wondering if we want to continue  
29 on with that, have the break now. Dr. Merrick,  
30 unfortunately, is having some transportation  
31 problems and is not here yet. But George  
32 Lapointe could give his presentation now and then  
33 maybe we could take a break after his  
34 presentation, if that is okay with everyone. All  
35 right?

36 All right, so George, you are up!  
37 Thank you.

38 MR. LAPOINTE: I was going to make a  
39 crack to Doug Gregory about reporting on some of  
40 the work around the margins after Roger's ocean  
41 acidification discussion. But you are right, it  
42 is a huge issue.

43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome  
44 everybody. I appreciate the opportunity to talk  
45 to you about the electronic technologies  
46 initiative of the National Marine Fisheries  
47 Service and the Regional Electronic Technologies  
48 Plans that the regions and the Atlantic Highly

1 Migratory Species has put together.

2 It is not on my slides but the policy  
3 directive from 2013 said the regions should put  
4 together these regional electronic technology  
5 plans that contain regionally-specific  
6 information about how they plan to incorporate  
7 electronic technologies, electronic monitoring,  
8 electronic reporting and VMS. Those plans are  
9 complete for all regions and HMS, the rollout was  
10 actually yesterday. It was a NOAA email and the  
11 plans are posted. And before I go farther, I  
12 want to thank the regional offices, the Science  
13 Centers, and the Councils for all the help and  
14 input in putting those together. It was a lot of  
15 work in addition to their extra work. And I was  
16 a pest over the last couple of years but they are  
17 a great information source and a way to move  
18 forward.

19 And the other thing, with respect to  
20 the rollout and the people in this room, I have  
21 gotten a fair amount of interest from individuals  
22 and organizations wanting to see the plans. And  
23 so how is that going to manifest itself, I'm not  
24 quite sure but the groupies for electronic  
25 monitoring, you can rest assured, will make  
26 contact and keep things going.

27 I saw a note from somebody yesterday  
28 about the pressure for electronic reporting with  
29 the party charter fleet in the Gulf. And so the  
30 very reasons that the plans were put together  
31 will continue after the interest in the plans.

32 I put this slide together and it was  
33 in your briefing books and I apologize for it.  
34 It looked great on paper. It looks like a mess  
35 here and so I broke it into four parts to make it  
36 a little bit easier.

37 What is in the plans? You know with  
38 respect to electronic reporting, there is  
39 electronic reporting in every region and there is  
40 plans for expansion in Alaska to the additional  
41 state fisheries. The west coast wants to expand  
42 to all fisheries.

43 It says no expansion in the next two  
44 years in the Greater Atlantic Region and that is  
45 because they are doing a fisheries-dependent data  
46 modernization process that they are going to  
47 complete by 2017. I suspect they will follow  
48 shortly thereafter. But it shows a lot of

1 activity with electronic reporting. This is no  
2 surprise.

3 One of the changes I want to make to  
4 this table is to change, break it out into daily  
5 reports or electronic fish tickets and harvester  
6 reports or e-log books because I think that is an  
7 important distinction.

8 And the data modernization process is  
9 something that the New England or sorry, the  
10 Greater Atlantic Region is doing but there is  
11 interest in other regions as well. And this is  
12 one of the things that Mark Brady of NMFS Staff  
13 is pushing with respect to integrated -- data  
14 integration and permit matching, just so that  
15 when we move towards electronic reporting, you  
16 get the maximum amount of efficiencies out of the  
17 process, in terms of getting data in and then  
18 getting the data back out of the system.

19 For electronic monitoring, the Alaska  
20 region has four electronic monitoring programs in  
21 place. HMS is starting the electronic monitoring  
22 in their longline fishery of June this year. In  
23 the next couple of years, we are going to see a  
24 fair amount of electronic monitoring come in  
25 place. The fixed gear fishery in the Alaska  
26 region. The west coast groundfish fishery has  
27 four components and I have one here but probably  
28 two sectors in groundfish are going to be moving  
29 ahead with electronic monitoring in the next  
30 couple of years. Other regions are interested  
31 and we will have to see. I will discuss later I  
32 think that the interest in electronic monitoring  
33 will accelerate with the experience of the  
34 implementation of those three electronic  
35 monitoring programs that are coming online in the  
36 next couple years.

37 VMS we use all across the region and  
38 there are some plans to expand it.

39 One of the things that there wasn't  
40 much information on in the plans is the use of  
41 electronic technologies for recreational  
42 fisheries and there is a lot of interest in this.  
43 So, I just put this up here. The west coast is  
44 considering projects for electronic technologies  
45 in their recreational fisheries. The southeast  
46 region is this deep in it because rec fisheries  
47 are their biggest fishery and there is a fair  
48 amount of interest in specific components of



1 electronic reporting in the highly migratory  
2 species plan.

3 And I should have mentioned when I  
4 started that this is reporting on what is in the  
5 plans and there may be other things going on in  
6 the region that I either missed or people didn't  
7 put in their plans. And so, that is an important  
8 addition that we should pay attention to as well.

9 One of the big drivers for electronic  
10 technologies from the industry and from the  
11 agency is cost. And the plans have a fair amount  
12 of information on cost estimates. The Greater  
13 Atlantic Region doesn't right now because they  
14 are doing their cost analysis. And I think this  
15 is one of our collective weakest thoughts right  
16 now is we haven't done a good job of cost  
17 accounting to know what it costs to put these  
18 programs in place and move them ahead. And we  
19 are working on a cost accounting process for  
20 electronic technologies project as it moves  
21 ahead. There is a group called the Electronic  
22 Technologies Working Group internally in the  
23 agency and we are going to soon be reporting to  
24 leadership about getting that process started so  
25 that we get more concrete cost information for  
26 ourselves and for stakeholders as well.

27 One of the interests on the part of  
28 the Agency in their policy directive was whether  
29 the plans contain cost share components. And  
30 Alaska has cost share components in them and the  
31 west coast has it in groundfish. The south  
32 Atlantic -- the Gulf, rather, has a cost share  
33 component with electronic reporting in the shrimp  
34 fishery but this is something that is in the  
35 policy directive and we are discussing  
36 increasingly but needs more work and we will be  
37 working on it internally and you will hear about  
38 that in the future.

39 One of the things, when I first  
40 started the draft plans, I looked at them and it  
41 must have been on one my grouchy mornings. I  
42 said oh, what is in these things. And they  
43 actually paint, when I got past my grouchy stage,  
44 they paint a really good picture of what is going  
45 on nationally. They show this mosaic of the use  
46 of electronic technologies and that there is a  
47 lot of activity that is regionally-specific. And  
48 so, I think that it provides us the information

1 to move ahead with. It shows the level, a lot of  
2 interest in electronic technologies -- sorry for  
3 the redundancy -- the national picture  
4 nationally, it also shows that to move these  
5 plans ahead, we need support for implementing the  
6 regional planning components. And I suspect that  
7 you discussed the President's budget initiative  
8 for electronic technologies yesterday. And it  
9 allows comparison among the regions to focus on  
10 future electronic technologies where it lets you  
11 look at what is going on in the various regions  
12 and seeing what may or may not be appropriate for  
13 you regions in the future.

14 One of the things I mentioned a little  
15 bit earlier, the three electronic monitoring  
16 projects with catch accounting that are coming  
17 along, Alaska fixed gear, the west coast  
18 groundfish and east coast groundfish I think is  
19 going to give us a huge learning opportunity in  
20 the next couple years about what works and what  
21 doesn't, how you put these things together. And  
22 so I think it will inform your, our future work  
23 very significantly. And some of that will be  
24 stuff we want to learn and is positive and some  
25 of it is going to be the normal stumbling that  
26 comes with an iterative process.

27 We had a call, Dorothy had a call to  
28 kind of close the door on the National EM  
29 Workshop. And I think it was Dan Hull who said  
30 this is hard, you know putting all the components  
31 together of interest in the industry and  
32 determining costs and determining capability, and  
33 the science questions that people push back on.  
34 And so, we can expect or I expect this rapid  
35 evolution of information and we are going to need  
36 collaboration and communication to move forward  
37 with it. Things are going to come up that work  
38 and we want to share that with other areas.  
39 Things are going to come up that don't work and  
40 we are going to have to move our way through them  
41 in fairly short order to make these work.

42 Some of the things that aren't in the  
43 regional plans, one of the things that Mark Brady  
44 mentioned was the fisheries dependent data  
45 integration in the records and interest in  
46 matching processes. And clearly, it is in the  
47 Greater Atlantic region and they plan on  
48 expansion to other regions. And so this is

1 something I think that is, it is going to be done  
2 nationally and it just wasn't identified in some  
3 of the other regional plans.

4 I had put in R&D needs for  
5 implementation and then I crossed it out because  
6 I was editing this just the other day. And I  
7 think a number of the plans do identify R&D needs  
8 for EM implementation but I think I need to go  
9 back to the plans and see what kind of national  
10 picture that paints. And I am interested in  
11 people's views on what other missing components  
12 there might be. If there are things in the plans  
13 or the summaries that I missed or if there is  
14 things that you see that we need to concentrate  
15 on as well.

16 Some of the ongoing needs for the  
17 electronic technologies effort. I had mentioned  
18 briefly the cost accounting for all ET projects.  
19 We are coming up with a template that we are  
20 going to hopefully roll out soon through  
21 leadership to get a better cost accounting both  
22 internal costs and external costs of ET projects.  
23 Collectively, we aren't able to say this is what  
24 it costs to put EM in place or an electronic  
25 reporting process. And so we are working on  
26 that.

27 The cost sharing information we are  
28 looking for as well in various ET projects, both  
29 cost share provisions, which aren't -- they  
30 aren't mandatory in the policy directive but  
31 there is a discussion about where it is  
32 appropriate, where cost share provisions should  
33 be and a discussion on transitions as well. If  
34 cost sharing is applicable in a particular  
35 electronic technologies system, what is the  
36 transition plan from getting from Point A to  
37 Point B.

38 And then the R&D issues that we need  
39 to improve our ability to incorporate electronic  
40 technologies. For EM, clearly, there is an  
41 interest in electronic image recognition, which  
42 is being worked on and we aren't there yet. Mark  
43 Brady went to a conference about a month ago on  
44 automatic image recognition and he said, boy, we  
45 haven't made much progress in the last couple  
46 years. And so that is a huge need as we move  
47 ahead for fisheries dependent-data and fisheries  
48 independent data collection.

1                   The issue of data storage and data  
2 transfer are big issues just because of the  
3 volume of information that is generated,  
4 particularly by EM, terabytes of information.  
5 How we store it, I think you guys have discussed  
6 who stores it, and the confidentiality issues.  
7 That is not an R&D need but how we store it and  
8 transferring that electronic data as well.

9                   The next steps moving forward are the  
10 policy directive calls for review of regional  
11 plan progress by the Science and Regulatory  
12 Boards twice annually. And the criteria that are  
13 set up are the number of FMPs with defined  
14 fishery-dependent data collection monitoring  
15 goals, the number of FMPs reviewed to determine  
16 where additional electronic technologies would be  
17 appropriate. And as appropriate, the number of  
18 FMPs with ET incorporated in the fisheries-  
19 dependent data collection programs.

20                  In summary, I think the regional  
21 plans, as I mentioned earlier, showed this  
22 nationwide picture of efforts on ET tailored to  
23 regional needs and capabilities. I think that  
24 our learning, the potential for learning in the  
25 next couple of years for EM programs in  
26 particular is huge and we should look forward to  
27 both the opportunity and the work that is going  
28 to entail. And then we are working on the  
29 ongoing process to evaluate progress by regions,  
30 incorporate new electronic technologies program  
31 and continue R&D.

32                  And that is my presentation for this  
33 morning. So, I am happy to answer any questions  
34 or take comments.

35                  CHAIR ANSON: Alan.

36                  MR. RISENHOOVER: And just quick  
37 George said about the plans, yes, they should all  
38 be posted. You should have received a link to  
39 those. So, if you didn't let us know, we may  
40 just go ahead and repost a link. So, folks can  
41 look at all the work that went into those plans  
42 and let us know what you think.

43                  MR. LAPOINTE: I did get, I think a  
44 lot of us got an email yesterday from the  
45 outreach folks that have links to all the plans.  
46 And I have clicked on all of them and they are  
47 all there. A little light reading.

48                  CHAIR ANSON: Any questions? Dorothy.

1 MS. LOWMAN: Thank you. Thanks,  
2 George and thanks for your continuing work on  
3 this.

4 So, you mentioned the fact that there  
5 is likely to be a lot of learning in the next  
6 couple of years and that there needs to be a  
7 process for sharing that learning process. So, I  
8 guess you said that you identified the need but  
9 what is your thinking about how best to do that?  
10 Because not only within the regions but then  
11 opportunity for different councils who have to  
12 sort of work on what is the level of design that  
13 Council should be in and how might this work and  
14 what are some of the lessons learned.

15 MR. LAPOINTE: Sure. I have thought  
16 about a couple things. Clearly, just ongoing  
17 communication is part of it but I think, and I  
18 don't know the exact timing and it is not a  
19 second national workshop but I think, as programs  
20 are being implemented, getting the practitioners  
21 together, inside the agency and outside it would  
22 be a really good thing. So, the work of people  
23 saying here is what works and here is what  
24 doesn't and why in particular fisheries and to  
25 share that information because I think it would  
26 be a very useful allocation of people's time.  
27 You know, you could say we could share it all on  
28 the internet but it is not the same as getting  
29 together. So, I think that externally and  
30 internally, getting people together to say what  
31 works and what doesn't, to help with that  
32 learning process would be good.

33 You know working through continued  
34 communication with the Councils and communication  
35 from the Councils about what is happening I think  
36 is useful as well. I listened to your Council  
37 quite often through the webinar and it is  
38 interesting to hear the discussions. And you  
39 know your methodical process, and I mean this in  
40 a good way, of if a problem comes up you have to  
41 deal with it and if a problem comes up then you  
42 have to deal with it. And it illustrates all the  
43 steps, kind of the back office steps that you  
44 need to pay attention to in moving programs  
45 ahead.

46 So, I think the experience of like you  
47 are undergoing that Alaska is undergoing would  
48 really benefit other people as well.

1 CHAIR ANSON: Geno.

2 MR. PINEIRO-SOLER: Thank you.  
3 George, have you thought about a pilot project  
4 for some areas, in particular, sectors, for  
5 example, charter boat operators, and sort of the  
6 regions where there is perhaps an easier group to  
7 tackle?

8 MR. LAPOINTE: I think one of the  
9 things the regional plans probably missed is the  
10 amount of pilot work that is being done around  
11 the country, or pilot work or pre-implementation,  
12 depending on what you want to call it. But there  
13 is a lot of activity in different regions on both  
14 electronic reporting, well, particularly in  
15 electronic reporting, both in the commercial  
16 sector and in the for-hire sector and private  
17 rec. Some of that work is, in my view, people  
18 get a hold of technology and they think it can do  
19 everything and they kind of overdrive the system  
20 and we don't have the backup system to go along  
21 with it. The same thing happens in EM. People  
22 think that the cameras, it is like getting an  
23 NCIS camera on top of a boat and they think we  
24 can get everything. So, just all those processes  
25 going along is difficult. But there is a lot of  
26 pilot work that, again, is tailored to the  
27 region.

28 I have talked to, I used to call them,  
29 the Point 99 folks were working in the Caribbean  
30 about electronic reporting there. To get good  
31 reporting and electronic reporting very  
32 regionally specific and so I think there is a lot  
33 of working going on that isn't identified in  
34 these plans but is helping move things along.

35 And one of the things that has to be  
36 moved along at the same time as our management  
37 and science community's ability to take the data  
38 and use it and what we need is community  
39 acceptance and their desire or willingness to get  
40 electronic monitoring in place.

41 One of the things the GARFO plan  
42 mentions is that there is kind of an ambivalence  
43 towards electronic monitoring in a lot of their  
44 fisheries. And so, if you want to use it in  
45 fisheries-dependent data collection, you have got  
46 to bring the community along to want to  
47 incorporate it as well.

48 CHAIR ANSON: Sir, go ahead.

1 MR. HULL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
2 thanks, George, for your presentation. I am  
3 pretty sure on the teleconference I used the word  
4 painful as well as hard. And it is extremely  
5 hard because not only do you have to have all the  
6 right people at the table but everybody has got  
7 to work very carefully to define what kind of  
8 research or pilot project you are doing that will  
9 actually lead to implementation. And then it is  
10 just not easy at all.

11 My question, maybe not for you but for  
12 Alan for Sam is to what extent did the regional  
13 implementation plans influence the 2015 and 2016  
14 budgets. And we saw some of those figures  
15 yesterday. And if so, how specifically?

16 In our work in developing EM,  
17 obviously there has been a lot of discovery and  
18 discussion about the need for infrastructure for  
19 the Agency for developing field services, Council  
20 staffing. It has been a huge undertaking for us  
21 and it has consumed a significant amount of time  
22 by our staff and by stakeholders, in order to get  
23 as far as we are. It is really difficult.

24 MR. RAUCH: So, in response to that,  
25 the plans themselves, which only came out within  
26 the last couple weeks, didn't directly influence  
27 that. The development of the plans, though, the  
28 ideas behind it, we have been talking with the  
29 regions and we know -- we weren't actually  
30 surprised by any of these plans.

31 The issues that you talk about did  
32 influence us. This is one of the reasons there  
33 is a budget initiative. We recognize this is not  
34 something you can just take out of hide. This is  
35 going to require additional resources. And there  
36 are two kinds of resources. There is,  
37 explicitly, the resources for the management part  
38 of that. And if you recall from all of the  
39 discussion yesterday, the budget had two pieces.  
40 One was management and one was the rest of it,  
41 recognizing it takes a lot of work to get these  
42 out of the pilot phase into implementation and  
43 work on the regulatory side.

44 So, those were those two components  
45 and that was influenced by a lot of the  
46 discussions that we had in developing the plan.  
47 But since the plans didn't come in, it is not  
48 that you can say if you add up these particular

1 actions, they will equal that budget initiative.  
2 That is not -- we had to estimate what the budget  
3 initiative would be well before we knew what the  
4 actions, the explicit actions were.

5 So, in the future years, there might  
6 be more of an alignment between sort of the line  
7 items and the regional plans and the budget.  
8 Right now, it was a ballpark estimate of what we  
9 needed to do that.

10 MR. HULL: If I might, Mr. Chairman,  
11 just to follow up. Then, since the  
12 implementation plans are now out and there is  
13 some more specific information about progress in  
14 the different regions, will that influence the  
15 decision-making about how those monies get spent?

16 MR. RAUCH: I think the President's  
17 budget is out. And so the first decision, of  
18 course, will be for The Hill and Congress. And  
19 we will have to see what Congress does. A lot of  
20 these plans went to The Hill as an example of how  
21 we would spend those monies that we have asked  
22 for. But we can't appropriate those monies in  
23 any more detail until the Hill sort of tells us  
24 what the funding will be.

25 They do influence us in determining  
26 how we want to go about things that were done by  
27 us, in terms of what we would like to see out of  
28 these plans. Because the regional implementation  
29 is a bottom-up process. It is not something --  
30 while we can set the goal of actually  
31 implementing systems, that is just a national  
32 goal. The details are difficult, complex,  
33 thorny. It has to be worked out from the bottom-  
34 up. They have to have an understanding from  
35 industry from the Councils and all that.

36 So, they will guide us but in terms of  
37 the actual budget allocation, we will have to see  
38 what Congress does with that request before we  
39 figure out how to spend the money.

40 MR. LAPOINTE: The other thing that  
41 comes to mind from my perspective on that is as  
42 you are working on your respective EM projects is  
43 to get a better accounting of the costs. So, I  
44 mean you can imagine if I was with Congressman  
45 X's office, I would say well, what do you need to  
46 spend on EM project in your particular region.  
47 And we are getting better at getting those  
48 estimates but that is going to be one of the



1 things we have to concentrate on, so we not only  
2 know how to move a program ahead but what the  
3 specifics are, as we get those estimates. We  
4 don't have them in.

5 CHAIR ANSON: Tom.

6 MR. NIES: George, thanks for the  
7 presentation. Are we making progress on being  
8 able to handle and use the data and figuring out  
9 how it interacts with observer data and how it  
10 affects SBRM requirements and that type of thing?  
11 I don't hear a lot of talk about that. So, it is  
12 hard to understand where we are on that side of  
13 the deal, the downstream use of the data.

14 MR. LAPOINTE: I think that we are  
15 making, you know, we are going to start using it  
16 for catch counting. So, there is methodology to  
17 do that. I sat in on a meeting with the Maine  
18 Coast community sector and they are going to use  
19 a model similar to what is being done like the BC  
20 model where they audit ten percent and they match  
21 it up for the Maine regions, VTRs and other  
22 regions are moving toward the same model.

23 I think that the Science Center  
24 community is still working on some of those data  
25 integration issues and so that is an important  
26 element as well. And it reminds me, I should put  
27 it in a presentation. So, a lot of work has been  
28 done and there is going to be learning and  
29 continued work in that vein, as we move ahead.

30 That is probably something that some  
31 of the proponents of EM don't pay as much  
32 attention to early on and it is one of, I think,  
33 the learning curve issues that is tough. When I  
34 went to that meeting at the GARFO Region, my  
35 first observation to both the agency folks and  
36 the sector people was there are some issues when  
37 people talk past each other and you kind of  
38 assume that somebody is going to make it work out  
39 and that is, again, another one of those really  
40 tough issues that you have got to go stepwise on  
41 to make it work. So, not only do you achieve the  
42 benefits of using EM, in terms of people say cost  
43 and we don't know if that is going to be -- what  
44 kind of cost savings are going to be there but  
45 burden on crews and vessels and whatnot and how  
46 you integrate the science is something that we  
47 have got to continue to work on.

48 CHAIR ANSON: John Bullard.

1 MR. BULLARD: George, thank you for  
2 your help on all of this and being such a nice,  
3 loveable nag because we appreciate it and we need  
4 it.

5 And the cost savings, I want to probe  
6 that a little bit because there are images that  
7 people have on this that you know it is easy and  
8 the cost savings are going to be there. I think  
9 you kind of alluded to that in your last remarks  
10 there. And that there is, perhaps, widespread  
11 industry support. And as we work, for example,  
12 with that Maine sector that you have been talking  
13 to, we find some of these images, as you get into  
14 it, aren't so true or maybe they aren't so true  
15 that industry support varies. What would you  
16 expect with the fishing industry, especially in  
17 your state of Maine? Everyone has at least one  
18 opinion, maybe more. And so, it is difficult.

19 But one of the things that is  
20 especially difficult is this prevailing attitude  
21 that all of this is going to produce savings,  
22 when at least our feeling is maybe this will  
23 prove, I hope it proves to be wrong, is that  
24 right now it looks like it is more expensive.  
25 And I am still not exactly sure why that is but I  
26 don't know if you want to comment on it but it  
27 looks right now that this technology can produce  
28 more costs of analysis than savings.

29 And that may be something. I mean the  
30 folks in the Maine coast sector are interested in  
31 this for all kinds of reasons. It is a way to  
32 get observers off the boat. They want to be on  
33 the vanguard. They think there might be savings  
34 there. There are all kinds of motivations for it  
35 and some people don't want to be on it so  
36 motivations are different. But the cost savings  
37 and the prevalent factor that this produces cost  
38 savings, that can be harmful, especially if isn't  
39 true. And I just want to know what your thoughts  
40 are on it because you have dug deeper into this  
41 and all over the country on it. What are your  
42 thoughts on that?

43 MR. LAPOINTE: I think that is a great  
44 question, John. And unfortunately, the answer,  
45 in part, is we don't know.

46 That is why we are pushing so hard on  
47 the cost accounting because if you are talking to  
48 a fisherman, the costs for an industry member

1 might be less because they are not paying for an  
2 observer, they are paying for, you know if you  
3 use a west coast example, installation of  
4 equipment and the maintenance of the equipment.  
5 And then the Agency does what I call the back  
6 office analysis. And we haven't done a good job  
7 of saying what that is. And so if you are a  
8 proponent of EM, you will say well, Mr. Regional  
9 Administrator, what is the cost of running the  
10 program in your region? And a lot of the times,  
11 our answer is well, we can't tell you or we  
12 haven't documented it. So, we can't really argue  
13 back or counter that argument with what appears  
14 what the real costs are.

15 So, I think that is an incredibly  
16 important component of moving this ahead.

17 And then the second component is there  
18 are EM systems that are -- you know, clearly cost  
19 is an issue but the burden on the crew and the  
20 vessel is another issue as well. There are some,  
21 you know the vessel size is clearly an issue. In  
22 those fisheries it is clearly an issue in the  
23 Alaska fish gear fishery. You know, some of the  
24 boats down in the south Atlantic are open console  
25 boats that are 24 feet long. They can hardly get  
26 two crew members on. And there are some  
27 observation issues there.

28 And so they are testing EM systems for  
29 smaller boats. And so people have to be honest  
30 about their motivation and then we have to  
31 respond as best we can and increasingly better in  
32 terms of what the total cost is so that we can  
33 make that comparison.

34 CHAIR ANSON: Any other comments?  
35 Those listening in on the phone, do you have any  
36 questions? All right.

37 Kitty?

38 MS. SIMONDS: Just to say that EDF has  
39 been going to The Hill to try to get more money  
40 for this line item. And so I am wondering if  
41 other Councils were contacted by Sara. Anybody  
42 else? Any Council contacted about what it would  
43 cost for you folks to you know there is the NMFS  
44 component and there is a Council component, too.

45 Well, I will send you the presentation  
46 if none of you were contacted. But they are  
47 working on The Hill to get more money for that  
48 line item number 16.

1 MR. LAPOINTE: Kitty, there are a  
2 number of groups who are interested, obviously,  
3 in more rapid implementation of EM and other  
4 electronic technologies and EDF is one of those  
5 groups. And when I saw one of their  
6 presentations, the numbers they had were very  
7 different than we would write in this room. In  
8 New England, for instance, one of their early  
9 presentations had moving from pilot projects to  
10 every permitted vessel in the groundfish fishery  
11 like in two years, which we told them we think is  
12 a wildly, an improbable assumption to make.

13 MS. SIMONDS: So, did they listen to  
14 you and change things?

15 MR. LAPOINTE: I think they have. And  
16 I think the plans and I think outside interests  
17 in increasing EM allow us to have a better  
18 discussion. You know we may, in the President's  
19 budget may say that, what is the line, is it like  
20 \$7 million for next year, \$5.5 and \$1.5 million  
21 for electronic technology? And they may say \$12  
22 million. It puts us all in a much better  
23 position to have the conversation as opposed to  
24 us saying we need \$7 million and nobody else  
25 saying we need anything.

26 And so I think they are pesky  
27 stakeholders but they are there and they are  
28 helping move things in the right direction.

29 MS. SIMONDS: I think their figure was  
30 \$2 million above the President's budget.

31 CHAIR ANSON: John.

32 MR. BULLARD: Kitty, they have  
33 certainly talked to me and one of the issues on  
34 cost is they feel it is in their interest to  
35 assert that electronic technologies save money as  
36 a way of arguing for investment in electronic  
37 technologies. And so whether it saves money or  
38 not, they think it is a very important argument  
39 to make that it saves money. And I am not sure  
40 it does but they don't want to hear that it  
41 doesn't save money because they are arguing that  
42 it is worthy of investment. That is what they --  
43 that is their argument.

44 CHAIR ANSON: Anyone else? Dorothy.

45 MS. LOWMAN: Well, I am not sure that  
46 this deserves a lot more conversation. I do know  
47 that I think when they were working on that  
48 project they did work with different people and

1 sometimes there were some stakeholders. A lot of  
2 times there were people who were working on  
3 issues related to the implementation plan. I  
4 know that we had a draft of the implementation  
5 plan out that they heavily utilized in that vein.

6 So, I think their goal is to just try  
7 to, I think frankly, support the administration's  
8 request is really what they want to do.

9 CHAIR ANSON: All right, Don.

10 MR. McISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 Just to make one point of budgetary emphasis on a  
12 distinction of this last discussion, yesterday we  
13 talked about whether or not in fiscal year 2016  
14 there might be an electronic monitoring line in  
15 the big table for councils. So, what we are  
16 aware of, as Kitty indicated, is that a lot of  
17 the push in Congress, not just from EDF but from  
18 others, is designed to have a specific allocation  
19 for the council activity that is required.

20 CHAIR ANSON: All right. Well, George  
21 -- Dorothy.

22 MS. LOWMAN: So, George, I have one  
23 other question. You know mentioned some R&D  
24 related to data transfer, storage, et cetera, and  
25 then you mentioned that there were other issues  
26 related to those that weren't R&D but I guess I  
27 didn't quite hear kind of what is the process to  
28 try to address some of those. Because they sort  
29 of interact even with the R&D, in terms of who  
30 might be interested, how it might be structured,  
31 et cetera, knowing who can handle it, who can  
32 hold it, who can reserve it, et cetera. So, I am  
33 wondering if you have any comments on that.

34 MR. LAPOINTE: Sure. We have had  
35 internal discussions on both. I mean the data  
36 storage and the data transfer issue.

37 And when I first got started on the  
38 project, you know going into it with little  
39 information, I said well, you know, there has got  
40 to be some way to figure out how to send that  
41 data electronically. And the data set size, as  
42 you know are huge.

43 And there was a conference I was at  
44 and I was talking to a guy who was working on the  
45 Google Car Project. And I said well, if somebody  
46 knows how to handle big sets of data, Google  
47 should be it. And so I sat down with this person  
48 and said, you know, what do you do when you send

1 a data file that is this big? He said I put it  
2 in my pocket and bring it back to the office or  
3 mail it in. And so it changed our way of  
4 thinking. And the model that you started  
5 developing on the west coast and Dana Matthews  
6 was instrumental in changing my way of thinking  
7 of just saying well, let's mail it in until we  
8 can figure something else out is one issue for  
9 data transfer.

10 It will be great in the future when we  
11 figure out how to send those things  
12 electronically and I think that is coming.

13 The data storage issue is one where I  
14 did a scale out based on some estimates I got  
15 from Dave Colpo on what is produced in the  
16 whiting fishery on the west coast and from Alaska  
17 and from the northeast. And you could be talking  
18 about tens of terabytes a year. And so the  
19 question then is how long do you keep it and who  
20 keeps it. And those are ongoing discussions.  
21 There is clearly discussions about people holding  
22 it outside the agency. But then how do you get  
23 the data and what data do you get? So, those are  
24 ongoing, incredibly important discussions.

25 And one of the things we just talked  
26 about recently is we may need to have an interim  
27 solution until we figure out the long-term  
28 components to allow these things to get started.  
29 Because whether it is west coast, or Alaska, or  
30 east coast, if we get two years down the road and  
31 then people say oh, we don't have data storage  
32 figured out, let's stop until we figure it out,  
33 that will not be a good thing. So, I think it is  
34 going to take continued work on how to handle it  
35 logistically and legally and it will take "the  
36 give and take" because there are opinions on this  
37 that are wide apart.

38 So, those are our two critical issues.

39 CHAIR ANSON: All right, George.

40 Thank you very much for the presentation.

41 MR. LAPOINTE: Thank you.

42 CHAIR ANSON: We will go back or we  
43 will go to take a break right now for 15 minutes.  
44 And then after the break, we will have Dr.  
45 Merrick give his report.

46 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
47 went off the record at 10:22 a.m. and resumed at  
48 10:49 a.m.)

1 CHAIR ANSON: All right, everyone, we  
2 had a little bit of a delay due to some technical  
3 difficulties we were trying to straighten out  
4 here. But we have Dr. Richard Merrick Report on  
5 Science Centers 2013 Data Program Review and 2014  
6 Assessment Program Review. Dr. Merrick.

7 DR. MERRICK: Thank you, Kevin. It's  
8 nice to be here and this is for those of you who  
9 have been around for a while, this is my sort of  
10 annual portal with where we are on the program  
11 reviews. And let's see if we can get this to go  
12 forward. There.

13 This began, basically, the year that  
14 I took this position. So, we are now into the  
15 fourth year of the cycle. So, FY12 was,  
16 basically, for us to get organized. Here,  
17 though, we wanted to have a thorough external  
18 review of all the centers on a single theme each  
19 year and do this on a cycle basis or cyclical  
20 basis that we will do this for six years and then  
21 start over again.

22 And we started the process with  
23 strategic planning with the idea that none of the  
24 centers really had a significant strategic plan.  
25 I think the Alaska Center did but that was about  
26 it. I wanted to get all of the centers thinking  
27 more strategically. There is a lot of questions  
28 that you are asking of the centers they need to  
29 be thinking about a higher level and then start  
30 doing these reviews.

31 So, year 2 was the first of the  
32 Magnuson reviews. And originally, we had  
33 expected to do all Magnuson one year. We  
34 recognized that actually if we could get people  
35 to come in and look at the data that is  
36 collected, it was a different sort of group than  
37 the ones that we would expect to come in and talk  
38 about their stock. So, that is why that is split  
39 up into two years.

40 So, basically over years two and  
41 three, we are reviewing the Magnuson stock  
42 assessment enterprise of all the centers.

43 And this year we are moving into the  
44 next phase, which is protected species science,  
45 and as you can see there, there is two more years  
46 in the process. And then we will pause, do a  
47 year of strategic planning and start over again.

48 So, to review 2013 and 2014. Here is

1 the schedule. Each of the centers' reviews came  
2 off pretty much on schedule. The southeast  
3 center was the very first of the reviews and we  
4 learned a lot out of that, most of which was that  
5 you can't get give the center reviewers 12,000  
6 pages of documents and expect them to read it.  
7 And I think for all this, it was a useful  
8 exercise from the outside to work from the inside  
9 to see what was actually happening in these  
10 centers.

11 These reviews were open to the public  
12 and I think what we have seen as we have gone  
13 through these two years that we have actually  
14 started, in the second year they actually start  
15 to draw more participation not only from the  
16 public, there is industry in almost all of these  
17 now, but from you all, from the councils and  
18 commissions, as well as from our partners in the  
19 regional office and other agencies.

20 The results of each one of the reviews  
21 is a set of reports from each of the individuals  
22 that review. I recognize that the review panel  
23 is composed of three totally external reviewers  
24 from NOAA; one other reviewer from outside of  
25 NOAA -- excuse me, outside of NMFS; and then one  
26 reviewer from NMFS but from a different region.  
27 So, usually the panel is around five. Sometimes  
28 we have had up to seven. So, each one of those  
29 panelists will prepare their own individual  
30 report and that report then gets posted online  
31 for the public. The chair of the panel  
32 summarizes the results of what each of the five  
33 or so panelists found in their reviews. That  
34 gets posted as well.

35 And then within about a month of when  
36 the chair's summary is received, and that is  
37 supposed to be within two weeks of the close of  
38 the review, the center's director has to respond.  
39 And the center director's response has been an  
40 interesting process in developing something that  
41 I thought was really useful. A lot of the early  
42 attempts to respond were very broad and flowery,  
43 saying yes, these are wonderful reviews. We  
44 thank you very much for that. And what I have  
45 pushed them all to, and you will see that,  
46 particularly in the FY14 reviews is I want a  
47 schedule of responses of things that people are  
48 going to do, the centers are going to do to



1 respond back to the reviewers comments.

2 And we keep a record of that. And  
3 that is now posted internally. I have a  
4 spreadsheet with the databases developing on all  
5 of the reviewers' comments and then the centers'  
6 responses. These then go into the center  
7 director's performance plan. And they are  
8 monitored. I expect them to stay on schedule.  
9 There is a specific item within their plans that  
10 85 percent of the items scheduled for that year  
11 must be completed.

12 At the close of the six or seven  
13 reviews, then the seventh is our Office of  
14 Science and Technology here at headquarters,  
15 which occurred sometime at the end of the fiscal  
16 year, I have about two months to review all of  
17 the reports and then prepare a national response.  
18 And basically, what that national response looks  
19 like is it summarizes all the sort of cross-  
20 cutting items that I have seen in the seven  
21 reviews. So, if it is in three or more of the  
22 center's reviews, it will go into my national  
23 response. I then am also obliged to say how and  
24 what we are going to do to respond to those  
25 comments. And it is also my performance plan.

26 So, that website, the headquarters'  
27 website has access to all these materials. Each  
28 one of the individual centers also maintains a  
29 website with their own specific materials.

30 So, some overarching themes that came  
31 out of the reviews. Actually in the two years  
32 between data collection and stock assessments,  
33 they were not that much different but they sure  
34 reflected the different part of the stock  
35 assessment process. So, strategic planning was  
36 important. Staffing was a big deal. As an  
37 example of how it is different, for the data  
38 collection period, there were staffing shortfalls  
39 recognized in all the centers. So, that is what  
40 this will pop up in the national review. And  
41 those were basically, either data processing  
42 group or in Asian growth where they had people  
43 cutting O lists. And at the same time, when we  
44 did the stock assessment reviews, we again saw  
45 similar sort of issues about workforce capacity  
46 but then it was a different kind of person.

47 Go down to specific responses. For  
48 example, on data management issues, one of the

1 responses that we are providing at the national  
2 level for FY13, those funds became available in  
3 14 was to actually fund three additional FTEs per  
4 center to help with the data management.

5 With respect to surveys and sampling  
6 design, we have a number of data collection  
7 efforts that the reviewers found were not  
8 statistically robust. So they maybe collected  
9 too many age structures or too few. And there  
10 was no national approach to that. So, we are  
11 hosting a workshop this year to try to develop an  
12 overarching approach to this.

13 The classic example would be where  
14 they have collected 10,000 O lists from stock and  
15 the observers are cutting every one of these fish  
16 to get those O lists that we are not going to do  
17 a stock assessment for. So, we are trying to fix  
18 that.

19 Strategic planning, a lot of this  
20 dealt with the stock assessment priorities in  
21 scheduling that Rick Methot has been dealing with  
22 and they have discussed it all, the  
23 prioritization of stock assessments.

24 And then staffing shortfalls. As I  
25 mentioned, we are going to deal with that by  
26 directly hiring staff or providing funds for it  
27 anyway.

28 And the second year prioritization was  
29 again an issue. One of the significant issues  
30 became how to improve throughput. You all have  
31 probably seen some of the photocharts that we  
32 have put together that show how many steps there  
33 are to go from data collection to actually  
34 studying the fact and it takes a long time to do  
35 it. And there is reasons for all that but there  
36 may perhaps be critical ways to do this. So, we  
37 are going to be hosting a national working group  
38 to improve that process, at least attempt to.

39 Management strategy evaluations were  
40 important here and they were actually in the  
41 first year as well. And we have talked a lot  
42 about implement management strategy evaluations.  
43 We haven't done much about it. So, I have gotten  
44 a little frustrated. So, while I have told every  
45 one of the centers we are going to provide you  
46 funds to hire at least one individual who is  
47 going to be your MSE expert. It could be  
48 somebody new or you could take somebody you have

1 got right now, make them the MSE expert and hire  
2 somebody new to replace that person. But I want  
3 someone in every one of the centers that can work  
4 with the regional office in the centers on MSEs.

5 And then, I have tasked my three ST  
6 scientists, those are my senior level scientist  
7 like Jason who was talking with you all a few  
8 minutes ago, to look at this nationally and  
9 develop a national approach to how we can provide  
10 this advice. Because in some situations, we need  
11 an economist as an expert in MSEs. In other  
12 situations, it is a population dynamics expert.  
13 But I want a national approach to this, so they  
14 are working on that.

15 And finally, there is a need to  
16 continue to retain increased capacity for stock  
17 assessment scientists. So, we will be continuing  
18 to provide funding for additional stock  
19 assessment scientists.

20 So, these are the sort of things I  
21 deal with at the national level. You can take a  
22 look at each one of the centers' responses.  
23 There will be a lot more things beyond this but I  
24 reduce it down to the national level to typically  
25 a half a dozen or so sort of cross-cutting  
26 issues.

27 Now, in 2015, I am going to set aside  
28 Magnuson for a while so all those folks can rest  
29 and look at protected species science. The terms  
30 of reference are online. And this one is  
31 actually a little bit different than what we have  
32 done in the past in that all the centers'  
33 Magnuson responsibilities are fairly similar.  
34 But if you look at the centers' responsibilities  
35 with respect to protected resources, it really  
36 varies. There are some areas, like in the Gulf,  
37 where turtles dominate much of what is going on.

38 Other areas, like on the west coast,  
39 where salmon is a big issue, the northwest and  
40 the southwest centers, jointly, do salmon. So,  
41 if you look at the terms of reference at how we  
42 are going to do this, you are going to see that  
43 the species that are reviewed are going to be  
44 different between centers. And in some cases, I  
45 am combining the two centers into one review.

46 So, in the west coast, Salmon will be  
47 done as a joint review between the northwest and  
48 the southwest centers. Otherwise, things are

1 very similar. Again, a similar kind of  
2 independent panel, the same sort of period. And  
3 again, these are open to the public.

4 And this is one where we have really  
5 pushed out particularly to the protected  
6 resources community to become involved in. So,  
7 our expectation is that now the Commission will  
8 be at all the reviews; Headquarters Office of  
9 Protected Resources will have a representative at  
10 all the reviews; our expectation is that the ARA  
11 at the regional offices will participate in each  
12 one of their regional reviews,

13 And we are hoping that the SRGs, the  
14 chairs of the SRGs will participate in each one  
15 of the reviews as well. They will be there,  
16 basically, in the audience but they will be there  
17 to provide advice to the panel. In other words,  
18 the panel is external to the region. They are  
19 brought in from the outside but they are supposed  
20 to give a fresh eye to reviewing the work there.  
21 But it is important that we have local experts in  
22 the audience and talking with the panel.

23 Most everything is scheduled at this  
24 point. Woods Hole has now been scheduled for --  
25 Bill, do you remember what it is -- April 12th,  
26 the week of April 12th. A couple of locations in  
27 the west coast yet to be determined but these  
28 will be posted soon.

29 We strongly suggest that the Councils  
30 have representatives there. Those of you who  
31 have protected resources working groups or  
32 committees, the Chair, Rick Seagraves, it would  
33 be great to have him there in the audience  
34 helping us.

35 Questions? Do you have questions?  
36 Kitty, nothing from the Pacific?

37 MS. SIMONDS: I would rather, I told  
38 you before I was so happy when you got the job;  
39 one was that you were a marine mammal expert and  
40 you need to fix some of the terrible, what shall  
41 we say, closures we have, if our fishery bumps  
42 into two of them. Anyway, but that is just  
43 background.

44 I am really glad that you are doing  
45 all of this. It is very necessary. In our part  
46 of the world, our piece, I hate to tell you, in  
47 that case, needs a lot of discipline. It is  
48 messy out there. And the divisions have to learn

1 to work together with each other because that  
2 doesn't happen. And then you could imagine when  
3 we ask for reports or assessments, I think it is  
4 better for us to just have access to all the data  
5 and then we do our own reports. Because the  
6 timing is incredibly long, not just for us, I am  
7 also speaking for the territories. So,  
8 hopefully, all of this that you are doing will  
9 change the way they do business. And now we do  
10 have a new director and so my hope is that you  
11 and I and the director will speak sometime soon  
12 to get everything out there on the table and we  
13 should have a talk face-to-face kind of thing.

14 DR. MERRICK: Okay. Well, in the  
15 Hawaiian Islands, we are not going to do corals  
16 this year. We will do it next year as part of  
17 the ecosystems. But the issues you have got with  
18 marine mammals, I mean you need to have somebody  
19 in the audience that can talk with the panel to  
20 raise those issues. Because the real thrust of  
21 this is not so much how you do surveys but are we  
22 providing the right kind of science to support  
23 the regional office, to support the councils and  
24 so on.

25 MS. SIMONDS: Right, exactly.

26 DR. MERRICK: So, the committee, as an  
27 interim reference, the committee is expecting to  
28 hear those sorts of things from you. This is not  
29 the kind of committee where they will just turn  
30 their backs to the audience. They are expecting  
31 to have a dialogue with the audience.

32 MS. SIMONDS: Well, very good, because  
33 we will give them dialogue.

34 DR. MERRICK: Good. Chris.

35 MR. MOORE: So, thanks for the  
36 presentation. I think it is great that you are  
37 ramping up the MSE capabilities in the regions,  
38 sort of the science centers, the regional  
39 centers.

40 I am wondering about that capability  
41 now. So, we have MSE experts, we consider  
42 experts working for you now and I am asking  
43 because we are very interested in --

44 So, I am wondering about the MSE  
45 capabilities, the MSE capabilities that have you  
46 now and I am wondering who those folks are  
47 because the Mid-Atlantic Council is very  
48 interested in MSEs for some of our species,

1 specifically the black sea bass.

2 So, are there folks that we can  
3 contact now, as you start ramping up efforts with  
4 the Northeast Fisheries Center? Are folks going  
5 to be there soon? What is going on?

6 DR. MERRICK: That is up to the  
7 schedule in the Center. Bill will be the best  
8 person to talk to about that but I know there is  
9 capability within the Center but there is no one  
10 person that is actually dedicated to it. They do  
11 it part-time. And what I want to have is  
12 somebody who is dedicated to it full-time and to  
13 build the capability of individuals who are  
14 there.

15 Right now, there is no one there who  
16 is dedicated to this full-time.

17 MR. KARP: At present, that is  
18 correct. But we are responding to your request  
19 to align ourselves and create a lead person. And  
20 we will be working with both Councils because  
21 each one of them has someone doing MSE work.

22 MR. MOORE: So, as follow-up, how  
23 about headquarters?

24 DR. MERRICK: We have no individual  
25 that that is all they do.

26 MR. MOORE: Okay.

27 DR. MERRICK: But you talk to Jason,  
28 he is very familiar with the methodologies of it.  
29 It is nothing really unique but to have somebody  
30 who isn't doing stock assessments actually have  
31 the time to do this, that is the real lift here.

32 MR. MOORE: So, I have another  
33 question. You talked about data issues in some  
34 of your slides. So, how is the work that you are  
35 doing complimenting what is going on in the  
36 region now on GARFO with data, to look at the way  
37 they handle data? There is, I think, a one- or  
38 two-year thing that the Regional Science Center  
39 is working on that can help us with our data  
40 issues.

41 DR. MERRICK: Well, one is, I am  
42 hoping that the individuals that we are drawing  
43 additional funding to the center will be able to  
44 help move that issue along. And this is actually  
45 a conversation that we started when I was there,  
46 trying to straighten this out.

47 But I am looking to what happens in  
48 the northeast, as an example, for other regions.

1 No one else, I think, has given this as strong a  
2 scrub as the northeast are doing right now. And  
3 if we look at some of the other regions, there  
4 are at least as large of problems, if not  
5 greater.

6 The Alaska got their act together.  
7 The southeast needs work because they are so  
8 scattered with three different Councils. So, it  
9 is very different datasets. So, help them, if  
10 you can, because they are going to help everybody  
11 else.

12 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you. One comment.  
13 Just the folks that are listening in on the phone  
14 are having some trouble listening to the comments  
15 and questions here. So, if you can make sure you  
16 get very close to the microphone, that would  
17 help.

18 Chris Oliver?

19 MR. OLIVER: Kind of a really general  
20 question, Richard. When it is protected species  
21 science used for assessments, does that broadly  
22 include protected species science used for things  
23 like biological opinions as well?

24 DR. MERRICK: It would effectively be  
25 included.

26 MR. OLIVER: Effectively.

27 DR. MERRICK: It is really we are  
28 using the MMPA as the driver for this but ESA is  
29 there as well. So, when you are doing stellar  
30 sea lion surveys, for example, you are meeting  
31 both these.

32 CHAIR ANSON: Tom Nies.

33 MR. NIES: Thanks, Richard. I guess  
34 I have got two comments. One is I was actually  
35 glad to hear that you brought up the point about  
36 public participation because I was going to ask  
37 about that. Because at the two meetings I have  
38 been to in the northeast, the public  
39 participation has been pretty limited. And had  
40 Chris and me, and Bob Beal not shown up, I would  
41 almost say public participation might have been  
42 nonexistent.

43 So, one of the issues, I think, is  
44 location. I don't know why it is felt like the  
45 thing has to be held at the Science Center. You  
46 know it makes it convenient for people at the  
47 Science Center but not so convenient at the  
48 public.

1                   And this next one is going to be  
2 problematic because it conflicts with the Mid-  
3 Atlantic Council's council meeting. So, that is  
4 an issue.

5                   The other thing is that you know I  
6 struggled a little bit on the models meeting and  
7 Bill had heard me go on a rant about this. So, I  
8 will try and keep it short. You know, when you  
9 bring in outside reviewers from NOAA and I think  
10 they bring in their perception of how management  
11 should work and these reviews are not actually  
12 supposed to be talking about management but when  
13 the reviewers start writing things like well, you  
14 have got your management plans organized  
15 incorrectly, and that is affecting science, I  
16 have a problem with that because, first off, I  
17 don't really feel that that was their role; and  
18 second, that is not really something that the  
19 three of us talked about. So, you know these are  
20 conclusions that, in my opinion, were uninformed.

21                   And we really didn't have an  
22 opportunity presented to rebut these comments.  
23 The review panel was held in May and I don't  
24 think we saw the reports until October or  
25 November, after the Science Center Director had  
26 already drafted his reply to the reviewers'  
27 reports.

28                   So, I struggle a little bit with that  
29 aspect of the reviews. I am very glad to do  
30 them. I like participating in them. I think the  
31 Center has done an excellent job laying out their  
32 programs for the reviewers but I still have some  
33 heartburn with some of the things that go on  
34 after the reviews are over.

35                   DR. MERRICK: Yes, I have seen the  
36 overreach as well on a number of the reviews by  
37 the reviewers. I'm not quite sure how we  
38 restrain them, other than probably the Center  
39 Directors should make sure at the beginning, tell  
40 them to stick to the terms of reference.

41                   CHAIR ANSON: Anyone on the phone  
42 listening that has a question for Dr. Merrick?

43                   MR. HARTIG: Yes, can you hear me?  
44 This is Ben Hartig, South Atlantic Council.

45                   CHAIR ANSON: Yes, Ben we can hear  
46 you. If you could speak up just a little bit  
47 more, though, but go ahead.

48                   MR. HARTIG: Yes, Dr. Merrick, thank



1 you very much for that presentation. In the  
2 southeast you mentioned some of the data  
3 shortfalls we have and certainly, we have been  
4 trying to identify some of the areas that you are  
5 going to identify as well, by looking at your  
6 sampling in detail and figuring out where you are  
7 collecting too many samples and where you are not  
8 collecting enough. In the southeast it is  
9 critical that we collect the right number of  
10 samples because we have some oversampling in a  
11 couple of species that we could redirect to other  
12 species.

13 So, I would like to thank you for  
14 having that national look on sampling across the  
15 board. Is that going to look at each Council  
16 sampling or is it just going to be a general  
17 sampling overview of how many samples should be  
18 collected?

19 DR. MERRICK: The goal is to come up  
20 and see trends that can be used individually  
21 within each region. So, then we would be looking  
22 at each Council, or Commission, or Center,  
23 whoever is collecting the information.

24 MR. HARTIG: Yes, okay. Well, we have  
25 got, I think through the CR Program, we have got  
26 a workshop coming up where we are going to look  
27 at some of this in detail and maybe we can get  
28 you some of that information and you can use it  
29 your review as well.

30 DR. MERRICK: Very good. What we are  
31 looking for in this, too, is are we serving  
32 properly. So, in the southeast, one of the  
33 things that was really surprising were the number  
34 of surveys in the southeast and the states that  
35 were involved in that fed into the stock  
36 assessments. They came up actually in the  
37 northeast as well. Are we doing the right set of  
38 surveys? Could some of those be stopped and new  
39 ones begun? And that is part of the MSE effort  
40 as well. I had actually asked for Bonnie to  
41 prioritize that as one of the very first things  
42 that she looks at. I know there are some issues  
43 in the southeast of other surveys that the South-  
44 Atlantic and the Gulf Councils would like to have  
45 done that are not being done now. This is a tool  
46 that could help with that.

47 MR. HARTIG: Yes, I appreciate that.  
48 That was a critical part that came out into the

1 data review. Like you say, some of your surveys  
2 aren't giving you assessment-grade information.  
3 So, you know I appreciate that review and  
4 hopefully, we get some of the sampling that  
5 provides us a bigger bang for our buck so we can  
6 actually get some assessment-grade science going  
7 into our assessment.

8 DR. MERRICK: And I would encourage  
9 you to pay attention to recommendations and  
10 responses that we have put out in the Center  
11 Director's and my response and holding our feet  
12 to the fire. If you don't see us doing what we  
13 said we were going to do, you should be smacking  
14 us upside the head about it.

15 MR. HARTIG: No, and I appreciate  
16 that. And that is one of the things that some of  
17 these are long-term goals and solutions to some  
18 of the data needs that we have. And so that was  
19 the only thing that I had is how do we have an  
20 action plan that we know that the Council is  
21 informed on how we are moving forward with some  
22 of these new data collection programs.

23 DR. MERRICK: Okay.

24 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you, Ben. Anyone  
25 else on the phone that has a question?

26 MS. DUVAL: That covered mine.

27 CHAIR ANSON: All right, thank you.  
28 Just as a follow-up to that, I guess, who do you  
29 anticipate will be participating in that  
30 workshop?

31 DR. MERRICK: The protected resources?

32 CHAIR ANSON: No, the biological  
33 samples. Is it stock assessment -- Science  
34 Center stock assessment folks? Is it laboratory  
35 folks that actually do the processing? How  
36 widespread?

37 DR. MERRICK: I would expect that the  
38 Center Regional Office and Councils.

39 CHAIR ANSON: All right, thank you.  
40 Rick?

41 MR. ROBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42 Dr. Merrick, as we have gotten into  
43 the potential transition toward ecosystem  
44 approaches to fisheries management, one of the  
45 needs that was highlighted fairly quickly was the  
46 capacity to do management strategy evaluations.  
47 So, the fact that we can look forward to having  
48 that capacity resident within our Regional

1 Science Centers, I think, will be an important  
2 capacity for us, as we consider moving in that  
3 direction because that has been highlighted  
4 repeatedly, as we have gone through those  
5 discussions as one of the needs that we have to  
6 support the transition standpoint.

7 DR. MERRICK: I recognize that and I  
8 think just having one person is not enough but it  
9 is a start. And I think as we have showed how  
10 useful the tool is, we will be able to divert  
11 resources to more fully staff that. Right now,  
12 it is kind of -- trying to sell that on The Hill,  
13 for example, without the utility of it, it is  
14 hard for people that don't understand it.

15 CHAIR ANSON: Chris Oliver.

16 MR. OLIVER: That discussion prompted  
17 a question. I could have asked you this question  
18 last week, Richard.

19 DR. MERRICK: Okay.

20 MR. OLIVER: But these reviews,  
21 generally, the question is who is going to be  
22 there, who participates in this? Is it sort of  
23 an internal review or are there external reviews  
24 involved? Who all would be in the room, I guess?

25 They are a big panel and the panel is  
26 composed of the five or six people I mentioned  
27 before; three scientists external to both NOAA  
28 and to the region; another NOAA but non-new  
29 scientist; and then another NMFS scientist but  
30 from a separate region. And then usually there  
31 is a Center Director that also sits in to  
32 transfer knowledge.

33 The audience is open to the public  
34 and, like Tom has mentioned, it is great to have  
35 Council there. And I would encourage that happen  
36 at every one of the reviews and the regional  
37 office. And then there are interest groups that  
38 are important here like for the protective  
39 resources ones, having the Marine Mammal  
40 Commission there is important. And then it is  
41 open to the public. It is a public review, as is  
42 all the information.

43 CHAIR ANSON: John.

44 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Thank you, Mr.  
45 Chairman.

46 Dr. Merrick, a question regarding the  
47 capacity to do management strategy evaluations.  
48 One of the challenges, I think, councils have in

1 dealing with or responding to emerging scientific  
2 tools and applications is the SSC's role as a  
3 peer review group and the capacity of that group  
4 to provide peer review on new tools, on emerging  
5 approaches. And I am just wondering whether you  
6 have any recommendations to councils, in terms of  
7 how they might respond to or support this effort  
8 to bring management strategy evaluation into our  
9 process relative to SSC.

10 DR. MERRICK: Well, so really what the  
11 SSCs do, a lot of things that verge on management  
12 strategy evaluations but are very informal. So,  
13 building that capacity probably within council's  
14 staff would really help the SSCs.

15 I am not asking for money right now to  
16 pay for that but my vision in the end, probably  
17 if we had capacity in all three, the Center, the  
18 Regional Office, and the Council, it would be the  
19 best way to do this.

20 CHAIR ANSON: Anyone else? Anyone  
21 else on the phone have a question?

22 All right, well, Dr. Merrick, thank  
23 you very much for the information.

24 DR. MERRICK: Thank you.

25 CHAIR ANSON: Next we will have John  
26 Henderschedt with Fisheries Forum Information  
27 Network.

28 MR. HENDERSCHEDT: Thank you, Mr.  
29 Chairman. And first of all, thank you very much  
30 for allowing me to give a brief presentation to  
31 the CCC. I am going to describe to you a project  
32 that we have worked on for quite some time and I  
33 am really thankful that we have the opportunity  
34 to present it to the CCC.

35 By way of introduction, earlier this  
36 week I sent out an email describing some  
37 important changes that are taking place at the  
38 Fisheries Forum. This includes transition of the  
39 forum from the existing partnership to the  
40 establishment of an institutional home at the  
41 Nicholas Institute at Duke University and  
42 transfer of leadership of the forum to Katie  
43 Latanich and Kim Gordon as co-directors. And  
44 Katie Latanich is here. And for those of you who  
45 don't know Katie, I really suggest that you  
46 introduce yourself to her today and get to know  
47 Katie.

48 So, Mr. Chairman, following several

1 years of planning and development, we are really  
2 excited to launch this new website and  
3 communications platform that we have called the  
4 Fisheries Forum Information Network. This  
5 project emerged from a strategic plan that we  
6 developed in 2012 and it began as a way to  
7 compliment and extend the value of the work that  
8 we do through forums and workshops. Essentially,  
9 an effort to extend the value of our investment  
10 beyond the events themselves and to reach a  
11 broader audience.

12 But this has grown into something that  
13 we hope is much bigger, really a virtual  
14 community within the federal fisheries management  
15 arena and this is a way to support more  
16 networking and more information sharing that  
17 occurs when there are opportunities to convene  
18 managers across regions and across institutions  
19 at forums, at regional workshops, and even at  
20 meetings like CCC meetings.

21 So, my goal today is to simply  
22 introduce this site to you and show you how it  
23 can be used as a resource by council, council  
24 staff and agency staff.

25 So, at a very basic level, the  
26 Fisheries Forum Information Network or the FFIN  
27 is the Fisheries Forum's new website. You can  
28 still find all of the materials and the resources  
29 from past work that the forum has done and its  
30 collaborations with councils and with NOAA  
31 Fisheries.

32 The information network includes  
33 resources, as I said, from past forums. They are  
34 archived there as well as videos and  
35 presentations.

36 And it is also a home for additional  
37 information like work we have done in support of  
38 Councils, for instance, the Climate Change and  
39 Governance Workshop that the Mid-Atlantic Council  
40 sponsored, as well as our collaborations, for  
41 instance, with the Northeast Fisheries Science  
42 Center, in supporting the development of their  
43 strategic science plan.

44 Our goal is to connect people and  
45 information in a way that builds on but also  
46 outlives these one-time events in collaborations  
47 as well draws in resources beyond the work of the  
48 fisheries forum.

1           So, these things would include  
2 materials like information on the Mid-Atlantic  
3 Council's Stakeholder Workshop on best practices  
4 for wind energy development, the North Pacific  
5 Council's description of its process for  
6 nominating and evaluating HAPCs, which is an  
7 older document but has been of interest to other  
8 regions. And I believe figured into some of the  
9 work that the Habitat Workgroup that we will hear  
10 from this afternoon will be describing and the  
11 next project, such as the website that the  
12 National Electronic Monitoring Workshop that  
13 Dorothy organized and that George's presentation  
14 was following up on this morning.

15           So, these are just a few examples.  
16 They are documents, links to other websites and  
17 all of them are examples of regional innovations  
18 that are valuable to share across regions and  
19 across institutions.

20           What we heard from the folks that we  
21 engaged in developing this program, this website,  
22 and that includes council staff, agency staff. I  
23 would like to make a special thank you to NOAA  
24 Fisheries and to Dr. Tara Scott, in particular,  
25 who has been directly involved in the development  
26 of this project is that the greatest barrier to  
27 sharing information is time and a knowledge of  
28 what is available. And really what we are trying  
29 to do is help council members, council staff and  
30 agency staff finding and sharing good information  
31 and developing their network of peers.

32           So, the FFIN is organized into seven  
33 topic-based communities. For example, ecosystem-  
34 based management, catch limits and assessments,  
35 et cetera. And then each community includes  
36 announcements, a resource library and a  
37 discussion board. And the resource library is  
38 organized into subtopics. For example, with  
39 ecosystems, there might be topic headings of  
40 habitat, climate change, and forage fish. And  
41 these library entries can include files, videos,  
42 and hyperlinks, which can be tagged with key  
43 words and searched. So, the idea is to make this  
44 information very accessible in terms of both  
45 topic and community.

46           And I want to clarify that the FFIN is  
47 the way to link information. We are not hosting  
48 all of the information and we are certainly not

1 intending to generate all of the information on  
2 the FFIN. Over time, we hope to enlist the  
3 FFIN's core audience to build and to curate this  
4 collection of information resources.

5 So, the core audience for the FFIN, as  
6 I mentioned, consists of council members, council  
7 staff, and agency staff. And all the content  
8 that is posted on the FFIN is public but the core  
9 audience is also able to create individual  
10 accounts and profiles. And the purpose of that  
11 is to support an efficient networking experience  
12 between people who have similar interests and  
13 responsibilities and also to connect people that  
14 have questions to people who have information and  
15 answers.

16 So, a profile would consist of  
17 information regarding region, council  
18 affiliation, professional responsibilities, area  
19 of interest. And I should note that the one set  
20 of information on the FFIN that is not public is  
21 the profile information, unless the individual  
22 user chooses to make that public.

23 So, the platform itself, then, creates  
24 dynamic networks based on shared traits. For  
25 example, a list of contacts or networks that are  
26 based on shared interests. And again, it is an  
27 efficient way to stay in touch and an effective  
28 way to identify new contacts within your network.

29 So, going forward, as I said, we are  
30 very excited to develop the FFIN to this point.  
31 It is now live. You can visit it at  
32 [fisheriesforum.org](http://fisheriesforum.org). And we really intend to  
33 develop it to be the go to resource for federal  
34 fisheries managers, in terms of information  
35 across regions and across institutions.

36 We want to support users to go to that  
37 site, to stay up to date, and to learn what is  
38 going on in other regions. And we also encourage  
39 councils and council staff to use the FFIN as a  
40 tool and to help your work products have greater  
41 impact and find a wider audience among  
42 colleagues.

43 So, on an ongoing basis, we invite  
44 your feedback and your questions. And so while  
45 this presentation was designed to simply present  
46 the concept and the high-level attributes of the  
47 FFIN, the Fisheries Forum team would be quite  
48 pleased to provide a more detailed walkthrough

1 and orientation to the FFIN to your council  
2 members and staff. And you can talk to Katie or  
3 talk to Kim about setting that up at a future  
4 time, perhaps at a council meeting or otherwise.

5 And so, Mr. Chairman, that concludes  
6 my presentation on the Fisheries Forum  
7 Information Network. I did want to mention that  
8 in early May will be the east coast forum at the  
9 Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort and the topic is  
10 risk-based management with a special focus on  
11 management strategy evaluation. So, apropos to  
12 the previous presentation from Dr. Merrick.

13 So, again, thank you very much for  
14 time on the agenda and I will be happy to answer  
15 any questions that CCC might have about the FFIN.

16 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you, John. Do  
17 members have any questions for John? Chris?

18 MR. MOORE: I will try to speak up.  
19 This FFIN, this project is going to be extremely  
20 useful, I think, to the Council and staff. And  
21 again, just speaking for myself. I have had a  
22 chance to look at the site. There is a lot of  
23 useful information there. I am curious about the  
24 way you are going to manage the information on  
25 the site. Is there going to be one point person  
26 that will control content for all the communities  
27 or are you going to have a community leader for  
28 the seven or eight different communities that you  
29 stated?

30 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Thank you, Mr.  
31 Chairman. Chris, that is an excellent question.  
32 And at present, we are at startup. It is our  
33 intent that the Fisheries Forum Team will curate  
34 that but, ultimately, we don't want to create an  
35 unnecessary delay between people identifying  
36 information and getting it on that site and the  
37 team's ability to review all of that.

38 And given the fact that the core  
39 community is made up of really of us, of council  
40 members, council staff, agency staff, I think the  
41 needs to have that sort of very closely  
42 controlled editorial process will not be that  
43 great. And so, ultimately, we are really looking  
44 for a self-maintaining site. To the extent that  
45 we run into difficulties with that, we would  
46 obviously have to edit it more closely.

47 But starting will be, basically,  
48 reviewing and posting things but quickly



1 transitioning to basically instantaneous posting  
2 of information.

3 CHAIR ANSON: Rick.

4 MR. ROBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5 John, as you transition from your current role  
6 with the forum into your new opportunity with the  
7 Agency, I just wanted to express our appreciation  
8 as a council and point out the fact that John and  
9 his team at the fisheries forum have allowed us  
10 to leverage our existing council resources in a  
11 way that has been very effective. John mentioned  
12 a number of different workshops but we have, in  
13 fact, had a substantial number of those that they  
14 helped facilitate. I just want to express my  
15 appreciation because they resulted, I think, in a  
16 lot of great outcomes for us but really enhanced  
17 our resources and ability to execute those types  
18 of projects.

19 You know when you go into a workshop,  
20 often you think it may be a fairly simple thing  
21 to execute but there is a lot of work that goes  
22 on behind the scenes to make them successful.  
23 John worked behind the scenes and in front of the  
24 scenes on a lot of these workshops that we did  
25 with their support. But I just want to express  
26 our appreciation. So, thank you, John.

27 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Mr. Chairman, thank  
28 you. Rick and I do want to mention that going  
29 forward those workshops, those projects that are  
30 in direct support of a Council working through a  
31 challenge or an issue remain very central to the  
32 fisheries forums model. And so to the extent  
33 that council has identified areas where that sort  
34 of support is useful, I strongly encourage you to  
35 reach out to Katie and Kim and explore that  
36 possibility.

37 MR. ROBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38 CHAIR ANSON: Dorothy.

39 MS. LOWMAN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So,  
40 I also want to express my appreciation. I have  
41 had the opportunity to go to a lot of forums over  
42 the years and I have seen them really grow in how  
43 they are able to really serve council members and  
44 now agency staff, too. And I think John deserves  
45 a lot of credit but also a lot of credit does go  
46 to the two new co-chairs and I noticed on the  
47 little sample thing that under Katie's profile,  
48 there was a gold ribbon -- gold most valuable and

1 I think that is accurate. So, I think that will  
2 continue.

3 But I also had an opportunity to kind  
4 of pretest this information network and one of  
5 the things that I think I had some reservations  
6 but also some interest in was the ability for  
7 core members to communicate and contact and how  
8 much sort of back and forth there would be.  
9 Because I have been on some servers that I have  
10 wanted to get off because some people seem to  
11 have a lot more time than I do for commenting but  
12 I was wondering kind of where that stands and  
13 sort of how much access, et cetera and  
14 interaction.

15 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chairman. Dorothy, the platform that we  
17 selected, which is called Higher Logic, it is  
18 basically a web-based platform that is developed  
19 for what they call connected communities has  
20 incredible capabilities to support those types of  
21 online interactions.

22 As I said, everything that goes on the  
23 site is going to be publicly available. And that  
24 is really with the intention of not creating the  
25 site that is perceived as the virtual back room,  
26 where council members are not being transparent  
27 in their communications between themselves.

28 And I expect that a lot of  
29 communication is going to take place as a result  
30 of contacts made on the site, as opposed to  
31 directly there. And I actually think that the  
32 ability to post messages is likely to be, if not  
33 receive the least amount of use, is likely to be  
34 the slowest part of that to develop.

35 And so we are really focused,  
36 primarily, on having an effective and an  
37 efficient clearinghouse for information and, as I  
38 say, providing a good tool for building that  
39 network. How that networking occurs after those  
40 initial contacts are made on the site is to be  
41 determined.

42 CHAIR ANSON: All right, any other  
43 questions for John? Anyone on the phone have a  
44 question?

45 All right. Well we are, again, still  
46 a little ahead of schedule and do we want to  
47 break early and then come back earlier than what  
48 is scheduled for lunch or do we want to continue

1 on? Is Jessica here? She is here. Any -- keep  
2 going. All right.

3 So, Jessica, would you mind giving the  
4 presentation on habitat workgroup update and  
5 future planning?

6 MS. COAKLEY: All right, talk into the  
7 mike, so I have been instructed.

8 Good morning everyone. My name is  
9 Jessica Coakley. I am staff with the Mid-  
10 Atlantic Fishery Management Council and I am here  
11 to talk to you today about the CCC habitat  
12 workgroup.

13 So, first I am going to provide you  
14 with an update on the workgroup itself, go over  
15 some next steps that have been identified by the  
16 workgroup, and then the workgroup has developed  
17 some questions they would like to ask the CCC  
18 about how we are going to proceed going forward.

19 So back in May, 2014, the CCC agreed  
20 to form an informal habitat workgroup and the  
21 goal of that workgroup was to engage both council  
22 and NOAA Fisheries Staff on habitat issues to  
23 enable enhanced coordination on federal habitat  
24 initiatives, to have the opportunity to discuss  
25 habitat requirements and how those are being  
26 implemented in each of our councils in each of  
27 our regions, and to allow for sharing of the  
28 tacit knowledge, experiences and approaches  
29 across council staffs and across the regions  
30 because, as we all know, good things happen we  
31 get all of our council staffs together and our  
32 regions together to discuss these issues.

33 So, in July 2014, the workgroup was  
34 formed. We have representation from seven of the  
35 eight council staffs, from all five regional  
36 offices, as well as a representative from the  
37 habitat conservation division at headquarters and  
38 representative from the Office of Science and  
39 Technology.

40 We had our first webinar meeting  
41 September of 2014 and the first order of  
42 business, at that point, was to discuss logistics  
43 because other than our objectives, we didn't  
44 really have a plan going forward at that point.  
45 So, we discussed how we were going to deal with  
46 meeting management, how we were going to handle  
47 chairmanship and the workgroup agreed that it  
48 made sense to do a rotation consistent with the

1 CCC leadership, which would provide each council  
2 staff representative to have the opportunity to  
3 chair the workgroup and we would know what that  
4 rotation would be clearly.

5 The Mid-Atlantic Council staff chaired  
6 for the start of 2014 in the beginning of this  
7 workgroup. So, that is why I am here talking  
8 with you today. Starting in 2015, the Gulf of  
9 Mexico Fishery Management Council is going to  
10 take over the chairmanship for 2015. So, John  
11 Froeschke over at the Gulf Council would be our  
12 chair moving forward.

13 Habitat Conservation Division stepped  
14 up and offered to provide Terra Lederhouse as  
15 staff as a coordinator for the workgroup, which I  
16 have to say I have really appreciated her support  
17 because she has done a great job summarizing  
18 meetings, organizing meetings for us and taking a  
19 lot of that burden off of the council staff  
20 responsible for chairing it. So, that has been  
21 really helpful.

22 The workgroup on that first September  
23 call identified a list of discussion topics and  
24 initially agreed to meet, both in October and  
25 November to sort of jumpstart the workgroup and  
26 jumpstart the discussion of these habitat issues.

27 So, on our first call, which was in  
28 October, our first topic call, in 2014 we  
29 discussed habitat areas of particular concern.  
30 We talked about the process that each of the  
31 councils used to identified HAPCs, how they are  
32 used as a conservation prioritization tool in the  
33 region and with the regional offices, and how  
34 their use could potentially be improved.

35 We also discussed how councils  
36 interact with headquarters in regions, with a  
37 process of formal and informal consultations are  
38 in each of those regions, which each region is a  
39 little bit different. One of the things, and I  
40 have to admit, this was part of the reason we  
41 focused on this as one of the early topics, the  
42 Mid-Atlantic Council is working with the  
43 Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum to  
44 develop a report that is focused on habitat areas  
45 of particular concern. So, we used that first  
46 call as an opportunity to leverage some of those  
47 staff resources and those discussions to help  
48 feed into a larger report on habitat areas of

1 concern at the national level.

2 So, Fisheries Forum staff listened in  
3 on that call with the CCC habitat workgroup. So,  
4 as a product, it wasn't a direct product of that  
5 workgroup but that the workgroup discussions were  
6 feeding into, we are developing a report that is  
7 going to provide information on all the current  
8 methods and objectives that are used identifying  
9 habitat areas of concerns and critical fish  
10 habitat areas in each of the council regions;  
11 also, looking at different approaches that are  
12 being used abroad; looking at how the Highly  
13 Migratory Species Division identifies the HAPCs  
14 and deals with those habitat issues. And this  
15 report is going to be a synthesis of regional  
16 experiences with effective use of the habitat  
17 area of particular concern provision of the  
18 Magnuson Act.

19 So, Fisheries Forum has gone out to  
20 all the different staffs and used the input from  
21 that call to look at how we are communicating  
22 habitat priorities relative to HAPCs, how those  
23 are being linked with fishery management  
24 objectives and ecosystem resilience, how they are  
25 being used to focus and communicate priorities up  
26 to our regions, and how they are being used to  
27 reduce adverse impacts from different kinds of  
28 anthropogenic activities. So, that is a product  
29 this workgroup has helped in the development  
30 process with.

31 In November, we held another call and  
32 the topic for that call was the five-year review  
33 process. We have discussed how councils are  
34 meeting those requirements; what aspects of the  
35 five-year reviews are being included in the  
36 documentation that the councils are developing;  
37 what has worked well for the different regions;  
38 and how the processes can be improved.

39 This call, we had a lot of discussion  
40 about the pros and the cons of the different  
41 types of five-year reviews that are being done in  
42 the regions. And the workgroup developed some  
43 successful approaches and lessons learned that  
44 they thought were worth sharing with all the  
45 regions. They highlighted that separating the  
46 essential fish habitat technical reviews from the  
47 amendment process seemed to be helpful in terms  
48 of conducting those reviews.

1                   There was benefit to conducting an  
2 omnibus review across all species or across all  
3 plans and including, considering those adverse  
4 effect analyses and more of an omnibus way.

5                   Updates to essential fish habitat  
6 designations were being done in the regions, both  
7 on a plan-by-plan basis or an omnibus basis and  
8 the group saw benefits to doing those both ways  
9 on a case-by-case basis. And the group  
10 highlighted the use of essential fish habitat  
11 source documents. That is something that we use  
12 in the northeast region and those are documents  
13 that are compilations of all the ecological  
14 characteristics for a specific species by life  
15 stage, what types of habitats they use, what  
16 their food habits are. There are documents that  
17 in our region were produced by the science  
18 centers but they become sort of a one-stop  
19 shopping resource for habitat information and  
20 ecological information on those species. So, a  
21 lot of the different regions were interested in  
22 how those source documents were being developed  
23 in those regions and how those might be applied  
24 to some of those regions as well.

25                  I want to highlight what they are  
26 calling these lessons learned or successful  
27 approaches. The workgroup emphasized that we  
28 really didn't want to be prescriptive in terms of  
29 what is being put out there. The workgroup  
30 really wanted to share the pros and cons that  
31 might work in each region and thought that that  
32 was a valuable product that we could produce.

33                  So, for next steps, the workgroup  
34 identified four general steps going forward that  
35 I will go into in a little more detail. One was  
36 to continue these webinars and calls that we have  
37 been doing. They are typically about two hours.  
38 We recommend it going forward doing these calls  
39 quarterly and focusing on some very specific  
40 topics.

41                  Two, the workgroup would like to  
42 develop materials that will assist the councils  
43 in meeting those habitat requirements going  
44 forward. We think, having all eight councils in  
45 all of the regions and headquarters engaged in  
46 those discussions, we could really come up with  
47 some interesting products that will be helpful  
48 across councils.

1           The workgroup wants to continue to  
2 discuss ways to increase the impact of the  
3 workgroup and our effectiveness.

4           And lastly, the workgroup would like  
5 to recommend having an in-person habitat meeting  
6 or summit, possibly in 2016 to have the  
7 opportunity to discuss in-person some of these  
8 very important habitat issues.

9           So, in terms of focus topics for these  
10 quarterly webinars, the workgroup highlighted the  
11 need to discuss some of these broader habitat  
12 science needs and approaches: the relationship  
13 between stock size and habitat and how that  
14 interacts with climate and habitat perturbations.  
15 The workgroup wanted to discuss GIS-analysis and  
16 modeling approaches to identify EFH and deal with  
17 some of the data gaps that we are dealing with  
18 relative to habitat. We want to discuss in more  
19 detail how we deal with our practicability  
20 analyses and what kind of information we need to  
21 support those. Research and information needs;  
22 what do we need to collect in terms of baseline  
23 habitat data? And also what do we need to  
24 collect to expand our knowledge base relative to  
25 habitat, so that we can address the larger  
26 habitat goals and objectives for our councils?

27           And then we want to talk about the  
28 Council and Science Center coordination on  
29 habitat research, how council priorities relative  
30 to habitat are feeding into the Science Center's  
31 research programs and what mechanisms we have to  
32 do that, how it is being done in the different  
33 regions and how we can improve that.

34           In terms of habitat management, the  
35 Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization and  
36 discussions of proposed habitat provisions is  
37 something the group would like to talk about.  
38 There are things proposed in the House and Senate  
39 administration bills that could have implications  
40 to how we deal with habitat. We would like to  
41 get out in front of some of that and start  
42 talking about that ahead of time.

43           Some of our regions have been putting  
44 deep sea coral protection measures into place in  
45 the different regions. We would like to talk  
46 about the approaches, how those provisions are  
47 being applied, how we can improve those.

48           Issues beyond fishing gears. So, some

1 areas had issues of anchoring and other non-  
2 fishing activities and how these are being  
3 integrated into the process.

4 Approaches to better identify habitat  
5 limited species and how the councils are  
6 targeting the development of habitat conservation  
7 through objectives and goals that could be  
8 developed.

9 Lastly, the group wants to talk about  
10 council engagement on habitat issues: how all the  
11 councils are interacting with their partners and  
12 other partner groups, so we can leverage all  
13 those resources to have the greatest impact; how  
14 we are engaging on federal habitat initiatives,  
15 such as the Habitat Blueprint or these coastal or  
16 national fish habitat partnerships; how we are  
17 getting engaged with those groups; and how  
18 habitat advisory panels are being used in each of  
19 the regions to engage in habitat issues and get  
20 that lower level stakeholder involvement on  
21 habitat issues from the bottom up.

22 In terms of our next steps, numbers 2  
23 and 3, the workgroup would like to develop  
24 materials which are going to capture the  
25 approaches, practices, lessons learned, and needs  
26 that are being identified by the workgroup. So,  
27 we want to take the opportunity to produce some  
28 of these products and share those across each of  
29 the regions.

30 We would also like to increase the  
31 impact of the working group across all councils  
32 and talk about ways to promote and communicate  
33 the value of EFH, the links between habitat and  
34 fisheries, protected resources, and  
35 coastal/ecosystem management. And that may be a  
36 place where the workgroup can work across  
37 councils and work with our communications staff  
38 in groups to help ensure that that information is  
39 being communicated well to our stakeholder  
40 groups.

41 Lastly, the Habitat Summit, 2016 will  
42 be the 20-year anniversary since the Essential  
43 Fish Habitat provisions went into the Magnuson-  
44 Stevens Act reauthorization in 1996. Your  
45 workgroup, we have been doing these webinars.  
46 They have been about an hour and a half, two  
47 hours at a clip, which is kind of where people's  
48 attention spans start to get lost on a webinar.



1 So, we have been trying to work through that.  
2 With the distance issues, it would be great to  
3 get everyone in the room together across the  
4 councils, across the regions, bring in some  
5 invited experts and talk about some of these  
6 habitat issues in detail.

7 We are setting the bar really high in  
8 some room, somewhere. I am guessing kind of like  
9 this room. It won't have windows. In fact, that  
10 picture looks strangely like the meeting room in  
11 here. But we would like to have the opportunity  
12 to get the group together in-person at some  
13 point.

14 The workgroup developed some ideas,  
15 potential topics for a summit. The first one  
16 would be to discuss the data gaps that are out  
17 there to address habitat and EFH issues for all  
18 of our federally-managed species and highlight  
19 what we would need to prioritize in terms of data  
20 collection and what do we need to meet our  
21 council's fish habitat goals.

22 Acknowledging that we probably won't  
23 have all the data that we actually want, the  
24 workgroup wants to talk about modeling and  
25 geospatial approaches that are being used  
26 regionally to address all of those gaps and  
27 limits in data, how we can better characterize  
28 essential fish habitat, how we can better  
29 identify habitat areas of particular concern for  
30 all of our federally-managed species.

31 And given we are 20 years out from  
32 when these provisions went in place, the  
33 workgroup would like to talk about the  
34 effectiveness of essential fish habitat in  
35 meeting its originally intended goals in the  
36 Magnuson-Stevens Act and what really could be  
37 done to improve the effectiveness of the EFH,  
38 HAPC habitat process for all of our councils.

39 So, the questions that the workgroup  
40 has for the CCC today. Do you support the  
41 proposed path forward? We have tried to lay out  
42 what the workgroup thinks would be good  
43 discussion topics and good next steps.

44 Do you support a Habitat Summit?  
45 Obviously, it would involve investing council and  
46 NMFS resources and staff time to participate and  
47 organize something like that. Is that something  
48 you are supportive of?

1 Do you have other requests for the  
2 workgroup? So, we have sort of done our self-  
3 starting this fall, trying to figure out as a  
4 workgroup what we would like to accomplish. Do  
5 you have specific requests for the workgroup?  
6 What topics and activities and products would you  
7 like to see us producing and are there any other  
8 ideas to improve the effectiveness of the group.

9 So, with that, questions for either  
10 myself or for Terra or any answers to the  
11 questions that we have put out.

12 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you, Jessica.  
13 Anyone have any comments or thoughts on the  
14 questions that the workgroup has posed?

15 Glenn.

16 MR. MERRILL: Thanks very much, Mr.  
17 Chairman. Just maybe more of an observation. I  
18 think often when we are trying to examine habitat  
19 issues across the various councils, one of the  
20 things that can get lost a little bit is that  
21 there are a variety of different fishery  
22 management measures that have been taken that are  
23 really not called habitat measures, per se, but  
24 have habitat effects. And I think making sure  
25 that those get considered in the context of  
26 looking at various measures that are already in  
27 place and what kind of activities either the  
28 councils or the regions have undertaken would be  
29 kind of a helpful thing to keep in mind as well.  
30 I know that gets lost in our region and I suspect  
31 that might be the case in other regions as well.

32 MS. COAKLEY: Okay, thanks.

33 CHAIR ANSON: Chris.

34 MR. MOORE: Thanks, Jessica, for the  
35 presentation. In terms of the answers to those  
36 questions, as I understand the proposed path, I  
37 would say yes, I do support that path forward.  
38 In terms of the Summit, I think that is a great  
39 idea. I think that is something that we should  
40 plan on.

41 In terms of other requests for the  
42 workgroup, that is something I want to think  
43 about a little bit. I'm sure that I can come up  
44 with one or two things that you might want to  
45 consider.

46 In terms of an idea to improve your  
47 effectiveness, we just heard the presentation  
48 from John on the FFIN. So, I am wondering how

1 the workgroup is interacting with that group to  
2 actually get some of that materials into that  
3 network. And maybe you should is my point, I  
4 guess.

5 MS. COAKLEY: Well, I will talk to  
6 John at lunch, when we break. But actually as I  
7 was sitting looking at this, the FFIN  
8 presentation from John, David Witherell is on our  
9 Habitat Workgroup and has been involved in that.  
10 And we were just saying to one another what a  
11 great place it would be for the habitat workgroup  
12 to network and to share a lot of those materials  
13 through the FFIN process. Because we have been  
14 looking for where we should post materials, how  
15 do we make sure we are sharing all of the  
16 different activities in our regions and documents  
17 and approaches. So, I think it is a great place  
18 to get started there.

19 So, we will definitely work to make  
20 sure that our workgroup gets integrated through  
21 the FFIN process.

22 CHAIR ANSON: Doug.

23 MR. GREGORY: Yes, at this point, does  
24 the CCC make a motion to go forward or if there  
25 is no objections, we just go forward with these  
26 recommendations? I think the habitat effort does  
27 need to go forward, at least for another year.

28 CHAIR ANSON: Tom.

29 MR. NIES: I mean thanks for the  
30 presentation, Jessica. I would support what Doug  
31 said. I am a little ambivalent about the concept  
32 of a habitat summit without really knowing what  
33 it is for and where the funding is coming from,  
34 in light of the budget realities that some of us  
35 may be facing going forward here.

36 With respect to other requests from  
37 the workgroups, one of the things we have  
38 wrestled with quite a bit, and I don't believe I  
39 saw it really on a workgroup's radar is the  
40 question of how do you evaluate practicability.  
41 That is proving to be a huge issue with our  
42 omnibus habitat amendment and it is -- or I guess  
43 I missed it but I think that is something that we  
44 really need to spend a lot of time on because it  
45 is real easy to say what the industry loses  
46 because you might be changing the management area  
47 that is closed. It is very difficult to try and  
48 calculate what the benefit may be. So, you wind

1 up with this asymmetrical analysis but it makes  
2 it look like it is all losses as a result of  
3 habitat protection.

4 So, I would encourage the group to  
5 really try and dive into that.

6 MS. COAKLEY: Yes, and that is a topic  
7 that the group definitely highlighted that they  
8 wanted to look into.

9 If I can just highlight as well in  
10 your briefing materials there is a two- to three-  
11 page handout that gives a little bit more detail  
12 on the topics, the discussion topics that the  
13 workgroup identified. If you have other topics  
14 you are interested in, it might be worth taking  
15 that document back to your office and going over  
16 that list in a little more detail and passing  
17 that on to John Froeschke, who is now our new  
18 chair with the Gulf Fishery Management Council,  
19 so we can make sure that gets integrated into our  
20 discussion priorities.

21 CHAIR ANSON: Terra.

22 MS. LEDERHOUSE: Yes, just to follow-  
23 up on the question about funding for the Habitat  
24 Summit. I am with the Office of Habitat  
25 Conservation in headquarters and this is an idea  
26 that we have been thinking about for a few years  
27 anyways, getting together our NMFS staff and the  
28 council staff and the Science Centers and  
29 external partners to talk through some of these  
30 things that Jessica mentioned already about the  
31 effectiveness of the EFH program to date and some  
32 of our data gaps. So, budget pending for next  
33 year, this is something that our office is  
34 willing to commit staff time to, certainly, and  
35 hopefully funding for as well to host the Summit.  
36 So, I think the request for the councils would be  
37 the ability to send staff to participate in the  
38 summit.

39 CHAIR ANSON: Doug.

40 MR. GREGORY: Well, Gulf Council  
41 clearly has staff time and the resources to  
42 contribute to this.

43 I have got a question. I don't know  
44 where the phrase habitat area of particular  
45 concern started. I know the Gulf Council in  
46 their reef fish plan used that term in the early  
47 '80s, their very first FMP but today, the phrase,  
48 the word is marine protected area.

1                   And the thing that concerns me, and I  
2 am wondering if you all discussed whether we  
3 should be calling these things marine protected  
4 areas instead of HAPCs because in my discussions  
5 with some sanctuary folks, they don't recognize  
6 these as areas that are protected. And, in  
7 essence, they are a type of marine protected  
8 areas.

9                   And so, the terminology can be very  
10 important here. So, if that hasn't been a  
11 discussion item, I think going forward should  
12 consider that, unless there is some objections to  
13 councils to a change in terminology.

14                   CHAIR ANSON: Tom.

15                   MR. NIES: I don't know that I object  
16 to a change in terminology. I think the HAPC  
17 language is not in the Act but actually came out  
18 in the regulations for habitat protection. So, I  
19 believe it is in the NOAA regulations. Terra  
20 probably knows for sure.

21                   MS. LEDERHOUSE: Yes, that is correct.  
22 It is not in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It is  
23 just in our implementing regs.

24                   MR. NIES: And so, we run into this  
25 debate in our region and I will try and -- the  
26 regulations don't actually specify that you have  
27 to do anything in an HAPC, which is perhaps a  
28 little odd but you can have an HAPC that doesn't  
29 actually have any additional management measures.  
30 So, I don't know if it will really qualify as an  
31 MPA if you follow that rationale. We can argue  
32 whether that makes sense or not but that is the  
33 argument that we get from some people anyway.

34                   CHAIR ANSON: John.

35                   MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Thank you, Mr.  
36 Chairman. Well, I guess to provide an example to  
37 what Tom is referring to, I mean recently the  
38 North Pacific Council did identify HAPC. The net  
39 result is increased data collection and research  
40 prioritization but had no other sort of  
41 management implications or actions that came  
42 along with that designation. So, there is an  
43 example of where HAPC was established and  
44 identified but certainly would not meet, I think,  
45 most people's interpretation of an MPA.

46                   CHAIR ANSON: Terra, do you have  
47 something to add to that?

48                   MS. LEDERHOUSE: Yes, I just wanted to

1 add that this is something we discussed with the  
2 workgroup on the different approaches the  
3 councils have taken. Some have used HAPCs  
4 specifically to implement fishery management  
5 measures but other councils have identified  
6 entire habitat types as HAPCs. So, all coral or  
7 all seagrass and you can't necessarily put in a  
8 fishery management measure on a whole habitat  
9 type that doesn't have a specific area. So,  
10 there are definitely different approaches and we  
11 talked within the workgroup how it would be  
12 useful to make sure that when those HAPCs are  
13 identified in a fishery management plan that they  
14 have a specific purpose or objective associated  
15 with them.

16 So, for example, in the North Pacific  
17 Council, they identified these skate HAPCs  
18 because they need enhanced research in them.  
19 They don't necessarily need to implement  
20 management measurements now but they want more  
21 research happening in those areas. So, it is a  
22 good tool to use to highlight specific needs for  
23 that area.

24 And so you are right, it might not  
25 necessarily be an MPA but it is a good tool for  
26 highlighting it for research and other management  
27 actions.

28 CHAIR ANSON: Anyone on the phone have  
29 a question?

30 MS. DUVAL: Yes, Kevin, this is  
31 Michelle Duval. I guess maybe just more a  
32 comment on some of the questions that were posed  
33 but I do support the habitat workgroup continuing  
34 forward. I think it is important, particularly  
35 in light of the agency's newly released climate  
36 science strategy. And I think there is probably  
37 a lot of room for collaboration and overlap and  
38 leveraging of resources with regard to that  
39 strategy as well, in terms of this group's work  
40 product moving forward.

41 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you. I have Rick,  
42 then Miguel.

43 MR. ROBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 I was just going to suggest that I think it is  
45 important to retain the distinctions between the  
46 different designations of EFH, HAPCs and MPAs  
47 because there may be different levels of  
48 protection afforded or different status afforded

1 to some of those different measures.

2 For example, if an MPA or if a site is  
3 added to the National MPA Network, that can  
4 invoke additional protection against non-fishing  
5 impacts and at least requires, under one of the  
6 executive orders, that the no-harm provision be  
7 satisfied relative to the purpose for which that  
8 MPA was established.

9 And some of our GRAs, our gear-  
10 restricted access areas or gear-restricted areas,  
11 had been added to the MPA network with that in  
12 mind. But I think that distinction is one that  
13 is important to retain because that can confer  
14 additional status or legal protection. Thanks.

15 CHAIR ANSON: Miguel, followed by  
16 Kitty.

17 MR. ROLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Do you then include that ENGOS somehow in the  
19 process? For example, the Pew Charitable Fund  
20 they have a particular interest in working on  
21 habitat issues in the U.S. Caribbean and they  
22 have some funding for that. So, how do you see  
23 them playing a role in this process, if any?

24 MS. COAKLEY: Well, in terms of the  
25 workgroup itself, we kept that composition just  
26 to council NMFS staff but we are planning on  
27 talking in detail about how the councils work in  
28 partnership with a lot of these other ENGOS and  
29 other groups to address habitat issues. And I am  
30 guessing that if a Habitat Summit or a meeting  
31 like that is organized, we would reach out to  
32 different partner groups or stakeholders that may  
33 be interested in attending the meeting or be  
34 involved in a variety of ways.

35 CHAIR ANSON: Kitty.

36 MS. SIMONDS: I just wanted to say  
37 that the community is working well and that our  
38 staff really likes this coordination and talking  
39 to the other councils.

40 For us out there, even information  
41 remains largely unaddressed due to funds and  
42 things like that. So, our designations are like  
43 really broad. But the staff feels that working  
44 with this group they are into -- just not focused  
45 just on us but they are running through a whole  
46 bunch of things and also learning to work with  
47 the region. So, it is good.

48 CHAIR ANSON: Anyone else on the phone

1 have any questions?

2 All right, so you had a group of  
3 questions here that you asked us and got some  
4 conversations relative to going forward. Again,  
5 as Doug had stated, I am a little unsure as to  
6 whether or not we need to make an official motion  
7 to request that NOAA put it high on the  
8 priorities relative to the budget. Tom had some  
9 concern as to what specifically would be taking  
10 place. But if you all just want to take the  
11 general consensus and try to work it into 16 and  
12 then the councils would provide staff and  
13 continue to support the process.

14 Alan?

15 MR. RISENHOOVER: Thanks, Mr.  
16 Chairman. And it is clear that groups thought  
17 about this a lot but would it be possible to  
18 scope and focus this a little bit?

19 So, there is the ongoing work, which  
20 I am hearing everybody seems to agree is good.  
21 It is a good cross-council workgroup. And then  
22 there is this are we going to do the Summit or  
23 whatever in '16.

24 Would it be possible for the group to  
25 kind of scope that summit a little bit more?  
26 Your four slides or five slides of next steps  
27 really would make for a very large summit. Would  
28 it be focused just on habitat science? Would it  
29 be focused on measures to protect habitat? Would  
30 it be focused on this kind of continuum from EFH  
31 to HAPCs to MPAs and that? Have you thought a  
32 little bit more about trying to focus? What is  
33 the highest priorities for the summit or is that  
34 something you need to hear from the CCC and the  
35 individual councils' staff?

36 MS. COAKLEY: Well, the workgroup had  
37 laid out these three general discussion topics  
38 that they thought would be the best place to  
39 focus a summit. We did talk as a group a little  
40 bit about how we could maybe use the webinars in  
41 advance to sort of prime the discussion leading  
42 up to -- through 2015 leading up to a summit, so  
43 we could do a lot of the groundwork and  
44 foundation on specific topics leading up to it to  
45 get ready to have that in-person discussion as  
46 well.

47 You are right, these three, in terms  
48 of dealing with the data issue, the modeling



1 issues and the effectiveness relative to MSA, I  
2 mean those are three big topics. So, if there  
3 are particular topics amongst here, I think that  
4 maybe the leadership thinks it would be important  
5 to prioritize, we could go back as a workgroup  
6 and fine-tune our topics and try to lay out what  
7 we think we could most effectively do in like a  
8 two- to three-day meeting and then come back with  
9 some additional documentation to the CCC with  
10 what that might look like, if that is helpful.

11 CHAIR ANSON: And seeing that the June  
12 meeting is coming up for CCC, is that something  
13 that you might be able to work on between now and  
14 then?

15 MS. COAKLEY: I think so. I think so,  
16 yes.

17 CHAIR ANSON: Okay, then I guess we  
18 will just anticipate further presentation,  
19 another presentation on that.

20 John, you had some comments.

21 MR. BULLARD: Yes, Jessica, thanks for  
22 the presentation. I have a question, I guess,  
23 one of ignorance, one of my specialties. But  
24 this is very timely, given, at least in our area,  
25 the work that the Mid is doing on deep-sea  
26 corals, the work that New England is doing on  
27 habitat, which is headed to a bruising conclusion  
28 in June. Then they are going to flip and the Mid  
29 will work on habitat and New England will work on  
30 deep-sea corals.

31 But I am wondering about a linkage  
32 between your presentation and the earlier  
33 presentation today by Roger and wondering if  
34 there is a linkage and how significant it is and  
35 whether or not habitat, as we conceive of it, is  
36 something that we conceive of as a still picture  
37 and whether climate change starts to introduce  
38 moving pictures.

39 Now, some things are, I am sure, due  
40 to geographic features and they are going to stay  
41 still pictures but climate change may start to  
42 introduce moving aspects to habitat. And as  
43 complex as it is, even as a still picture, all of  
44 a sudden when we think we have got it fixed in  
45 our mind, they will start to move.

46 And I just didn't know whether -- I am  
47 sure you have already figured this out way ahead  
48 of me, as always, but is this something that you

1 have already programmed in that habitat areas we  
2 know or can figure out how they are going to  
3 start moving, and those that will move, and we  
4 know how to start predicting that so that we can  
5 plan for movement of boundaries or is that a  
6 concept that is erroneous? It wouldn't be the  
7 first erroneous concept I have introduced, just  
8 one in a long series.

9 MS. COAKLEY: Well, I do know this is  
10 a topic that has come up in our workgroup and has  
11 come up in side conversations with members of the  
12 workgroup as well. One of the challenges with  
13 habitat for our federally-managed fish, and I  
14 think from the workgroup perspective, there is a  
15 feeling that we could be doing it better. We  
16 could more effectively identify these areas, even  
17 without climate involved. So, the group,  
18 obviously, acknowledges that climate change is a  
19 part of this and wants to have the discussions  
20 about how can we be more effective in the context  
21 of how we are applying the provisions on a whole  
22 bunch of levels. So, there is the consultation  
23 level, where we define EFH so it is a place on a  
24 map. So, when there is a project is going  
25 there, NMFS is able to respond to it.

26 But then there is the larger  
27 conservation, I guess, goals or objectives that  
28 we have for the council. How are we identifying  
29 those important habitat areas that may be moving  
30 and may be changing and how do we use the tools  
31 that we have to address those?

32 So, I think it is something that the  
33 workgroup has identified in the list of topic  
34 discussions and it is going to need to be an  
35 ongoing discussion across all eight councils and  
36 regions and headquarters. How do we make our  
37 habitat provisions more effective and more nimble  
38 with what we have now and what we may have moving  
39 forward with climate change or the impacts of  
40 other activities that might be going on?

41 CHAIR ANSON: All right, any other  
42 questions? Questions from those listening in?  
43 Doug.

44 MR. GREGORY: Yes, again, thank you  
45 for the presentation. My question is for the  
46 Mid-Atlantic Council. You mentioned the gear-  
47 restricted areas and I went online and looked at  
48 the list of MPA's network sites and those gear-

1 restricted areas are the only sites under the  
2 NMFS purview that are listed on there.

3 So, my question is did the council,  
4 itself, pursue that and why, as opposed to a HAPC  
5 or some other, or just as opposed to leaving it  
6 as a gear-restricted area?

7 And I am wondering if maybe our  
8 council will hope to do the same thing with our  
9 HAPCs because we do have gear restrictions in our  
10 HAPCs.

11 MR. ROBINS: Well, to that point, Mr.  
12 Chairman, yes, the council did initiate that.  
13 And the intent was to register it within the  
14 National MPA Network in order to afford an  
15 additional degree of protection from non-fishing  
16 impacts. And there were some concerns about  
17 adding the sites to the National MPA Registry.  
18 There were concerns about whether or not the  
19 Council, in fact, would retain control over the  
20 ability to make future modifications to those  
21 sites but we had several presentations from the  
22 National Network. And in fact, the way that  
23 program is set up, whoever makes the request to  
24 or whoever the authority is to add that to the  
25 list is the one that retains the ability to  
26 modify the boundaries of that MPA in the future.

27 So, that satisfied our concerns. We  
28 added those and under that executive order, it  
29 does invoke a no-harm provision. So, if another  
30 federal agency, for example, were to permit some  
31 activity within that MPA, then they would have to  
32 satisfy that no-harm provision. And that, again,  
33 is specific to the purpose for which the MPA was  
34 created.

35 So, it doesn't mean that nothing could  
36 happen in there. It means that the agency would  
37 have to satisfy whichever permitting agency was  
38 involved would have to satisfy that concern.

39 CHAIR ANSON: All right, Jessica.  
40 Members, if you have any comments to improve  
41 effectiveness or any additional topics,  
42 activities, or products that maybe the workgroup  
43 had worked on, please get in touch with Jessica.

44 But Jessica, thank you for the  
45 presentation.

46 MS. COAKLEY: You're welcome. Thank  
47 you.

48 CHAIR ANSON: So, we are ahead of

1 schedule but we are behind schedule. We are late  
2 for our lunch break. And seeing that we are  
3 still ahead of schedule, I am going to probably  
4 keep the hour and a half that we had scheduled  
5 and let's go ahead and meeting back here at 1:45  
6 and we will continue on with the rest of the  
7 agenda on the council workgroup updates.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
9 went off the record at 12:16 p.m. and resumed at  
10 1:50 p.m.)

11 CHAIR ANSON: All right, everyone, so  
12 we are down to the Council Workgroup updates and  
13 I have got people who could talk for all of the  
14 workgroups, except for Stock Rebuilding and that  
15 is our first one. So, I am going to have to punt  
16 a little bit to the group here and see if anybody  
17 has some comments on where that might be, if they  
18 are on it. Anybody have any idea about that?

19 Chris.

20 MR. MOORE: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There  
21 is some confusion about these working groups.  
22 So, if you remember -- well, I don't know if you  
23 remember but we formed these working groups to  
24 inform the May CCC meeting and specifically to  
25 inform our discussions about reauthorization of  
26 the Magnuson Act. So, some of those working  
27 groups disappeared after that May CCC meeting,  
28 including, I think, that one. Unless there is  
29 someone here that is on it that wants to speak  
30 it, I think they are done.

31 CHAIR ANSON: Anybody see it  
32 differently? Anybody see a -- Dorothy.

33 MS. LOWMAN: So, at lunch we were  
34 talking a little bit about whether they have to  
35 disappear or whether some just have disappeared.  
36 So, I guess I didn't think there was a  
37 requirement for them to disappear every year and  
38 be redone. So, and I can see some reasons for  
39 some to continue on and be used as needed.

40 For example, we have a long-range EM  
41 plan, an implementation plan of things that are  
42 coming online in the next three years or so. And  
43 I think there might be some use as we learn  
44 lessons, say from some of the work that is going  
45 to go on in 2015 to use that working group as a  
46 good way to transfer knowledge among regions as  
47 things progress. But we may not need them to do  
48 anything before the June meeting because it may

1 be too soon.

2 CHAIR ANSON: Doug?

3 MR. GREGORY: Yes, if I may because we  
4 have got to pick up the ball and run with it. In  
5 looking over what we did in May and in talking  
6 with Chris and Don and others, the stock  
7 rebuilding, the NEPA thing were like subsets of  
8 the MSA Legislative Committee work. And  
9 obviously, the Habitat Working Group will  
10 continue on. I think we should have the  
11 Legislative Working Group continue in that  
12 working group. And I will solicit volunteers by  
13 email after the meeting. That working group can  
14 look at two things, the MSA itself, and also  
15 National Standard 1 Guidelines, since we have to  
16 the end of June to produce comments on National  
17 Standard 1 Guidelines. And the Allocation  
18 Working Group could continue.

19 So, those are the three I saw  
20 continuing. Electronic monitoring, we reviewed  
21 our regional plan at our meeting and my  
22 impression is until there is some money, there is  
23 not going to be much progress toward implementing  
24 electronic monitoring. In our region, we have a  
25 council that is very interested in it. Our  
26 charter industry wants it badly but it is just  
27 money that is not available to implement it.

28 I think given a lot of what John  
29 Bullard said might be some of the -- so, that is  
30 the way I saw it going forward, allocation,  
31 legislative, and habitat. If there are strong  
32 feelings for EM, if you have that, Dorothy, then  
33 pick it up and run with it and we will see who  
34 wants to work with you on it.

35 CHAIR ANSON: Anyone else have any  
36 comments, additions?

37 So, Chris?

38 MR. MOORE: Just so I'm clear, Doug.  
39 You are going to be asking for membership from  
40 the CCC to populate the Legislative Committee,  
41 right? Is that what you are going to call it,  
42 the MSA?

43 MR. GREGORY: Yes, we can call it the  
44 Legislative Committee or the MSA-NS1 Committee,  
45 or whatever you would like. We can keep the name  
46 Legislative if that is what people are most  
47 comfortable with.

48 CHAIR ANSON: Don.

1 MR. McISAAC: You may be working  
2 through many of these agenda items that are on  
3 the screen here at the same time for this 2:15 to  
4 2:45 period and then 3:00 to 4:00. So, if you  
5 are talking about the Legislative Committee and  
6 some of these other ones, I will speak to the  
7 NEPA one. I was the one who posted that document  
8 that is there.

9 This was kind of a hanging chad from  
10 the Virginia Beach meeting. We presented a draft  
11 there and talked about it. The white paper has  
12 been updated but it could stand a little bit more  
13 editing but it is essentially that same proposal  
14 that was there in Virginia Beach. In some  
15 discussions around the table, I think there might  
16 be one or two councils who still want to take a  
17 look at that before voting today, for example,  
18 whether that be the CCC formal position. And  
19 maybe that ought to just be delayed until June.

20 But if you were talking about a  
21 legislative committee being established, it  
22 could, I guess I would talk in support of that.  
23 If it includes things like the National Standard  
24 Connection, reconciling statutory  
25 inconsistencies, which was another workgroup of  
26 which the NEPA was just one of three components,  
27 I think that would be a good idea.

28 We heard from the legislative folks  
29 yesterday that something is going to happen,  
30 probably, between now and June. So, when we get  
31 to June, if there is an established legislative  
32 committee of this body, maybe they could think  
33 about what has happened between now and June and  
34 make some recommendations to the group. But I  
35 would maybe defer to Chris Moore, who I think was  
36 one who mentioned something about whether or not  
37 we ought to really try to formally adopt this  
38 NEPA position that is described in this white  
39 paper here today or wait until June.

40 MR. MOORE: Thanks, Don. Thanks, Mr.  
41 Chair. Yes, we would like to wait until June.  
42 So, if we could add it as an agenda item for the  
43 June meeting, I think that would work for us.

44 CHAIR ANSON: Okay, John Henderschedt.

45 MR. HENDERSCHEDT: Thank you, Mr.  
46 Chairman. As you know, Kelly Denit and I will be  
47 presenting some work that the Allocation Review  
48 group as done but in terms of process and looking

1 forward, it might be worth mentioning now what  
2 that group envisions; and that is, the report  
3 that we are going to provide today is draft and  
4 that between now and June, we would anticipate  
5 incorporating responses from the CCC to that  
6 report, as well as just some general editing that  
7 needs to be done.

8 So, just from a process perspective,  
9 I would see a need for that group's work to  
10 continue at least until the June meeting. Thank  
11 you, Mr. Chairman.

12 CHAIR ANSON: Chris Oliver, did you  
13 have any comments?

14 MR. OLIVER: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr.  
15 Chairman. Well, I am just kind of thinking about  
16 loud. Don McIsaac spoke to this workgroup and  
17 this draft product that are sort of hanging out  
18 there and I think there was some agreement that  
19 we didn't need to formally adopt it at this time.  
20 We could wait until June.

21 I would note that the Hastings Bill,  
22 4742, that came out in May essentially contains  
23 what is in this white paper. So, given that, and  
24 I was thinking if we have a Legislative  
25 Committee, it would then subsume things like the  
26 NEPA issue, the National Standards 1 revisions,  
27 rebuilding a whole host of things additional  
28 could come up.

29 And so, I am wondering if well, two  
30 things. One, is there any merit in some  
31 individual subgroups to tackle some of these big  
32 issues, particularly that we have the National  
33 Standard 1 proposed rule out there but comments  
34 are due until the end of June. So, maybe it  
35 makes sense to see what legislation might be  
36 introduced this spring or potentially even come  
37 out of the house by June, as we heard yesterday.  
38 And I guess the legislative subcommittee could be  
39 activated at the point in which a draft bill hits  
40 the ground, although it wouldn't preclude that  
41 group from starting to look at the NS1  
42 Guidelines, which of course overlaps with the  
43 juxtaposition between that, potentially, and  
44 draft legislation.

45 So, I am struggling with how and when  
46 this group works and what they work on, given  
47 these things that are going on.

48 CHAIR ANSON: And I agree with you.

1 I am having a little bit of trouble myself trying  
2 to think of what the charge would be for the  
3 group and given the timelines for some of these  
4 other things that are happening. But perhaps as  
5 you described it, Chris, maybe there is a  
6 subgroup, if you will, within that that might  
7 take a piece of the overall charge or charges  
8 that could be given to the legislative group.  
9 But certainly we would like discussion or have  
10 any thoughts or input on that. Obviously, we  
11 might want to see who is on the committee and  
12 whether or not they still are on there and  
13 whether or not we need to repopulate or have some  
14 other folks join it, if it is going to have a lot  
15 of subparts, if you will, we might need a little  
16 bit bigger committee, perhaps.

17 But anybody else have any thoughts,  
18 Tom?

19 MR. NIES: Well, it seems like the one  
20 thing we do have in front of us is the draft  
21 National Standard 1 Guidelines. And it seems  
22 like we could task a group or subgroup to at  
23 least make an effort for drafting a letter that  
24 might come from the CCC in June commenting on the  
25 guidelines. That might be a little bit difficult  
26 because I don't know that every council has had a  
27 chance yet to hold those discussions but that  
28 will probably happen over the next few months.  
29 And so maybe that group could roll as many of  
30 those discussions as possible into the drafting  
31 of the letter, so that we are not starting from  
32 square one when we walk in the room in June.

33 CHAIR ANSON: Doug.

34 MR. GREGORY: Well, whether or not we  
35 form working groups, I plan to take the  
36 compilation of the MSA comments we made last year  
37 from Chris, recirculate some of that and make  
38 sure we are all on the same page because the one  
39 thing that kept me on my toes last year and made  
40 me nervous was how quickly they hold a hearing  
41 and ask for input. It is like a week's notice.  
42 And I would hate for us to be invited to Congress  
43 to represent the CCC with a week's notice and not  
44 have something concrete.

45 So, I am going to be circulating that  
46 among the EDs anyway. And we are going to be  
47 working from National Standard 1 at our council  
48 level beginning in March, our March meeting. So,



1 that was going to be my approach to that.

2 I don't have a game plan going forward  
3 for the other ideas, the reconciling statutory  
4 inconsistency or allocations but I have put a lot  
5 of thought into how to handle the MSA stuff  
6 because it was so challenging last year.

7 CHAIR ANSON: Chris.

8 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,  
9 there are a lot of ideas out there now but I  
10 think if we step back and think about we are  
11 trying to do and timing.

12 So, let's talk about National  
13 Standards 1. I think each one of the councils is  
14 going to have a presentation over the next couple  
15 of months related to National Standard 1. So, we  
16 will all be able to meet with our councils and  
17 get our comments together. And then that can  
18 serve to inform a CCC letter that also responds  
19 to National Standard 1 Guidelines. So, we may  
20 want to have a small working group that does  
21 that.

22 I think Don has led a NEPA working  
23 group. I think we continue to have a NEPA  
24 working group in terms of just finalizing that  
25 white paper and getting that out there.

26 I think that you might want to wait,  
27 to some extent, on the legislative committee,  
28 until you have some idea with what is going on  
29 with Magnuson and then populate that.

30 But, again, I think we could move  
31 forward with a number of products. There is  
32 things -- the Allocation Working Group, I think  
33 that continues. We are going to have find  
34 someone to replace John in that particular  
35 working group in terms of the chair but I think  
36 that would be a good idea as well.

37 So, I think the Allocation Working  
38 Group, the NEPA Working Group, the National  
39 Standards 1 Working Group, all those we can do.

40 And the MSA stuff, that is kind of  
41 open, I guess. I think Doug's approach regarding  
42 MSA in terms of circulating materials from last  
43 year, that is a great idea. I mean that is why  
44 we put all that together on that website, so that  
45 folks can find it easily and quickly. Like I  
46 said to the folks on Tuesday, that is why we put  
47 together that matrix with all the councils'  
48 positions on those various issues. So, I think

1 that is going to be helpful to us.

2 CHAIR ANSON: Anyone else? Dorothy.

3 MS. LOWMAN: So, I wasn't hearing a  
4 lot of support about the EM working group. I  
5 looked up the terms of reference and the  
6 functions. And the first one on there is the EF  
7 forum where information between the regions are  
8 shared on regional initiatives. We had George's  
9 presentation and the talk about need as people  
10 who start on their first projects to share the  
11 results of those projects. As I said, I don't  
12 see that is something that needs to come back and  
13 be on the agenda in the June meeting but I do  
14 think that maybe before our next annual meeting,  
15 there will be information from the North  
16 Pacific's Collaborative Research Project, that  
17 may be of interest to other councils as they are  
18 working on how EM is designed and the struggles  
19 that may be there or the opportunities, in terms  
20 of how the council is weighing in on the design.

21 So, I would either say that it  
22 continues and doesn't just eliminate it. I don't  
23 know if we also start committees again. We may  
24 want to see if new people want to be on it. At  
25 this time, the Western Pacific, who unfortunately  
26 aren't here to weigh in are chairing it and  
27 providing the staff for support for it. Earlier,  
28 Kitty had indicated interest in having it  
29 continuing. So, I am offering to help keep that  
30 going forward but not make it something that we  
31 meet when there isn't anything to meet about.  
32 But I would be interested in other people's,  
33 whether there is any interest in any other  
34 councils.

35 CHAIR ANSON: Dan.

36 MR. HULL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 I guess in thinking about Dorothy's comments, I  
38 would agree with her that there isn't probably a  
39 necessity to put it on the agenda for June, given  
40 the progress of the state of progress that  
41 councils are in. And I should also say,  
42 obviously being new to this process, I am not  
43 sure how working groups are formed or disbanded.  
44 But I think also that in the future that it would  
45 be a good idea to revisit the subject in some  
46 fashion to share results and progress.

47 CHAIR ANSON: Don.

48 MR. McISAAC: Yes, thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman.

2 Speaking to the question of how long  
3 these committees should last or whether they be  
4 ephemeral for the life of a May fly in Idaho, the  
5 gentleman yesterday, Kyle, said that there might  
6 be a chance that the Magnuson Act would be done  
7 by the end of this year. There is a chance that  
8 might not happen as well. And so, there is a  
9 good chance that the Magnuson Act business,  
10 certainly, will continue on past the end of June  
11 of this year.

12 So, I think, I guess I would be in  
13 support of these committees that have been spoken  
14 of now, kind of be establish and that they  
15 continue until dissolved consciously as opposed  
16 to by the rotation to I think the Caribbean  
17 Council might be the next one in line but they  
18 just continue on.

19 This full Congress goes to the end of  
20 2016. And the last time Magnuson went all the  
21 way through was right at the end. So, I just  
22 speak in favor of these groups continuing on  
23 until such time as we altogether say it looks  
24 like they are all done.

25 CHAIR ANSON: Don, which groups,  
26 specifically? Just the Legislative Committee, or  
27 the NEPA, or all rolled up into one? Is that  
28 what you are thinking of?

29 MR. McISAAC: Well, starting from the  
30 end, Dorothy mentioned the Electronic Monitoring  
31 Group. I think we should establish that. Or if  
32 there is one, continue it, even though we might  
33 not hear from any activity in June.

34 And then I think what Chris Moore was  
35 speaking to was a little bit more of a splitter  
36 as opposed to a lumper and that there be one for  
37 national standard, one activity. They will have  
38 to finger their way into the world of Magnuson  
39 reauthorization and couldn't help but not do  
40 that. But then a separate group for the Magnuson  
41 Act activities in general and the separate group  
42 continuing on this competing statutes so that it  
43 can just be kept separate.

44 And I would let Chris add if there is  
45 another splitter there that I didn't get.

46 CHAIR ANSON: Chris Moore.

47 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 There is no Legislative Committee. So, we do

1 need to form one, if in fact we want to do that.

2 I guess, if I am a splitter and we  
3 have four working groups that we have talked  
4 about, I think maybe just take one at a time and  
5 see if folks are interested in continuing with  
6 that particular working group.

7 So, allocation, that is easy. And I  
8 think Dorothy spoke to EM. That is another one.

9 National Standard 1 Working Group, we  
10 have kind of gone around the table on that one.  
11 That is something that I think we need to talk  
12 about a little bit more and then the NEPA working  
13 group.

14 And then I think Doug mentioned  
15 forming a Legislative Committee, at some point.  
16 I think that is another thing that is on the  
17 list.

18 CHAIR ANSON: Well, that sounds like  
19 a good plan to me, Chris. Anybody else? I mean  
20 we can go through them one-by-one and kind of see  
21 where we are. We go with the ones that are  
22 existing and look at the membership, make sure  
23 that that is still good or make changes, as  
24 necessary, and then tackle those other new ones,  
25 if you will, or revised ones and do the same  
26 thing with those.

27 So, that being said, then, and this  
28 doesn't preclude any of the reports. I know,  
29 John, you have a report for the allocation  
30 workgroup and we will get to that. But let's go  
31 ahead and try to take care of these  
32 administrative matters first.

33 So, for the Allocation Review Working  
34 Group, that is comprised, John, if you can help  
35 me out with that.

36 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: So, Mr. chairman,  
37 currently that group is comprised of Rick Robins,  
38 Lee Anderson, Dorothy Lowman, Michelle Duval,  
39 Geno Pineiro, Terry Stockwell, and yourself. And  
40 I will, obviously, not be continuing as chair of  
41 that committee.

42 I did take the liberty, Mr. Chairman,  
43 of reaching out to Michelle and so that it is  
44 clear to everybody that she is not getting  
45 appointment to anything due to her absence at the  
46 meeting here. And she graciously agreed to or  
47 expressed her willingness to take the leadership  
48 of this group going forward.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you. So, with  
3 your departure, I think everyone else, though is  
4 still active and still on that, and anticipated  
5 to be for the foreseeable future.

6 So, is there a need to repopulate or  
7 bring on somebody else? Do you think we can  
8 handle that with the membership that we have?  
9 Okay.

10 And so next would be NEPA. Don, do  
11 you have an idea as to who was on that group?

12 MR. McISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
13 I don't have a snappy list like John did. I  
14 think this was a compete statutes group that  
15 dealt with NEPA and ESA, marine mammals and  
16 national marine sanctuaries. I recall that Kitty  
17 was on it. I don't know if Chris Oliver was able  
18 to evade that or not but I actually, I guess if  
19 we are talking about getting these things going  
20 again, maybe I would suggest you just ask for a  
21 show of hands. And I would still be willing to  
22 carry forward on my role.

23 CHAIR ANSON: Okay, let's go ahead and  
24 do that. And we will have one rep for each  
25 council, try to distribute the membership. Yes,  
26 Chris?

27 MR. OLIVER: I just, I guess, would  
28 note in previous workgroup formations, we didn't  
29 necessarily have eight people on it. We didn't  
30 necessarily feel the need to have someone from  
31 every council. Some of them I remember only had  
32 three or four people. The original NEPA  
33 workgroup was me and Bob Mahood and Dan Furlong,  
34 the three of us. And then sometime last May, I  
35 am trying to kind of, I have a mental block on  
36 the whole issue right now since last May, I  
37 stepped aside and Don sort of took over.

38 But if we are going to keep that group  
39 going, I would volunteer to re-engage with Don  
40 and whoever else wants to.

41 CHAIR ANSON: All right and your  
42 comments were in kind of response to my comment.  
43 I didn't mean to say eight councils need to be on  
44 the committee, just that one person from each  
45 council would be the max.

46 Okay, so Chris.

47 MR. MOORE: So, Doug and I talked  
48 about these various workgroups, the committees,

1 earlier. And I think it might be more efficient  
2 if Doug sent an email out saying we are forming  
3 or reforming or continuing with the NEPA working  
4 group; who wants to be on it. Because some folks  
5 have already left that may have some interest in  
6 being on the NEPA working group. So, I think,  
7 from my perspective, that might be a better way  
8 to go.

9 CHAIR ANSON: That is a good  
10 suggestion. Don.

11 MR. McISAAC: Just one slight addition  
12 to that. I know last time it was just excellent  
13 to have Chris Moore's staff to work with on  
14 these. So, that is, unfortunately, a burden that  
15 is going to fall. But if you send an email  
16 around saying here is the group and you could  
17 identify which of your staff will be putting us  
18 at their highest priority, which of your staff  
19 will be staffing it, that would be excellent.

20 MR. GREGORY: I assume the staff of  
21 the chair of the working group would be doing  
22 that. But --

23 MR. McISAAC: That is not how it went  
24 last time and it worked so good last time.

25 MR. GREGORY: Well, it is obvious to  
26 me that Chris is the ultimate gentleman in the  
27 group and he would probably put extra people in  
28 and all that. We will do what we can.

29 But I have a question, in general,  
30 about this idea of these other acts. The ESA, it  
31 seems like we got an ESA report with the work  
32 from MAFAC and that seems to be over with.

33 The Marine Mammal Protection Act, the  
34 National Sanctuaries Act, that seems to be like a  
35 major chore but the only thing I have seen so far  
36 is the NEPA stuff. So, whoever takes that on,  
37 that is going to be a major chore.

38 MS. SIMONDS: That's why you have the  
39 heavy hitters. Wink!

40 MR. GREGORY: So, you want to keep all  
41 those other acts and -- somebody has got to do  
42 some analysis. I don't understand where this is  
43 going. Is this -- it seems like the effort here  
44 is to get NEPA embedded into the Magnuson and I  
45 think Chris Oliver said a great deal today is we  
46 want to the Magnuson Act to be controlling our  
47 activities and not other acts.

48 MS. SIMONDS: Right.

1 MR. GREGORY: But to tackle ESA,  
2 Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Sanctuaries  
3 Program, it seems quite a bit taller order.

4 MS. SIMONDS: Well, the thing is, I  
5 think we have to know what the Congress plans on  
6 doing. And if they are going to be thinking  
7 about working on those other Acts, well, we had  
8 better be awake. You know especially the Marine  
9 Mammal Protection Act. I told you what I thought  
10 should be done. It is too little words: get  
11 them out. That's it.

12 But sanctuaries, obviously, the  
13 Magnuson Act should be the Act that dominates  
14 sanctuaries.

15 You know we have been very good at  
16 keeping sanctuaries out in Hawaii from dealing  
17 with fisheries because we have a state who in  
18 their agreement just said they can't do any  
19 fisheries in state waters. So, obviously, if you  
20 have to deal with fisheries, you have to come to  
21 us.

22 So but anyway, if the Congress says we  
23 are going to be dealing with something, we should  
24 be aware. But it is not for us to just go willy-  
25 nilly working on stuff.

26 CHAIR ANSON: Don?

27 MR. McISAAC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
28 And with regard to the ESA matter, there is a  
29 policy directive out now. Things are working  
30 quite well in the Pacific Council now. We had an  
31 example earlier in the week on how well that is  
32 working.

33 I think from the workgroup's  
34 perspective, though, there were some other  
35 councils who were still looking for the  
36 possibility of some change in the Act that never  
37 quite got to resolution in Virginia Beach.

38 The National Sanctuaries Act, I think  
39 the council has a position on the record on that  
40 from the past but it might be worth detailing, in  
41 case we are asked again about that.

42 And the Marine Mammal one I don't  
43 believe that the subgroup got to a point of a  
44 recommendation on that. So, it is another little  
45 simmering pan on the back of the stove.

46 So, I think if all of those are  
47 somewhat alive, it would be the burden of the  
48 workgroup to try to bring something succinct

1 forward for everybody to look at in June.

2 MS. SIMONDS: We tried bringing up the  
3 Marine Mammal Protection Act like when there was  
4 '96 reauthorization and kind of talked about in  
5 '06 but not to the point where it was brought to  
6 the chairs and executive directors to develop a  
7 position.

8 CHAIR ANSON: Chris.

9 MR. OLIVER: Well, there is a whole  
10 lot of issues and I think we better maybe be  
11 careful between what it might be CCC positions  
12 that get developed as necessary and suffering  
13 death by 1,000 workgroups. I don't know.

14 I thought the ESA workgroup was done,  
15 that the policy directive basically embraced the  
16 work that was done by MAFAC in that group. So,  
17 if there were still maybe some lingering  
18 ancillary issues, I don't know that they  
19 necessarily need a formal workgroup.

20 I know our person that was on that  
21 workgroup is no longer with the council. And so  
22 I don't necessarily have anybody to put on that  
23 workgroup.

24 MS. SIMONDS: Well, Don, who are these  
25 other councils that you are talking about that  
26 aren't in agreement with the directive?

27 MR. McISAAC: Well, we could probably  
28 end that debate very quickly because I thought it  
29 was the Western Pacific that still wanted  
30 something in Magnuson in ESA.

31 MS. SIMONDS: Oh, you are talking  
32 about whether to do something with Magnuson.

33 MR. McISAAC: Yes.

34 MS. SIMONDS: Oh, okay. Oh. Yes,  
35 okay.

36 CHAIR ANSON: Doug.

37 MR. GREGORY: Yes, I envisioned what  
38 Don was proposing as the one working group would  
39 address all these different Acts in one fell  
40 swoop. There wouldn't be a separate working  
41 group for each Act.

42 CHAIR ANSON: All right. So, as Chris  
43 suggested, and it looks like I had some nods  
44 around the room, Doug Gregory will work on the  
45 list of the workgroups and send out a general  
46 email asking for volunteers to select which one  
47 they would like to participate in.

48 So, with that then, we do have some



1 products that have come out of a couple of the  
2 working groups. Don, you are on the list. Have  
3 you said everything you wanted to say about that?  
4 Okay. All right.

5 And so, John, you have some  
6 information for the Allocation Review Workgroup  
7 that you wanted to go over now or talk about the  
8 draft?

9 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Mr. Chairman, if  
10 you are referring to the presentation of the  
11 draft itself, both Kelly Denit with National  
12 Marine Fisheries Service and I would like to  
13 present actually two draft guidance documents.

14 CHAIR ANSON: Yes, we are at that  
15 point.

16 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Chairman.

18 Okay, Mr. Chairman, CCC members, so  
19 just to provide a little bit of background and  
20 context for this presentation, a year ago, the  
21 agency provided the CCC with some recommended  
22 terms of reference relative to establishing  
23 triggers for and conducting allocation reviews.  
24 And at that time, the CCC established a working  
25 group. We came back to the CCC at the main  
26 meeting and suggested a number of things. One  
27 was that we approached this from a perspective of  
28 adaptive management, that that provided a model  
29 that we could use in both establishing triggers  
30 for conducting allocation reviews, as well as  
31 designing those reviews and conducting them.

32 The other was that in terms of tasking  
33 that work we, the CCC chose to essentially  
34 bifurcate the issue into establishing trigger  
35 mechanisms that would initiate a review. And  
36 then looking at the process and the  
37 considerations in conducting the review itself.

38 And so, the CCC working group took on  
39 the former. In other words, we will be providing  
40 a very high-level review of a document that  
41 addresses how to trigger or different trigger  
42 mechanisms for allocation review.

43 And then Kelly and her team tackled  
44 the broader issue of considerations for doing the  
45 review itself. And so, we are going to provide  
46 sort of a two-part presentation; one having to do  
47 with triggers, the other having to do with a  
48 review.

1                   And lastly, I just wanted to share  
2 that given the necessity that these two documents  
3 be complementary, that ultimately we would be  
4 able to integrate the recommendations from both  
5 of these groups, the working group and Kelly's  
6 team engaged in some discussions late in the  
7 process over the past month or two to sort of  
8 compare notes, to review drafts. And I think I  
9 can speak for both of us that that proved to be a  
10 very useful and productive process.

11                   So, I am going to ask Kelly to provide  
12 some background information in terms of the  
13 structure and the diagram that we have developed  
14 and then we will do some brief presentations on  
15 the documents.

16                   MS. DENIT: Great. Thanks, John.  
17 Good afternoon, everybody. I am Kelly Denit in  
18 the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, for those  
19 who don't know me.

20                   So, when our two working groups met to  
21 talk through our respective documents, we quickly  
22 realized that we needed a bit of a map for  
23 ourselves, in how we were envisioning this  
24 process might work. And so this schematic that I  
25 have put up is what we came up with. And so we  
26 thought we would start by talking you through  
27 this from a process perspective to orient  
28 everyone and then we will go into a little bit  
29 more detail, respectively, on what the specific  
30 documents cover.

31                   So, the first step is the actual  
32 triggers. And so those bins represent the bins  
33 that the CCC identified at their last meeting as  
34 the relevant categories for triggers that we  
35 wanted to consider.

36                   And as part of the public input  
37 trigger, and John is going to go into this more,  
38 there was sort of a Step 1a in there, where if  
39 you are getting specific input from the public,  
40 you would have a little bit of an additional  
41 check on that input to determine before you would  
42 move into Step 2, which is the allocation review  
43 or what we have called the allocation review.

44                   And so the allocation review is sort  
45 of this interim step, based on the conversations  
46 that we have had at the CCC meeting previously  
47 with some of the concerns in terms of workload,  
48 resources, issues, not wanting to jump all the

1 way in but really wanting to have a thoughtful  
2 analysis of what is going on with these  
3 respective allocations before you go that full  
4 step.

5 So, the allocation review is intended  
6 to take into account and really focus on the  
7 review of the FMP objectives, focus on the  
8 adaptive management approach that John mentioned;  
9 look at are your objectives up to date or do they  
10 need to be updated, are they being met; and also  
11 look at other relevant factors that have changed  
12 over the course of time that would impact your  
13 allocation, such as changes in the fishery,  
14 things like that that you would take into  
15 account.

16 And I should have oriented you guys  
17 here in the beginning. Along the side here, we  
18 have kind of tried to lay out where we see the  
19 two different guidance documents and how they  
20 would apply to the different steps within the  
21 process. So, the trigger guidance, obviously, is  
22 1 and 2 and then the guidance that we have with  
23 respect to what you should look at as part of the  
24 review is covered in Steps 2 and 3.

25 So, if as part of doing that  
26 allocation review you see that in fact there does  
27 need to be a change, then you would move to Step  
28 3, which is your standard FMP amendment process,  
29 digging in and looking at potential alternatives  
30 of allocation. If you determine, based on that  
31 allocation review that no changes are needed, you  
32 would circle back up to the top where your  
33 triggers are and be back, essentially, at Step 1  
34 until another trigger is hit.

35 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: So, Mr. Chairman,  
36 in terms of the work product from the CCC working  
37 group, again, I want to thank the members of that  
38 group for the effort that they have put forth in  
39 putting this document together. I will  
40 acknowledge that the document right now looks and  
41 reads as one that was developed by a committee.  
42 And that is really what it is and it is  
43 reflective of the fact that there is a lot of  
44 input into that document. And I think that going  
45 forward one of the things that that group would  
46 like to do is have the opportunity to just do  
47 some of the distillation and revisions that will  
48 make the document read better. But I think most

1 importantly is that it captures the ideas and the  
2 concepts that the group collectively wanted to  
3 reflect in this.

4 As we have mentioned a number of  
5 times, the basis of this approach is adaptive  
6 management that was identified a year ago. As  
7 the group thought this through, while we sort of  
8 focused inwardly to these different trigger  
9 mechanisms, it also became apparent that this  
10 notion of having up-to-date FMPs in terms of up-  
11 to-date goals and objectives is critical to the  
12 process and it ties in very closely to the  
13 discussion that we had yesterday relative to  
14 National Standard 1. And so all of the working  
15 group's recommendations are based on this  
16 assumption that the council is operating off of  
17 up-to-date and relevant goals and objectives in  
18 its FMP.

19 So, the document explores each step of  
20 what we would consider to be active adaptive  
21 management, as they relate to this process that  
22 Kelly walked through from identifying goals and  
23 objectives through implementation, monitoring  
24 evaluation and adaptation.

25 The document has some definitions. We  
26 point out, and as the diagram that Kelly went  
27 through has several steps, starting with the  
28 trigger mechanism, which may initiate a review,  
29 which then creates what we call the go-no go  
30 decision point relative to actually moving  
31 forward with a consideration of new allocation  
32 alternatives.

33 So, in keeping with the terms of  
34 reference that the Agency provided the CCC a year  
35 ago, the working group explored three different  
36 types of triggers: public interest-based  
37 criteria triggers, time-based, and indicator-  
38 based. And I will note that in those terms of  
39 reference, I think the term was performance-  
40 based. And in an effort to provide some clarity,  
41 the working group replaced that term with  
42 indicator-based. We were just concerned that the  
43 word performance was showing up in too many  
44 places in the document.

45 So, I will just walk through each type  
46 of trigger very quickly. First, in terms of  
47 public interest-based criteria, we identified  
48 three different levels of public input. The

1 first is ongoing and this is reflective of the  
2 normal process of councils receiving input  
3 regarding fishery performance. What councils  
4 hear through public comment, through scoping  
5 processes, through its ongoing interaction with  
6 the public. And so this one might consider to be  
7 passive public interest-based criteria.

8 The next level would be specific  
9 solicitation of public input regarding fishery  
10 performance and regarding allocations. So, it is  
11 a more deliberate process in which the council  
12 would specifically solicit and consider input  
13 regarding allocation outcomes but it is important  
14 to note that both of these trigger mechanisms are  
15 subject to the council's judgment and  
16 interpretation of that public input, meaning, it  
17 is discretionary. These are mechanisms through  
18 which the council considers input and decides  
19 whether or not it would choose to trigger an  
20 allocation review.

21 The third type of public interest  
22 trigger would be a formal petition or referendum.  
23 And this is a review trigger that is non-  
24 discretionary and that would initiate an  
25 allocation review process. And the working group  
26 has identified some important considerations,  
27 such that the use of non-discretionary triggers,  
28 like petitions, referenda, and as I will discuss  
29 shortly, time-based criteria, there are some  
30 costs and benefits that have to be carefully  
31 considered when employing those triggers. The  
32 cost is that these triggers tend to be  
33 insensitive to a council's overall workload, to  
34 their management priorities at any given time,  
35 and to the available resources and capacity of  
36 the council. The benefit is that it creates a  
37 forcing mechanism that is useful when council  
38 dynamics may otherwise reduce the ability or the  
39 political will to conduct a review.

40 So, the advantage to a non-  
41 discretionary trigger is one need not overcome  
42 other issues, other challenges within the process  
43 to trigger a review.

44 In terms of time-based criteria, this  
45 was the trigger mechanisms that I think is fair  
46 to say was the original model for allocation  
47 review. In sort of the history of our  
48 discussions, at least at the CCC, relative to

1 allocation review, my recollection is that we  
2 first started talking about time-based criteria.  
3 As I mentioned, the approach can prove  
4 insensitive to important strategic and  
5 operational considerations but it does eliminate  
6 the need to muster consensus to move forward to  
7 do a review.

8 And the working group identified  
9 several other precedents for time periods that  
10 might be used, ranging from the five-year initial  
11 review of LAPPs to the seven-year subsequent  
12 review of LAPP implementation, and finally, the  
13 ten-year durability of LAPP permits, just as  
14 other sort of reference points in Magnuson that  
15 might be used for the design of the time-based  
16 trigger.

17 And then finally, we have indicator-  
18 based triggers and these are the primary  
19 considerations include economic, social, and  
20 ecological factors, which are, obviously, derived  
21 from the National Standard 1 considerations of  
22 defining optimum yield.

23 There are clearly similarities and  
24 some overlap related to the consideration of  
25 those indicators as a review trigger criteria and  
26 more in-depth evaluation as part of an allocation  
27 review that Kelly will be talking about.

28 And then, finally, the document  
29 fleshes out in much greater detail than I can  
30 here, the likely indicator topics and evaluation  
31 approaches relative to indicator-based triggers.

32 So, finally, I will just add a few  
33 overall considerations. I will reiterate that  
34 there is a close relationship between this issue  
35 and the NS1 discussion relative to ongoing review  
36 and updating of FMP and allocation goals and  
37 objectives. It is worth pointing out that these  
38 triggers are not mutually exclusive, as described  
39 in the document; that for instance, the  
40 indicator-based trigger elements that are  
41 discussed in the document might be also applied  
42 when a council is applying an ongoing or a  
43 solicited public interest trigger. In other  
44 words, what is the frame of reference that a  
45 council will rely upon when considering either  
46 ongoing input or solicited input from the public  
47 regarding the outcomes of allocations.

48 And finally, that a successful

1 allocation review process requires transparent  
2 selection, design, and application of review  
3 triggers. In other words, whatever a council  
4 might establish is a mechanism to initiate  
5 allocation reviews that needs to be done up-  
6 front. It needs to be done in a transparent  
7 manner in a way that the public has some clear  
8 expectation of how the council will consider  
9 whether or not allocation reviews would or should  
10 be undertaken in the future.

11 So, we are going to leave some time  
12 for questions at the end. So, I will turn things  
13 over to Kelly.

14 MS. DENIT: So, I will quickly talk  
15 you guys through the guidance that the NMFS  
16 Working Group came up with and I really have to  
17 thank Wendy Morrison and Tara Scott, who did the  
18 yeomen's work on this.

19 So, we have put up here on the slide  
20 just an outline of the paper, which was posted on  
21 the CCC website for you all. No general  
22 surprise, we start with a little bit of  
23 background, which John has already covered, run  
24 through some of the existing national policy  
25 where there are references to reviews for  
26 allocation like the catch share policy and other  
27 places.

28 And then we dig into a couple of areas  
29 a little bit more. One is guiding principles. I  
30 don't think any of these will come as a surprise  
31 to you all around the table who have dealt with  
32 allocation issues.

33 We have already talked about updating  
34 objectives; the concept of trying to minimize  
35 conflict as much as possible, by having an open  
36 and transparent process; using the best data  
37 available. And then these last two are sort of a  
38 little bit of lessons learned kind of things,  
39 looking at how you can minimize speculative  
40 behavior. If people know that an allocation  
41 conversation is coming up, you can see that. So,  
42 what might be some things for councils to think  
43 about as part of that, as well as plan for future  
44 conditions? So, some of the concepts of looking  
45 at if we have a particular ACL, then the  
46 allocation is going to be this. If we have a  
47 different ACL, then the allocation might be that.  
48 So, you can tee some of those things up in

1 advance and not have to constantly go back and  
2 review allocations is one concept to think about  
3 as you are working through these.

4 In terms of the factors for  
5 consideration, I don't think these will be a  
6 surprise to anyone either. It is four broad  
7 categories, the ecological, the economic,  
8 performance, and social.

9 And so looking at I know the  
10 ecological, what is the status of the stock,  
11 looking at economic, have you achieved objectives  
12 related to economic efficiency if that was, in  
13 fact, an objective?

14 Looking at performance, has the  
15 proportion of catch from different sectors or  
16 different gears within the fishery changed?

17 And then social. What is sort of the  
18 vulnerability of different communities? Those  
19 kinds of aspects.

20 So, we have spelled those out in the  
21 paper. That is the really sort of quick and  
22 dirty version.

23 And just in terms of next steps, we  
24 are looking for feedback from you all. We have  
25 not shared our document really at all. It is  
26 pretty much straight from our brains. So, we  
27 will be running up through all the regional  
28 offices, general counsel, et cetera, to get  
29 further input. Feedback from you all today will  
30 be helpful. And then, as John mentioned earlier,  
31 looking to kind of come back to the CCC in June  
32 with something more of a polished final product  
33 for approval.

34 And so with that, Mr. Chair, I think  
35 we would be happy to hear the conversation, get  
36 any feedback, and answer questions.

37 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you, Kelly. Thank  
38 you, John. Good work. John, do you have a  
39 comment?

40 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: I just wanted to  
41 also just open it up for other members of the  
42 working group if they feel there is any aspect of  
43 the paper that should have been included in this  
44 presentation and wasn't, just given an  
45 opportunity to add to my comments.

46 CHAIR ANSON: Any comment? Chris  
47 Oliver.

48 MR. OLIVER: I wasn't part of the



1 working group, so I was standing down for a  
2 second to see others.

3 CHAIR ANSON: Your hand went up first.  
4 Lee's hand is up now.

5 MR. ANDERSON: The only thing that I  
6 wanted to emphasize is that it is a two-step  
7 process and that was one of the things that  
8 wrapped up around the axle early on. You know we  
9 are doing allocations. Does that mean you start  
10 having to be making alternatives and everything?  
11 Now that you have drawn this credit for this,  
12 make it a two-step process.

13 So, you look at it and you use  
14 adaptive management. And if you say we are not  
15 meeting objectives, then we do a quick look at it  
16 to say if it is necessary. Then if that goes,  
17 then you go to the bigger step. So, I am quite  
18 comfortable with it.

19 The only thing that we didn't mention  
20 this paper, what does that do? I would think  
21 that in each step it would still take a vote of  
22 the council if we got a petition. At least in  
23 our council, we assume we have a petition. We  
24 look at it and then we say let's move ahead with  
25 the Step 1, the allocation review. And after you  
26 have the allocation review, there would be staff  
27 looking at it and then you would vote to say all  
28 right, we have enough to go on for the next step.

29 So, there is still council votes in  
30 all of these things but in general, the process  
31 is what the committee said and what I would  
32 recommend we go with.

33 CHAIR ANSON: Dorothy.

34 MS. LOWMAN: So, thanks. I want to  
35 add to this, just a slight modification to what  
36 Lee said. And you see it on this slide, and in  
37 some sense it is almost a three-step process.  
38 The first is what even triggers a review. And  
39 then if it a review is triggered, then that is  
40 the second step. And then the third step is  
41 after the no-go and if it is a go, you go on to  
42 the third step.

43 And John, I think you kind of  
44 mentioned it about having kind of a time line to  
45 kind of -- but one of the things that is in this  
46 paper that doesn't have a particular number of  
47 years right now but might be something for CCC  
48 discussion is the idea of not saying the specific

1 years of when you would do an allocation review  
2 but say in a specific number of years by the time  
3 a council should indicate what kind of triggers  
4 they are going to use.

5 So, that is all I had to add.

6 CHAIR ANSON: Chris?

7 MR. OLIVER: Yes, I just want to try  
8 to clarify a couple of things and reiterate a  
9 concern that I have been stating since we have  
10 been having this discussion.

11 I think I really like the two-step  
12 process because do you need to do it and then  
13 here is how you do it. But one of the concerns I  
14 have expressed a number of times is what is meant  
15 by a periodic review. Because we have so many  
16 allocations and I know everybody does but in the  
17 North Pacific my concern is if a review requires  
18 an EIS-level analysis or even a significant  
19 analysis to determine if you need to review a  
20 program, we could literally spend all of our  
21 council and council staff and lots of agency time  
22 reviewing our existing allocations and never get  
23 another thing done in our fisheries management  
24 program.

25 So, if I understand the first step  
26 trigger, maybe it addresses my concern because as  
27 you were talking Kelly, I was reading the paper,  
28 really reading it closely for the first time.  
29 And you look at factors that need to be  
30 considered, you know ecological factors, bycatch  
31 rates, mortality rates, impacts on habitat,  
32 ecological community impacts, economic  
33 efficiency, employment, income, performance, on  
34 and on, and on and on. I mean this is a huge  
35 analysis for any program to really look at all of  
36 these factors.

37 So, I just want to make sure that that  
38 is not the expectation to make the first step  
39 decision of whether a review is necessary. Now,  
40 I agree when you get to an FMP amendment level  
41 and you are actually doing a formal review, you  
42 would need to look at these kind of things. But  
43 if we had to go through all of this just to make  
44 the decision on the first step, you just wrapped  
45 the council's process up to the point where we  
46 would never get anything else done.

47 So, I am just looking for clarity on  
48 where that second part kicks in.

1 MS. DENIT: Yes, thanks, Chris. We  
2 tried to be clear in sort of the introduction to  
3 that section with the four factors that the  
4 council should make a determination of which of  
5 those factors is the most relevant for them. And  
6 we were providing a list based on a more, I am  
7 not going to say exhaustive, but a longer list.  
8 And it might be that some of those factors are  
9 not relevant, given the objectives for the  
10 particular FMP or the for the particular  
11 allocation you are looking at, in which case we  
12 would not expect the council to do an analysis on  
13 those components. So, we were trying to err on  
14 the side of here is the things that you should be  
15 looking at because we think there is a whole  
16 range. And then having the council look at that  
17 and say well, we don't think X is relevant for  
18 this reason and so we are going to focus on Y.

19 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: And then Mr.  
20 Chairman, if I could just add to that. It is a  
21 step-wise process. So, obviously, the  
22 consideration of those performance indicators as  
23 triggers would be very high-level.

24 To the extent that they were explored  
25 in-depth, a council may as well do an allocation  
26 review because that is pretty much what you end  
27 up doing. And then, ultimately, it is not until  
28 an allocation review indicates the need to  
29 revisit a decision, where you are looking at new  
30 alternatives and the front-loading of a  
31 regulatory process kicks in.

32 MR. OLIVER: I have one follow-up. Do  
33 we, and I don't know if this is a question for  
34 you or maybe Sam, will this ultimately take the  
35 form of some type of regulation or guidelines or  
36 a policy directive, or how do you envision? What  
37 is the ultimate form of this guidance we are  
38 working on?

39 MS. DENIT: I don't know. I think we  
40 are still figuring that out and looking for some  
41 feedback from you all as part of that process.  
42 But, obviously, I would defer to my boss.

43 MR. RAUCH: So, I think the regulation  
44 is what you have just seen, is the National  
45 Standard 1 guidance to have some sort of process  
46 regular review. These would be more descriptive  
47 guidance as to how you might do that but I don't  
48 envision any further regulatory documents, other

1 than what we have just said in National Standard  
2 1, which doesn't deal with only allocations.  
3 Allocations are a subset of the goals and  
4 objectives.

5 The first part of this, though is CCC  
6 guidance. That is you had indicated, as this  
7 body, wanted to take on the idea of the trigger  
8 questions and what guidance you might want to  
9 give to your collective councils on that kind of  
10 trigger. So, I view that as your document. We,  
11 the NMFS guidance was on the back end. Once you  
12 have met whatever trigger you are going to meet,  
13 here are factors to consider in doing the  
14 analysis. And that is more technical issues from  
15 our perspective.

16 But if my understanding is the CCC was  
17 intending to put out some sort of statement about  
18 here are the kinds of triggers, here is why it  
19 might be appropriate to guide the individual  
20 councils, ultimately, the individual councils  
21 will decide what to do here. But I thought the  
22 ultimate work product here, at least the first  
23 part, was a document from the CCC to give back to  
24 the individual councils.

25 MR. OLIVER: Can I follow up?

26 CHAIR ANSON: Yes, go ahead, Chris,  
27 follow-up.

28 MR. OLIVER: Because I was actually  
29 surprised to see, to learn that NS1 revisions  
30 actually contain a mandate to review allocations,  
31 which I thought was part and parcel to a separate  
32 discussion. So, apparently, the what has been  
33 decided and this is the how.

34 But the NS1 guidelines, themselves,  
35 only make some fairly vague references to the  
36 requirement to review objectives and allocations.  
37 So, are you saying then that you are going to  
38 leave it to the council, CCC, to decide what that  
39 is and that this is our draft of what we think it  
40 should be but it is not going to be part of the  
41 regulation or the NS1 guidelines? The very  
42 specifics aren't in the NS1 revisions is what I  
43 am struggling with.

44 MR. RAUCH: The very specifics -- the  
45 NS1 guidelines envisions that the council will  
46 have a regular process for reviewing all the  
47 goals and objectives, including allocations.

48 The specifics intentionally it is

1 vague as to what that means because that needs to  
2 happen at the council level as to what and how  
3 you structure that. I think our intent behind  
4 that is that there will be, the public will know  
5 and the councils will know when and/or how to do  
6 this. If you do the timely number it would be  
7 when. If there is some other trigger, it will be  
8 when the trigger or if there is some process.  
9 But it is known ahead of time that there is a  
10 mechanism in order to refresh and update all of  
11 the goals and objectives, including allocations.

12 So, I don't see, unless we tweak the  
13 language of the National Standard 1 along those  
14 lines, I don't see further explicit direction in  
15 the Federal Register directing this, assuming the  
16 councils actually take this on. If the councils  
17 do not, we will have to look at that because we  
18 do believe that making sure the allocations are  
19 in the best interest of the nation, as with all  
20 your goals and objectives, is a recurring duty of  
21 the councils.

22 CHAIR ANSON: Glenn Merrill, followed  
23 by Lee.

24 MR. MERRILL: Thanks. I'm not sure if  
25 this is Kelly or Sam. I guess one question I do  
26 have is sort of the level of the formality of the  
27 review. So, for example, when we undertake our  
28 regular FMP amendments and we do a lot for a lot  
29 of our programs that are say catch share programs  
30 or other allocated programs, as a part of that we  
31 very typically set into context how the program  
32 is operating and why we are making the specific  
33 change that we are making now.

34 Are you envisioning that something  
35 like that could satisfy as a level of review or  
36 is this a more formal and separate process that  
37 should be distinct from sort of the general  
38 analysis that we do of our programs when we  
39 undertake a regular FMP or regulatory amendment.

40 MS. DENIT: Do you want to answer that  
41 one, Sam or do want me to? Okay.

42 I think we are envisioning that that  
43 type of review could satisfy the requirements for  
44 this. So, for example, if you are doing a five-  
45 year review of the catch share program, that  
46 could accomplish what it is that we are talking  
47 about, in terms of this step number two of  
48 reviewing and looking at are your objectives up-

1 to-date; are you meeting those objectives; if  
2 not, what tweaks might you make.

3 So does that --

4 MR. MERRILL: I think so. I mean I  
5 guess thinking of programs like our allocations  
6 between the charter halibut and the commercial  
7 halibut sector. We undertake an annualized  
8 process of looking at different management  
9 measures to constrain the fleet within the  
10 allocations. As a part of that, we have a  
11 discussion about how those allocations have been  
12 managed, how the fleets are operating. You know,  
13 to some extent, that might satisfy that sort of  
14 first step examination about whether or not we  
15 need to revise the allocations. Because through  
16 that process, we receive a lot of feedback from  
17 the public, not receiving a lot of feedback say  
18 that we need to revise those allocations seems to  
19 suggest to me that that is functioning fairly  
20 well within that context.

21 And like I said, we would prefer to be  
22 able to rely on that as sort of a background  
23 document to point to, to say that we have looked  
24 at this and we feel comfortable that our first  
25 step is satisfied and we need not go further,  
26 rather than having to create a separate process.

27 MR. RAUCH: If I could respond to  
28 that, I think the issue there -- well, first of  
29 all, the councils, as we noted, the councils  
30 actually do this an awful lot. The councils go  
31 through a process virtually every major amendment  
32 they do. They do a lot of allocation reviews.  
33 They do a lot of reviewing and refreshing goals  
34 and objectives. So, I don't want you to leave  
35 with the impression that NMFS thinks that there  
36 is a huge deficiency here.

37 What the real problem is that the  
38 public doesn't know that is going on. In the  
39 process you laid out, Glenn, that may be a  
40 perfectly good process if the public knows that  
41 in every year, you are actually deciding whether  
42 to go forward or not and change the allocations.  
43 If they know that is an option, the end result of  
44 that may be a decision to engage in a much more  
45 robust allocation review, as opposed to if the  
46 public believes in that process that they are  
47 stuck with the allocation they get and there is  
48 debate on the edges.

1           If that is what they think about the  
2 review, then I don't think it is serving that  
3 purpose. If they believe that a potential  
4 outcome of the annual review is any of these  
5 broader processes, I think that would be fine.

6           Part of this is to let the public know  
7 that there is a set time or process in which they  
8 can reopen these decisions.

9           CHAIR ANSON: Lee.

10          MR. ANDERSON: I don't think we are  
11 talking about an annual review.

12          But the main thing, your question was  
13 you know all that was a list of information. We  
14 are going to look at ecological things. I take  
15 it alittle different. I really go back to the  
16 adaptive management that John came up with.

17          Adaptive management says you have  
18 objectives and are you meeting your objectives.  
19 And that is the way you look at it.

20          So for a petition, if somebody came in  
21 with a petition, the petition said we want more  
22 fish and we are good guys, you throw that  
23 petition out. If you get a petition that says  
24 your objectives say this is what you are supposed  
25 to be doing and we believe that if you made this  
26 change, that would help meet our objectives, then  
27 I would say okay, we will go ahead. Or, if they  
28 say we think you need more objectives, that is  
29 fine, too. But then we go on with that  
30 discussion.

31          And at the same time, those objectives  
32 force the issue but they also set the stage for  
33 what kind of research you want to collect. You  
34 made a great big list of all things that are  
35 important. But really, the way to narrow down  
36 that list is how do we know we are meeting our  
37 objectives? What bit of that information is  
38 going to be useful for us to decide whether we  
39 met those objectives?

40          So to me, the first step, there is a  
41 balance. And in one sense, you may be -- and I  
42 don't mean this but in one case you look at it  
43 and say here are our objectives. Do we agree  
44 with them? And if so, okay, they are the ones we  
45 like. Are we meeting them? End of story.

46          But you can't do it that fast. There  
47 has got to be something in there where you have  
48 done your due diligence to really look at are

1 they the objectives and are they being met. But  
2 there is an end to this story. It doesn't have  
3 to go on forever.

4 But if you do say we are not meeting  
5 our objectives, we need some new ones, and you go  
6 to the second stage, that is when you have to be  
7 a lot more careful about getting out the more  
8 research, getting into it deeper. That is the  
9 real problem of why we set up the two-stage  
10 problem or the two-stage process is to be  
11 parsimonious about the work we put into it,  
12 unless we decide we have to go on. And I know  
13 there is a balance about what is parsimonious and  
14 what is slapping your hands and wiping it off the  
15 table. And I am not advocating that.

16 What I am advocating is let's really  
17 do the adaptive management. Look to the  
18 objectives for what you want to do and for the  
19 data you need to collect.

20 CHAIR ANSON: Chris Oliver and then  
21 Dan Hull.

22 MR. OLIVER: And so I am just  
23 reiterating a concern that we don't allow this to  
24 turn into something that subsumes all of our time  
25 and resources. And not to be too flippant, but  
26 if we reevaluate our objectives and we determine  
27 that a primary objective is stability in  
28 allocations, have we made our job easier?

29 CHAIR ANSON: Dan.

30 MR. HULL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31 I definitely concur with Chris's comments. I  
32 have a couple of thoughts and observations I  
33 guess to ask and see what other folks think.

34 But as you continue to work on this,  
35 it seems that you should be running some specific  
36 example through your model to see maybe they are  
37 current examples or maybe they are ones that  
38 councils have taken on and I could use our  
39 charter halibut management allocation decision of  
40 a couple years' ago as an example of a past  
41 decision that you might run through this model  
42 and see if it worked the way you thought it  
43 would.

44 The second thought is that if we were  
45 to take this on, I think for our council, we  
46 might have to go back and review all the  
47 objectives that we currently have to see are they  
48 up-to-date. That, by itself, would be a



1 significant undertaking. So, that would have to  
2 happen before we tried to develop a set time and  
3 process, as Sam described it, so the public  
4 understands how we review allocations.

5 Another thought is should the councils  
6 be thinking about different processes for  
7 different types of allocations? Is it so one  
8 type of process for allocations between  
9 commercial sectors versus between commercial and  
10 recreational or subsistence? How do we address  
11 that?

12 Species not an FMP. Halibut is not in  
13 an FMP. So, are there examples that may not fit  
14 quite right and maybe that is not the best  
15 example but it is one I thought of.

16 And then it is going to be a  
17 challenge, I think, to try to quantify social and  
18 economic goals and objectives, given all the  
19 factors that go into that.

20 So, I definitely appreciate the effort  
21 that has gone into this. I believe that at the  
22 North Pacific there is an ongoing discussion  
23 about whether objectives are being achieved but I  
24 can see, as Chris pointed out, that this could  
25 require a lot of effort by us that would take  
26 away from all the other work we are trying to do.

27 CHAIR ANSON: And I was on the  
28 workgroup, although most of the other members  
29 took on a lot of the writing exercise but was  
30 part of the discussion. I was under the  
31 impression that these would be a more formal  
32 process, if you will, for the councils to answer  
33 or address the question of allocation.

34 So, Sam, I was a little taken back in  
35 your response to Chris's question regarding how  
36 formal is that process and how much work would it  
37 be extra to what the council currently does and  
38 that it could consume a lot of the resources to  
39 get to the right questions. And you said well,  
40 it is simply just every time an amendment comes  
41 up that it goes through the same exercise. And  
42 it comes down to a communication thing with the  
43 public as to whether or not it is an allocation,  
44 you know they are actually looking at allocation.

45 And so if that is the case, then we  
46 are doing either a bad job of just advertising  
47 that or we will have to get into a situation  
48 where it is a lot more work that will need to be

1 done to answer the question.

2 And I had a better understanding as we  
3 went through the various conference calls and  
4 everything but that kind of struck me as odd.

5 MR. RAUCH: So, if I could respond, I  
6 intended to respond to Glenn's specific example,  
7 in which he proposed could we do this on a  
8 regular basis. I do not think that that is what  
9 councils will normally do. I think the councils  
10 will set out a process where they will engage --  
11 I know your council recently looked at the catch  
12 share allocation and you are doing a lot of  
13 allocation amendments. You basically have set  
14 out a process. You have gotten a formal look and  
15 you decide whether or not to change the catch  
16 share program or to change the  
17 recreational/commercial allocation. You do that  
18 and you lay that out.

19 You do not sit there and say when you  
20 are looking at your annual measures, allocations  
21 are not on the table at that point. Those assume  
22 allocations.

23 I was only responding to Glenn's view  
24 that on an annual basis could you actually put  
25 down the catch in issue in question? Could you  
26 tell people that that is an outcome? If you  
27 wanted to handle it that way, you could. It does  
28 seem like it is a lot of extra work. I wouldn't  
29 suggest you do it that way.

30 I think this way, which is a longer  
31 term interval, the goals and objectives aren't  
32 going to change year after year. But many of  
33 these allocations were set in the '80s and the  
34 goals and objectives likely have changed since  
35 then that you would look at this at some longer  
36 interval. Not the annual process but if the  
37 council wanted to take the work and to do it  
38 every year and put that on the table, I think  
39 that we wouldn't say no.

40 But I only intended to respond to that  
41 and not to suggest that that is the way we think  
42 it needs to happen because I don't think that  
43 that is particularly efficient.

44 CHAIR ANSON: John?

45 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Thank you, Mr.  
46 Chairman. My comment goes slightly beyond what  
47 the working group discussed. So, they are my  
48 personal comments as a member of the CCC and not

1 as the chair of the working group.

2 But I will point out that the triggers  
3 that were discussed, that are discussed in the  
4 paper, run a full range of being almost entirely  
5 passive, in other words, utilizing the existing  
6 council process and the continual inputs and  
7 evaluations that occur within that process to  
8 completely non-discretionary, like a specific  
9 time period or like a petition.

10 But a lot, I think, of what we are  
11 discussing is -- I mean I used to have to write  
12 operating manuals and the rule was that you write  
13 what you do and then you do what you write. And  
14 it seems like what councils have the flexibility  
15 to do within this range of triggers is to  
16 identify what works best within their overall  
17 operating process and then just be very clear  
18 about how this question of triggering an  
19 allocation review fits into or even overlaps with  
20 other processes within the system.

21 So, I mean I think a lot of the  
22 concerns that are being raised are quite valid  
23 but I don't think that there is anything about  
24 the triggers that we have identified that compels  
25 a council to totally disrupt its current process  
26 to meet these objectives.

27 CHAIR ANSON: Anybody listening in on  
28 the phone have any questions or comments?

29 MS. DUVAL: This is Michelle, Kevin.  
30 I would echo what John said and I kind of feel  
31 like during our discussions of development of  
32 triggers for review that we were trying to  
33 provide I think as wide a range of flexibility as  
34 possible for councils in considering what  
35 triggers might work best for them, just in the  
36 interest of bringing more public transparency to  
37 whatever process any council sets up. I mean we  
38 did struggle a bit with the sort of do-loop of  
39 are your goals and objectives relevant, are they  
40 current for your fishery? But I think just  
41 making the assumption that they are, these are  
42 potentials paths forward for trying to provide  
43 some of that public accountability and  
44 transparency.

45 I never envisioned it being something  
46 that would involve an undue amount of work in  
47 terms of sucking up council staff time to go  
48 through this. And I obviously just thinking on

1 the fly here.

2 But I mean I see the trigger mechanism  
3 as a checkbox. It is a means of scheduling and  
4 ensuring that we are being adaptive in our  
5 processes. It doesn't mean it has to be done  
6 annually. Certainly, if you haven't reviewed  
7 your goals and objectives for an FMP, that is a  
8 huge job and that is what we are doing right now  
9 in the South Atlantic with our visioning project  
10 for the snapper-grouper fishery. Our goals and  
11 objectives, I anticipate will change maybe not  
12 terribly significantly, but they will change as a  
13 result of this public input process. And we  
14 deliberately made a decision to put off a  
15 discussion of allocations within the fishery  
16 until we were through with that process and had a  
17 draft vision blueprint with regard to the way  
18 forward in that fishery. So, that would help  
19 inform any allocations discussions we had as a  
20 result of that and triggers that we might use.

21 I see the trigger process as something  
22 that is efficient. What is going to take a long  
23 time and staff resources is if you are in a  
24 situation where you are in the Step 3 action  
25 piece that a reallocation is, indeed, deemed to  
26 be necessary.

27 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you, Michelle.  
28 Any other comments from the group? Chris.

29 MR. OLIVER: I hope my comments didn't  
30 sound critical of the working group's work  
31 because you guys did a tremendous lot of work and  
32 a great job with a very difficult subject and the  
33 two-step part of it gives it a little more  
34 comfort and particularly your last comments,  
35 John, the way you characterized that first part  
36 of the trigger thing. And Michelle sort of said  
37 similar thoughts. That gives me a little more  
38 comfort level with this.

39 Thank you.

40 CHAIR ANSON: So, the workgroup had  
41 asked for some feedback. And I suspect that the  
42 goal would be to come back with, based on the  
43 feedback, a more complete or final draft, if you  
44 will and not a working draft state anymore.

45 So, John, do you have any thoughts on  
46 that as you depart from the group?

47 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: So, Mr. Chairman,  
48 I think that there are many details, many

1 considerations relative to the triggers that I  
2 did not have time to cover today.

3 So, first of all, I think it would be  
4 unfair of the working group to expect detailed  
5 responses to that document today.

6 I think that if the CCC provides a  
7 reasonable amount of time for councils to react  
8 to that draft, to allow for enough time to  
9 incorporate those comments, as well as do the  
10 general editing that I mentioned earlier in time  
11 to have a draft available several weeks prior to  
12 the June meeting, that I don't see any reason why  
13 the document couldn't be finalized at that  
14 meeting.

15 CHAIR ANSON: And Michelle, do you  
16 concur with that, as Chair?

17 MS. DUVAL: Oh, I hate to hear you say  
18 that word. Yes.

19 CHAIR ANSON: Thank you, Michelle.  
20 Doug.

21 MR. GREGORY: I'm curious about how  
22 this got so tangled up with the NS1 guidelines.  
23 In the ESA guidelines, there is 26 instances of  
24 the word objective. There is only one instance  
25 of the word allocation related to objectives.  
26 And it is not in the proposed regs. It is in the  
27 explanation. And all it says is examples of  
28 reevaluations include council discussions over  
29 allocation of catch in one of the sectors.

30 I mean, are we making more out of this  
31 or is this like a Trojan attempt or push to force  
32 the councils to do allocation decisions? I don't  
33 understand. It is just one example. It is not  
34 in the proposal.

35 The thing that concerns me in NS1 is  
36 this focus on management objectives. I don't  
37 recall if our plans actually lay out a series of  
38 measurable, attainable, management objectives and  
39 how that is going to be eventually implemented if  
40 we have to do that for each action item we do  
41 under the NEPA process. It could become quite  
42 burdensome.

43 But I just don't understand the  
44 linkage between how allocations in NS1 in the  
45 first place but it is not in the regulation. It  
46 is just in the discussion one time.

47 CHAIR ANSON: John.

48 MR. HENDERSCHIEDT: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. I just want to be clear that  
2 throughout the discussions of the working group,  
3 we focused many times on goals and objectives and  
4 the need to update those. And it was really not  
5 until very recently when I and others had the  
6 opportunity to review the NS1 draft revisions  
7 that we saw that intersection or that  
8 relationship between the two.

9 So, I think I can safely say that had  
10 we not been talking about NS1 at this meeting  
11 that the comments from the working group relative  
12 to the importance of up-to-date and relevant  
13 goals and objectives would have remained the  
14 same. It was just very striking how closely that  
15 concept or that theme shares in common with the  
16 NS1 guidelines.

17 So, that was not intentional. It was,  
18 I would say, developed, certainly from the  
19 perspective of the working group developed  
20 entirely independently but ended up really  
21 focusing on one very critical issue of those  
22 goals and objectives.

23 CHAIR ANSON: Dorothy.

24 MS. LOWMAN: I think I would just add  
25 this. I think when we think we are talking about  
26 goals and objectives, we were talking about the  
27 goals and objectives of the plans and then  
28 thinking about allocations as mechanisms to meet  
29 those goals and objectives.

30 So, and what I thought when this was  
31 about do you periodically review goals and  
32 objectives, I was thinking in the same way when I  
33 heard that in the NS1 guidelines.

34 So, if it is more than that in the NS1  
35 guidelines, that is kind of new information for  
36 me.

37 CHAIR ANSON: All right. So, I guess  
38 a process then is that you, John, Michelle, will  
39 receive the comments or anyone who has comments  
40 to forward those back to the workgroup. If you  
41 don't have their information, of course, you can  
42 get in touch with Doug with the intention of  
43 trying to incorporate those to come with the  
44 final version for the June meeting.

45 MS. DENIT: And just to add, Chair, if  
46 there are comments on the NMFS document as well,  
47 if they can send those to me, that would be  
48 great.

1 CHAIR ANSON: All right. Well, thank  
2 you, John. Thank you, Kelly.

3 All right, so that takes us to the  
4 Western Pacific Socioeconomic Workshop Report.  
5 Kitty, are you going to do that? Yes.

6 MS. SIMONDS: I believe the staff  
7 emailed you folks a copy of the draft report that  
8 Chris Hawkins did. And I guess maybe some people  
9 were confused about where this all came from.

10 Well, the social scientists from some  
11 of the councils were having meetings over the  
12 years and then Chris, we hired Chris from PIRO  
13 and he is our social scientist. So, he and a few  
14 of them decided that hey, why don't we have a  
15 meeting of representatives from all of the  
16 councils. And the other reason is that MFS has  
17 been holding workshops with their social  
18 scientists and the council staffers said that  
19 they weren't invited, couldn't be invited. So,  
20 why don't they hold their own?

21 So, they did do this but they also did  
22 invite MFS people. So, there were MFS social  
23 scientists at this meeting as well.

24 So, we had developed, our council had  
25 developed a five-year human communities research  
26 priority plan so that we shared those kinds of  
27 things. So, I think they planned to have a full-  
28 on report for the CCC meeting in June.

29 You know they basically talked about  
30 their challenges to produce this information for  
31 their plans and amendments and, obviously, the  
32 lack -- we are always talking about that, the  
33 lack of funding. So, they talked about that,  
34 too, and they felt that NMFS had a small budget  
35 in terms of dedicated funding for even the  
36 centers.

37 So, these are the kinds of discussions  
38 that went on.

39 CHAIR ANSON: Any questions for Kitty?  
40 Tom.

41 MR. NIES: So, I just think this is  
42 actually a really good effort. It is kind of  
43 what I think led to our idea of having the  
44 Habitat Working Group.

45 I know our social scientists, who we  
46 have only had on staff for about two years now,  
47 finds it very helpful to have this discussion  
48 with the people from the other regions to

1 exchange information on how they do things. And  
2 you know she points out at this meeting in Hawaii  
3 that having a face-to-face discussion in Hawaii  
4 in December right before Christmas was extremely  
5 valuable for posturing further coordination  
6 between them.

7 So, I would hope the councils, and I'm  
8 not saying we should have a meeting in Hawaii  
9 every year, but I hope the councils will continue  
10 to support this effort because we find it very  
11 helpful. And I know that it has attracted at  
12 least a little bit of attention from the social  
13 scientists at NMFS. I think they are starting to  
14 participate in it a little bit more. I really  
15 think this is a worthwhile way to try and improve  
16 it.

17 I don't know if it is true in other  
18 councils, our council has often been criticized  
19 in the past for not having really adequate social  
20 impact analyses in our documents. I think is a  
21 step in the right direction to help us improve  
22 it.

23 CHAIR ANSON: All right, nothing else  
24 on that?

25 So, that takes us to the wrap up and  
26 next meeting discussion. As you all are aware,  
27 the June meeting is in Key West and Doug has been  
28 working on the agenda and some activities. So,  
29 if you have any other things to add, well, you  
30 talked about it on Monday but go ahead and talk  
31 about it again.

32 MR. GREGORY: We will be touch with  
33 everybody to set up the list of webpage on our  
34 site for registration for the meeting. The  
35 important thing is to get an idea of how many  
36 people are coming, particularly from the NMFS  
37 group. I assume we will have at least three  
38 people from each council there.

39 And it will be the week of June 22nd  
40 in Key West at the Marriott Beachside, which is a  
41 very nice facility and it definitely has air  
42 conditioning. And I would like to point out that  
43 Key West in June is not as hot as most of the  
44 other parts of the country in June. Maybe Alaska  
45 is the exception or in the Pacific Northwest.

46 So, we are eager to have everybody  
47 down there and try to have a productive meeting.  
48 I will put the agenda together, based on the



1 comments I have gotten this week on topics. So,  
2 I will circulate that early for everybody to have  
3 comments on and get that done, as well as do what  
4 I can to support the various working group  
5 efforts.

6 Clearly, the main one for me is the  
7 legislative effort, the National Standard 1 and  
8 MSA.

9 So with that, I hope to keep up the  
10 communications with everybody and do almost as  
11 good a job as Chris has done, which is a hard act  
12 to follow.

13 Any questions?

14 CHAIR ANSON: Chris.

15 MR. OLIVER: Did you circulate  
16 information, Doug? I was making notes throughout  
17 the last two days about some potential agenda  
18 topics for the June meeting. Some, we have  
19 talked about before. Some are my own couple of  
20 things on my own wish list. Do we need to talk  
21 about that now or is that something that we are  
22 going to just evolve, as things progress?

23 MR. GREGORY: No, you can send those  
24 to me right away and I will put those in the  
25 initial listing to go out to everybody and go  
26 from there, if you would like. We have got  
27 plenty of time. We are finishing early today.  
28 So, either way you want to do it.

29 MR. OLIVER: I don't feel the need to  
30 go through all that right now. I'll do it by  
31 email.

32 (Laughter)

33 CHAIR ANSON: All right. So, just one  
34 other little item. I was asked to bring to your  
35 attention that an email was sent out just prior  
36 to the meeting starting. A fish local  
37 collaborative has sent in some comments related  
38 to GARFO strategic plan. And they had  
39 specifically requested that they supply the  
40 comments to the CCC. So, we should have gotten  
41 an email about those comments and that does what  
42 I needed it to do.

43 So, anyone else? Anybody have any --  
44 Chris.

45 MR. OLIVER: Before you are done, Mr.  
46 Chairman, I have something. I don't know how you  
47 to refer to yourselves in other regions but in  
48 the North Pacific, all the participants in our

1 process, council members, and AP SSCs staff, the  
2 agency staff, the industry, all the people that  
3 typically come to council meetings we  
4 affectionately refer to as our council family.  
5 And we are losing one of our greatest members of  
6 our council family to -- well, not losing him  
7 entirely, I hope, but he is moving on, as we all  
8 know.

9           And I just wanted to recognize John.  
10 I have worked with John for many, many years. He  
11 has been, I say it unabashedly, one of my  
12 favorite and most effective council members I  
13 have ever seen in my 25 years. And he has served  
14 for three years on our industry advisory panel  
15 and eight years as a council member, much of that  
16 here as a vice chairman. And I think a lot of  
17 the people in this room or maybe it was our  
18 Council Coordination Committee family and John  
19 has been a key member of that, too.

20           So, I just wanted to express my  
21 admiration and appreciation for having worked  
22 with John. And he got away from us. Because of  
23 the circumstances of his job transition, we  
24 didn't get a chance a week and a half ago at our  
25 last council meeting to really honor him the way  
26 we typically do. And so, I thought it would be  
27 appropriate at this forum to present him with our  
28 plaque of appreciation or have the Chairman  
29 present him with the plaque of appreciation. I  
30 will let you read it, Dan, and see if you have  
31 any more comments.

32           MR. HULL: In recognition and  
33 appreciation of three years of service on the  
34 Council's Advisory Panel and eight years of  
35 service on the Council and for his overall  
36 dedication to the conservation and management of  
37 North Pacific Fisheries.

38           And Chris couldn't have said it  
39 better. John has always been a great role model  
40 for me, before I even got on the council. So,  
41 good luck in your new work, John. And I am sure  
42 everybody will appreciate your involvement.

43           CHAIR ANSON: Very well.  
44 Congratulations and good luck to you, John, in  
45 your new work.

46           And once again, just to Bill, happy  
47 retirement, Bill, very soon for you. And thank  
48 you for your work, for setting this up.

1                   And Brian, same to you, again, thank  
2 you. Everything ran very smoothly, so I  
3 appreciate it.

4                   And with that, I will adjourn the  
5 meeting. Thank you, everyone.

6                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
7 went off the record at 3:25 p.m.)  
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**9:00** 1:25  
**9:01** 4:2  
**96** 87:4  
**99** 29:29

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Council Coordination Committee

Before: NOAA

Date: 02-19-2015

Place: Washington, D.C.

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
my direction; further, that said transcript is a  
true and accurate record of the proceedings.



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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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