

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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THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 19, 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  
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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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (9:01 a.m.)

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. HENDERSCHIEDT: 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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