

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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SPRING 2023 MEETING

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FRIDAY

JUNE 2, 2023

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The Committee met at the Westgate Hotel,
1055 Second Avenue, San Diego, California, at 8:00
a.m., Megan Davis, Chair, presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MEGAN DAVIS, Ph.D., Chair; Research Professor,
Aquaculture, Florida Atlantic University,
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

JANET COIT, Assistant Administrator, National
Marine Fisheries Service (ex officio member of
MAFAC)

BOB BEAL, Executive Director, Atlantic States Marine
Fisheries Commission (ex officio member)

SEBASTIAN BELLE, Executive Director, Maine
Aquaculture Association*

ROGER BERKOWITZ, Founder and Head Fishmonger/CEO,
Roger's Fish Co.

DAVID DONALDSON, Executive Director, Gulf States
Marine Fisheries Commission (ex officio member)

THOMAS "TOM" FOTE, Retired, Recreational
Fisherman*

NATASHA HAYDEN, Vice President of Lands & Natural
Resources, Afognak Native Corporation

DONNA KALEZ, Owner and Manager, Dana Wharf
Sportfishing and Whale Watching

SARA McDONALD, Ph.D., Director of Conservation,
South Carolina Aquarium

MEREDITH MOORE, Director, Fish Conservation
Program, Ocean Conservancy

STEFANIE MORELAND, Director of Government
Relations and Seafood Sustainability, Trident
Seafoods

LINDA ODIERNO, Fish and Seafood Development
Specialist

JOCELYN RUNNEBAUM, Ph.D., Marine Scientist,
The Nature Conservancy

ERVIN "JOE" SCHUMACKER, Marine Scientist,
Quinault Department of Fisheries, Quinault
Indian Nation

SARAH SCHUMANN, Fisherman; Owner/Principal
Consultant, Shining Seas Fisheries
Consulting, LLC*

PATRICK ``PAT`` SULLIVAN, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus,
Department of Natural Resources, Cornell
University

CLAYWARD "CLAY" TAM, Cooperative Fisheries
Research Coordinator, Pacific Islands
Fisheries Group

BARRY THOM, Executive Director, Pacific States Marine
Fisheries Commission (ex officio member)

MATTHEW UPTON, General Counsel and Director of
Catcher Vessel Operations, United States Seafood

BRETT VEERHUSEN, Principal, Ocean Strategies

RICHARD YAMADA, Owner, Shelter Lodge

NOAA/NMFS STAFF PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

RUSS DUNN, National Policy Advisor for
Recreational Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries

KATIE DENMAN ZANOWICZ, Policy Analyst, Office of
Policy, NOAA Fisheries

JIM LANDON, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator
of Operations, NOAA Fisheries

HEIDI LOVETT, Alternate Designated Federal
Officer, NOAA Fisheries

JENNIFER LUKENS, Director, Office of Policy
and MAFAC Designated Federal Officer, NOAA
Fisheries

CARRIE ROBINSON, Director, Office of Habitat
Conservation, NOAA Fisheries*

SARAH SHOFFLER, National Seafood Strategy
Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries*

CISCO WERNER, Ph.D., Director, Scientific
Programs and Chief Science Advisor, NOAA
Fisheries

KATIE DENMAN ZANOWICZ, Policy Analyst, Office of
Policy, NOAA Fisheries

ALSO PRESENT (NOAA/NMFS STAFF AND VISITORS):

CARDEN BARKLEY, Advisor to the NMFS Deputy
Assistant Administrator for Operations
(Acting), NOAA Fisheries

ELIZABETH CERNY-CHIPMAN, Ocean Conservancy*

LAURA DIEDERICK, External Affairs Lead, Office of
Communications, NOAA Fisheries

KAREN EASON, NOAA*

JAMIE GOEN, Executive Director, Alaska Bering Sea
Crabbers

CHARLES KAAIAI, Indigenous Program Coordinator,
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management
Council

LINDSEY KRAATZ, Senior Science Advisor, NOAA
Fisheries

SEAN McNALLY, Senior Advisor to the
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

MARK MITSUYASU, Western Pacific Regional Fishery
Management Council*

KATE NAUGHTEN, Director, Office of
Communications, NOAA Fisheries*

MATEO PAZ-SOLDAN, MP Strategies*

KRISTEN RICKETT, Meeting Manager, HB & Company,
Inc.

TIM SARTWELL, External Affairs, Office
Communications, NOAA Fisheries

CODY SZUWALSKI, Fishery Biologist, NOAA Fisheries

ZACH YAMADA, Western Pacific Regional Fishery
Management Council*

*participating via webinar

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

(8:00 a.m.)

CHAIR DAVIS: Just a couple opening remarks. It was a great -- once again, a great session yesterday with the panels. So thank you again, Meredith and Jocelyn and your team. And those that are still in the room that were part of the panel, thank you for that as well.

And we had some good committee work this morning. We'll be reporting on that later this morning. That's great.

It was a good afternoon field trip yesterday, very educational, informative, and enjoyable. I know Sarah's not here, but many thanks to Sarah for helping to organize that. We are actually open for public comment. Just trying to check with Jennifer and Katie here, if we have any public comment this morning, anybody on the line. So it looks like we don't have any public comment. I wanted to check in the room here. What -- one person online, do they want to provide public comment, Katie? Yes? Are we able to put them up on the screen?

MS. ZANOWICZ: Yeah. Hi, Mateo. You should be able to provide comment now.

MR. PAZ-SOLDAN: Great. Thank you. Start video. Let's see. Excellent. Yes. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Great session. Great discussions. My name is Mateo Paz-Soldan. I work with the folks out in St. Paul, City of St. Paul, and also the local CDQ Group, the Central Mary Sea Fisherman's Association, based on St. Paul Island. This is an Aleut. They call themselves Unangan Community, located in the central bearing sea with a deep sense of history and culture.

Without going into too much detail, it was the original commercial first seal harvest. The first seal operations that were managed by the then Russian Empire in Alaska that drew the attention of fur merchandisers in the United States who offered \$5 million for the lease. And when William Seward, then Secretary of State, got wind of the deal he said, well, let's put a couple more million and see if we can get the whole state, the whole territory. And the Russians, having just lost their other Crimean War,

this was 1856, and badly strapped for cash, went for the deal. And so the Privilovians like to remind every once in a while the rest of the United States, and certainly rest of Alaska, that it was their effort. And at the time they were slaves to that harvest, and they continued to have a paternalistic relationship with the United States government until 1984 when the first seal Harvest was phased out and the folks out there were basically told you have to become fishermen.

And certainly that made a lot of sense. They're located in the in the middle of one of the richest fisheries in the world. There was some level of assistance provided for them to become fishermen. They of course had the subsistence fisheries, but they were not commercial fishermen. And so they became commercial fishermen, very successful ones, both as halibut fishermen in which they are directly engaged, and it's a driving activity for the community.

And then they were also able to attract -- tap into interest in the snow crab fishery, which started developing in the late 80s in Asia. And so

given their location to the snow crab grounds, they became also one of the top preeminent snow crab processing and harvesting delivery of snow crab to -- in the United States. And that went well for about 10 years until 2000 when the first snow crab collapse happened.

It wasn't a total closure, but it was a substantial drop of about 85 percent from 200 million tuck fisheries to about 25 million. And then more recently, we're facing a total closure of the -- not only the snow crab fishery, but the red king crab fishery.

And that, combined with declining halibut fishery, all that has been somewhat stabilized and will hopefully be stabilized going forward with action that the council, the North Pacific Council, has taken on abundance-based management.

The community's a really tight place. It's facing an existential situation, and calling it extinction is not an exaggeration, which I wanted to appreciate Jamie Goen's comments yesterday about this, on behalf of the crab industry and the Alaska

crabbers, which takes me to the next point. I wanted -- the community wants to applaud the administration for undertaking potential review of National Standards 4, 8 and 9.

Long overdue, but certainly with the impacts of climate change, which have a lot to do with what's happening with crab as well as our long overdue recognition of inequities that have affected minority populations and certainly Native Americans over our history. It's important to look at these standards and the guidelines in light of our enhanced understanding of these issues.

In particular, I wanted to highlight National Standard 4, which is equity and allocations.

And there's provisions in those guidelines that deal with recognizing fish reacting actions, having to protect and recognize indigenous native fishing rights.

And this is an important issue. We're not talking about a community here. We're not talking about, you know, an artistic community or a student community, or -- this is a community that has deep

roots and history and culture to that specific location. And its demise would be, you know, tragic to the nation in a number of ways.

And I think this is important also to recognize how MSA, while the source of the national standards and the guidelines, we -- oftentimes MSA overlaps or conflicts at times with National Sanctuary Act, the MMPA, the ESA, but also, it has to operate in sync, in harmony with constitutional principles and jurisprudence, such as the trust responsibility that the Supreme Court has recognized over and over towards Native Americans.

And so, you know, that's certainly something that St. Paul will be commenting on the need for the guidelines to recognize this vast body of jurisprudence and how that it plays a role in these discussions we're having about allocations, fisheries management and hopefully preserving, protecting, these unique communities for posterity.

And just to conclude, you all, and I have as well, have been listening to some of the AI experts talking about AI being a threat to humanity, you know,

and you think about that a little bit and how that might play out or -- you know, it's the folks in places, like the Pribilofs, in these remote communities that know how to live off the land and off the water who will potentially save humanity from itself down the road. So, important to protect in a number of ways. Thank you for the time to comment and thanks for all the good work you've all done and the great discussions you've had.

MS. LUKENS: Thank you, Mateo. And I just want to look around behind me and see if there's anyone else for public comment? Okay, I think that concludes our public comment. Madam Chair?

MR. PAZ-SOLDAN: Thank you.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Jennifer. Okay, we're going to be concentrating over the next couple of hours on budget and budget opportunities. And we're going to start off with an update from Jim Landon, the acting deputy assistant administrative for operations. And thank you so much, Jim, for giving us your great overview, which you always do.

MR. LANDON: Great. Thanks, Megan. And

good morning, everybody, happy to be here. So I think I actually have to add a subtitle to today's presentation in light of the debt ceiling negotiations that happened oh, I don't know, half a day ago. So my slides would've been completely accurate, and we did this yesterday, but now they're going to provide a template of perhaps where we need to pivot. So I'll just whet your appetites on that.

So here's the agenda, so we'll talk about some timelines. We'll talk about where we are in '23 and where we want it to go in '24, and as I mentioned, where we may be pivoting and highlight some of those - - some of those deltas. And then we'll talk about, very briefly, some budget supplementals. And I'm -- like I said, I'm going to do a glancing blow on that because we're going to the second session for this morning is going to be Carrie Robinson, who will be presenting a little bit more in-depth detail on our bipartisan infrastructure law efforts. Right, so that's the working agenda.

First part of this is when we talk about the budget, we actually have to talk about what budget

we're talking about. And so at any given time, I know you've seen this slide before. There's really kind of three budgets in the crock pot at any one time. So we have our enacted budget. All right? So that's our '23 budget, which is we are halfway in the process of operating under. We got that budget late in December as is becoming the trend. And so we're about six months into the implementation of our '23 budget.

And so we'll talk about kind of what we got and what we're using that money for. We are also in the midst then, of our '24 budget. We were -- we have delivered essentially what's known as the President's budget or the Pres-bud, to Congress that had some request from the president for funding of NOAA.

And as I mentioned, the debt ceiling and those discussions are certainly going to alter and provide some changes to that program in conjunction with the agreement that was made last night. And then for '25, we are in the process of basically putting together our agency input to what will be the President's budget down the road there. So this is

now looking at our FY-25 budget.

Once again, also kind of a work in progress and a little bit of, you know, we are certainly going to be now reacting to what the agreements have been made in the debt limit compromise. So a little bit of uncertainty there but quite frankly, this is in some respects kind of business as usual as we as we put together, our budgets.

There are the negotiations, our briefing with congressional appropriators, and what pops out at the end is what our authorization and our appropriators are going to provide our direction for.

All right. So we're going to do a little bit of a deep dive on the '23 budget, and you will see there's a little bit of a donut here. So what we got was a -- for '23 is \$109 billion or \$1.09 billion budget. All right? So -- which was a net increase of about \$77.4 million above our '22 budget. And that's going to be a put a little maybe highlight on that or underline that when we start talking about the debt

ceiling pieces, that's when we start looking at what I understand is kind of re-baselining budgets for '24 and '25 for federal agencies. So a \$77.4 million increase and we'll drill down that on a little bit on the next slide. And the donut kind of graphic on the right there, kind of shows where that \$1.09 billion is distributed across, essentially the four major what we call ORF accounts, the operations research and facilities.

So the majority of that goes to our fishery science and management. So that is essentially most of what happens in the science enterprise and the regulatory enterprises led by Cisco and Sam. The second highest is in our protected resources also under Sam's purview. And then we have the enforcement budget. And then finally, the habitat conservation and restoration budget.

And you can kind of see the trends over the last three years is -- has been modest increases in those in those each of those areas, with the exception of the habitat conservation and restoration area, there was a technically a decline, but as you're

going to hear from Carrie in the next presentation, some of that was, if you will, supplemented by the BIL infrastructure funding.

So now drilling down into that \$77.4 million for 2023, you can kind of see if you will congressional appropriator intent of where they thought NOAA and Fisheries' budget should be increased above that above that '22 level. And so the most significant increase was in the area that we call ATBs, and ATBs are adjustments to base. So about almost \$26 million, and you can think about these as inflationary costs.

Last year, our federal employees received a 4.6 percent pay raise, and there's just things like the cost of fuel to run vehicles and the cost of, you know, everything has gone up. So really that ATB increase really is the cost of staying level. So those inflationary increases, and then so really kind of the programmatic, you look at the priorities, there is \$18 million in support of North Atlantic Right Whale, conservation, the \$13 million for offshore wind modest but not zero increase for climate and fishery

surveys, some significant port for salmon.

And then you'll kind of see in the bracketed kind of outlier or breakout box kind of all of the other kind of smaller increases that that made up that \$77.4 million. So the other highlights for '23 is we received some supplemental funding. So this was above and beyond what you saw there kind of from that appropriated funds to base. And we've received an additional \$20 million above that 13 for North Atlantic Right Whale.

And this is, if you will, some very specific direction from Congress to look at innovative gears deployment. So this would be the rope plus gear, research, as well as some of the acoustic monitoring things in order to identify when whales might be in the area and kind of more dynamically managed those -- that area to prevent interactions.

And then \$300 million for fisheries disaster assistance. That was enacted and in the wake of essentially the '22 fishing disasters. All right, so moving on now to our '24 budget. So as I mentioned last month, we put out together what we call our Blue

Book. And so this was essentially the President's budget or the NOAA input to the President's budget. And you can see the hyperlink there.

Probably the easiest way to do that is point your favorite web browser into NOAA FY-2024 budget, and I'm sure this will pop up, but this will - - this is our kind of slick, glossy version of all the things that we have asked for in the 2024 budget as endorsed by the White House. Details of those, and once again, this is where my maybe triple asterisk needs to come into place with the debt ceiling is, you'll see a request, a total request of \$1.2 billion, which is \$23 million above that \$23 enacted.

Now -- so you'll see once again, the predominantly is those ATBs, so almost \$30 million in inflationary cost once again, to keep up with inflation. And then there's some pluses and minuses that actually, at the end of the day, you can see a \$23 million increase is actually -- we're really not keeping up with inflation, but there's some other, you know, things that we've done to do that.

All right, but that being said, this is

where, if you know, my initial read of the debt ceiling negotiations, the agreement was to keep '24 spending, not, if you will, back to '22, but no increases. So a flat budget from the '23 level, right? So it was not going back to the '22 level, but it was staying level from '23. So there's some good news there and -- you know, obviously some challenges there.

So whether or not this \$23 million above that '23 is going to happen or not, I think it remains to be seen and is in the hands of congressional appropriators. As if you will kind of a normal year.

We always put together our President's budget and what we get back is different.

Some areas have more, and some areas have less, and we expect that that's the way essentially our President -- the President's budget is going to be handled when it when it gets transmitted to Congress and the effects of the debt ceiling agreement are applied to that. So just, by way though, of -- you know, I think the preparation of our '24 budget and the Blue Book were instructive to highlight the areas

that we still have communicated to Congress as our priority investment areas. And those are in these three areas.

So our climate research, which you've heard, our economic development, and we are going to try once again to secure funding for our EJJ, our environmental justice and equity initiatives. So a little bit of breakdown kind of in each of those three areas. You can see in our climate research, and once again, you should look at the amounts in the '24 President's budget request column as, to be determined. But at least what you'll see is -- as -- for example, for the CEFI initiative, last year we asked for 10, we didn't get 10.

We're going to ask for -- we asked for 10 again, as a way just to kind of continue that drumbeat with our congressional appropriators that this is something we think needs to be funded. And so this is our, if you will, in that first bin basically a \$10 million request in increase for our climate products and services. The second major bucket, there is in our economic development, and you'll see once again, a

reflection of administration -- administrative priorities for support to offshore wind development, a significant plus up and then other things that we'll be supporting in that with, for example, our ESA consultations and countering IEU fishing.

And then that final bucket is our EEJ support, and so you'll see, once again, in '23, we asked for \$7 million. We received \$0, and were we going to reinitiate those requests, or we have reinitiated that request in a little over \$9 million.

And once again, this will be up for Congress and appropriators to determine whether or not that is something they want to fund. And undoubtedly, there'll probably be a trade-off if that in fact happens.

All right, so the last piece here is I'm going to talk about a little bit of our supplemental funding. And so what is not understandably, probably, clear is in some of these '24 discussions, what was in the back, if you will, of congressional appropriators and the agency was the fact that we, really the entire government, was going to benefit from a significant

amount of supplemental funding through the bipartisan infrastructure law or BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act, or the IRA, supplemental funding.

And so as I mentioned, Carrie is going to talk a little bit in more detail in the next session about the BIL funding. Janet mentioned the IRA, we are on the eve of a rollout of being able to actually announce in greater detail, the funding for the IRA. But unfortunately, I'm not able to do that in as much detail as probably you would like or anyone else would like at this point, but it is coming, I promise you. So let's just first what we can talk about -- and I'm stuck.

MS. ZANOWICZ: Heidi, can you advance?

MR. LANDON: Just manual, I think we only have a couple more to go. Yeah, there was -- I got an error message that popped up, so I don't know if that was related to that -- okay, there we go. All right.

So the first one will be on -- actually, you know what? We -- I think we went -- there should be -- yeah, we -- it's going to go back one. Okay, there we go. So as I mentioned, this is the Inflation

Reduction Act, the IRA, and what I can say at this point is, I said, what we know at the very high level, these have been kind of pretty much hard coded into the IRA distribution for NOAA.

So \$3.3 billion, and you can see the kind of the three pots there. So a modest amount of that for -- actually for our consultations and permitting work. Some money there for new facilities, labs, marine operations to -- kind of those things that are, if you will, the capital improvements and things to facilities. But the bulk of this is in that \$2.6 billion for coastal climate preparedness and our fisheries work. So truly the devil is in the details of what's in that pot there.

And that has -- what has been essentially the details of which have been what we've been working out, doing our tribal consultations, making sure that we have all our stakeholder engagement and piece of this and very mindful of allocating the funds in that -- in that pot.

So once again, a very high level, but more to come and you-all will be part of the rollout plan

for the drill down on the specifics of the IRA funding next week. And then -- so real briefly, once again, I just want to committee whet your appetite on our bipartisan infrastructure law, Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Grant, so almost \$500 million of awards to that.

And you can see, once again, the real effort to make sure that there was broad distribution of these funds, it is probably hard to see, but each of those kind of icons represents, you know, different projects, different communities, making sure that once again, it was fairly well spread and there was a well-balanced and an equitable kind of allocation of those funds.

So, 109 awards across the country in all those major projects. And once again, Carrie will drill down in this a little bit more detail and talk also kind of about our round 2 for BIL. All right. And then the final thing for me, I believe, is our -- is also continued funding under the BIL for our pacific salmon support. So you can see the awards that have been recommended and moving forward with

supporting the PCSRF funding. All righty, so that is it for me, unless you have any -- I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you very much, Jim.

Meredith?

MEMBER MOORE: Hi, this is something you almost certainly know, but I feel obligated to say it, which is that the timing of the Blue Book getting to congressional offices is essentially useless to them in trying to support the efforts that the President is asking for. And I regularly hear about frustrations around that, and that they simply cannot align their requests in the congressional budget process with what you-all are asking for.

And I know you are the tail end of that process, but I am, once again, noting it as a problem, and I would encourage you-all if there's something that may fact can do to try to like write a letter or something to someone to point out how problematic this is, I would be happy to try to help do that. But people cannot -- like they can't put in the requests that are due before they get the information on the

press budget from you all. So not your fault, but it is a problem. Let us know how we can help.

MR. LANDON: Okay. Thanks, Meredith.

CHAIR DAVIS: Are there questions, comments? Stephanie?

MEMBER MORELAND: Thanks for the update. How are you feeling about the budget?

MR. LANDON: Good. Like many budget things, it could be worse. And, you know, I think that the nature of the annual budget process is you don't always get you want -- what you want, but you -- I was going to say, I'm not going to sometimes you get what you need. I said, I didn't want to invoke the lyrics, but I guess I just did.

No, so you know -- and that's our job is now really kind of it requires us to reprioritize, to kind of really think about what is most important. You know, the budget environment as you -- there -- there's never enough money to do all the things that you want to do.

And I think what it really does is it requires us to be really laser focused on what is

really critical and, you know, really try to kind of find some efficiencies and finding ways of honestly working with what we're given. So that's what we do pretty much every year and going forward, that will be no different. So once again, it's -- it could have been worse, and it is now kind of our challenge to try to figure out how to make this work and we do our best to do that every single year, so.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you for that discussion. Sebastian?

MEMBER BELLE: Yep. Thank you, Megan. Two quick questions. Of the IRA distribution, the \$2.6 billion, what percentage of that \$2.6 billion -- I realize there's \$20 million and \$150 million in two other categories, but how much of that \$2.6 billion is going to just stock assessments.

MR. LANDON: Yeah. Hey, Sebastian, I probably need to defer until I said we roll that out.

I don't think I'm at liberty to really discuss any of the details on that. But I said it's -- and I -- it's unfortunate and I said, I'm not trying to stonewall. It's just where we have the rollout plan. We just got

the approval for this, and we need to wait, I need to wait to answer that before -- for the rollout plan to happen. So -- which I understand is going to happen early next week.

MEMBER BELLE: Yeah, no worries. Let me ask the question a different way. Is Stephanie going to be happy? Okay, I -- I'm not expecting an answer to that. The other question I have is, you know, the agencies spend on aquaculture is spread out through a lot of different programs, a lot of different departments. Is there any place I can go to see what the total spend is with respect to aquaculture? I have -- I've looked again, and again, and again, and it's very hard to come up with a single number. Maybe I'm looking in the wrong place, but can you give me any sort of suggestions or guidance on that?

MR. LANDON: So, yeah. And Sebastian, to your point, I -- having an, if you will, had the aquaculture portfolio kind of part of, you know, when I assumed the acting portfolio, that was one of the things that I was trying to get my head around is understanding all of the offices within the DAA of

operations portfolio.

And I kind of had the same question and the easiest of what I have learned is, you know -- so the aquaculture program within NOAA is actually three entities. There's a troika, and within three NOAA line offices. So there's a sea grant side in the office of Atmospheric and Research -- Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. There's the sighting piece of that, is that marine spatial planning piece over in the National Ocean Service. And then there's our office of aquaculture within fisheries.

And so, yeah, it is -- if you were to say, what is the total amount of money that NOAA's spending on Aquaculture, you would actually have to go to those three offices and pull out a calculator to add all that stuff up. And then there's external stuff. There's a lot of grants and things like that, that also go to that and some works with the state.

So I can get back to you on that because I -- at my fingertips, I don't have A, the calculator, or those numbers to be able to add that up and give you a -- an answer, a definitive answer that says it's

X millions of dollars. So you know, the point for me is actually is for those who are actually looking for some transparency, it's hard to do that. And we may need to figure out how to do that better from kind of an outreach perspective.

MEMBER BELLE: Yeah. I mean, you know, from a MAFAC perspective, you know, all of us represent different sectors, different stakeholders. I'm sure we all want to be able to kind of get the numbers in the budget that apply to our groups, because that's frankly where the rubber meets the road. I think it would be very helpful if the agency, at least for my sector, for aquaculture, had that on an annual basis, so we can track, really, the reflection of the agency priorities, and also frankly, congressional priorities. When you get a plus up from Congress as well, it would be -- it would be helpful to have that one number and understand where it's going in those three different divisions.

MR. LANDON: Okay. Thanks, Sebastian.

CHAIR DAVIS: Yeah. Thanks, Sebastian, for that. I also echo that that would be great, Jim,

to have. And maybe at the next MAFAC meeting, we could have a session just devoted a little bit of time towards aquaculture as a recommendation in terms of the budget there. We have Joe and then Brett.

MEMBER SCHUMACKER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Jim. Always love these briefings.

And Sebastian zoomed right in on the same thing I was going to, the 2.6 billion with -- within the IRA for the supplemental money that's going to be coming in. The tribes are going to be having some Q and A webinars, I believe, today and next week on this. So we'll be having input on that to know our leadership.

I'm not sure -- I notice it's -- this is congressionally laid out for these monies, correct? So your discretion within them is somewhat limited; is that correct?

MR. LANDON: That's --

MEMBER SCHUMACKER: Can you answer that?

MR. LANDON: And what -- so what we have found was that as we developed the spend plan, there were a lot of folks who said, you know I intended this money to be used for that. And if you then added all

of those discussions up and those amounts, they exceeded by orders of magnitude the amount of money that was on the NOAA table. So it has been a process by which we are trying to make sure that we are fulfilling the congressional intent for those funds and doing the greatest good, if you will, across all of the stakeholders. But once again, the demand was greater than the supply.

MEMBER SCHUMACKER: Thank you for being -- your honesty on that, obviously. Appreciate that. We just -- I just noted in the brief paragraph that you have or the description that you have there, it says, Marine and Fishery stock assessments are included in part of that money. Doesn't really call out salmon specifically. Would that be included in that in NOAA Fisheries, minds?

MR. LANDON: Boy, you're getting me right up to the line.

MEMBER SCHUMACKER: Trying to toe that line.

MR. LANDON: Yeah. Let me let me just -- can we -- I'm actually going to -- I'm going to toe

the line and say, can we wait a couple more days?

MEMBER SCHUMACKER: That's fine.

MR. LANDON: And all answered, or questions will be answered.

MEMBER SCHUMACKER: Appreciate that. Appreciate that. One last thing. The new facilities, Fisheries Labs and Marine Operations, the 150 million within the IRA, which says -- specifically says, new facilities. Is that going to be used for -- to any modernization of existing facilities or new only? That's it. Thank you.

MR. LANDON: Yeah, thanks. Yeah. So there is going to be money for facilities. There was -- you know, this is where the -- there was a line. There was a -- some funds that were able specifically to be utilized for new facilities and others for repairs. And so there's going to be a little bit of both. The Mott Lake facility in Washington State is one example of where some of that is going to receive the benefit of some of that IRA funds.

MEMBER SCHUMACKER: Thank you.

CHAIR DAVIS: Okay. Thank you, Joe and

Jim. We have Brett and then Stefanie, and then we'll wrap up this session. Thanks.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: I'm just trying to understand, basically the link between Fishery Disaster Relief money and NOAA's budget. And so we heard yesterday, 191 million was distributed for the crab crash; is that right? And I'm seeing 693 million dedicated to fishery science and management, which is about a 28 percent of the budget line item being paid for by American taxpayer dollars as a disaster for what is an issue within and outside some of our control. And I recognize that of the agency.

So how do we -- like, how do we be able to communicate better that by the agency being able to have the resources to do its job more effectively in a more equitable way, avoid these 28 percent disaster amounts because of one fishery if it's going to keep happening more because of climate impacts to fisheries? Is -- are fisheries disaster relief being kind of considered holistically within NOAA's budget and how we could save money from disaster so we can proactively use for the agency? We heard just one

example yesterday of 28 percent of the entire fishery science and management, if you were to compare just that portion, being allocated to a disaster. This seems like whack-a-mole.

MR. LANDON: So what I'm -- so thanks, Brett. So I'm actually pulling up the text basically of so -- in December of 2022, there was a new Fisheries Disaster Improvement Act. So it kind of -- I think Jamie had asked the question -- okay -- hold on.

Okay. You know, had asked about the process of the funds and so really, you know, almost in acknowledgement of the pace of funds. So was this fisheries Improvement Disaster Act got passed. So not only does it talk about the timelines for when these decisions have to be made and the process by doing that, but it's also it identifies the criteria by which a disaster be -- can be declared.

And so I get your point that if -- you know, but I think there's an analogy. If I were -- if I was going to use, you know, disaster assistance for our farmers, you know. There's a tornado, there's a

storm, there's hail, it's crop damage. Congress provides. There's a disaster declaration. Supplemental funds are provided. And it's almost like asking, can't we predict the tornadoes and the hailstorm and the extreme weather events that are going to have that impact.

So that would be my shooting-from-the-hip kind of answer, is that certainly I think -- and that's really kind of what Cisco is getting at, is we're looking to try to find a way of doing better about our climate impacts of the fisheries to perhaps mitigate those, you know, lessen those, the occurrences or the effects of those fisheries disasters. But I think really what the fund is utilized for in the intent is those things that are really unpredictable. And that's kind of the best response at the moment that I can provide.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Yes, sir.

MR. LANDON: Okay. All right.

MEMBER MORELAND: Jim, on the slide, and as we've discussed, there's a deliberative process going into the president's budget and what can be

communicated. After Congress acts, we've spoken about the rollout strategy for IRA funding, but what is the rollout in communication for how you'll execute based on the final decisions from Congress? So FY24 in process, there's a last-minute change. What is the communication strategy and timeline for what that means, the implications of it to your work?

MR. LANDON: So, Stefanie, if I could ask for clarification. For the '24 budget or for the IRA piece of it?

MEMBER MORELAND: For '24.

MR. LANDON: Yeah. For '24. Yeah. So you know, what I suspect and what I've -- early calls this morning with our budget team is, you know, how are we going to do this? I suspect there's no playbook for this sort of thing. But as I mentioned before, quite frankly, this is no different than our normal budget process by which we have -- we put our president's budget, it goes to Congress, and Congress is going to have then that pass back that says, here's what we've authorized and appropriated.

And so what I suspect is quite frankly, it

will look like a normal budget rollout process once we get those -- once Congress makes those decisions and does the authorizations and appropriations for whenever that is, whether it's going to be on a -- at the end of a fiscal year or if we're going to be on a continuing resolution. Then just like this year, it could be December, February, March, when we actually get that budget.

So what I think you'll see is, quote-unquote, a normal rollout of our appropriate budget and our plan to execute that, like you would -- like you would normally see in any given budget year. It will just be informed now by the agreements that have been made through the debt ceiling, essentially, agreement.

CHAIR DAVIS: Okay. Jim, thanks again for the great update. And we look forward to that email earlier in the week to know a little bit more. We're going to move on now. What's that? Oh, I'm so sorry, Barry. Go ahead. Let's make it quick because I know Carrie's under a tight timeline so -- for her presentation as well.

MR. THOM: Yeah. I know we want to get to Carrie, so thanks. Thanks, Madam Chair. Just a couple comments. One, to help Jim out so he doesn't have to comment on the IRA funding, I will just highlight that the congressional language that was given out does include Pacific Salmon in that congressional language. It's not noted in the paragraph that was on the screen, but it does include salmon in that paragraph. So it'd be -- I'd be very surprised if money isn't put into Pacific Salmon as it comes out next week. And I think some people would be pretty upset with that.

Second, just seconding Meredith's comment on the budget release and the timing of that. And I'll just highlight that there used to be, I think, a more fluid communication of what's in the budget. And I think there's probably some sweet spots between after the budget decisions have been made for the president's budget, but before the Blue Book actually gets published that there's some opportunities there for NMFS to communicate potentially what's in that to key constituencies. So you -- we can actually carry

that message to the Hill ahead of time where it's actually useful. And that used to occur in the past with the agency. And I know the agency has become more and more constrained over the years on what can be communicated or not in there.

And then the third point I'll make is just in terms of the most recent budget deal in terms of the debt ceiling, while it does flat line discretionary spending or keep those to less than 1 percent, I would just encourage folks to not give up, that there is a lot of wiggle room within the agency's budget. And I think, you know, both work needs to be done to make sure that the agency's budget doesn't get cut to the benefit of some other agency that needs an increase.

But at the same time, advocating to get increases into the agency's budget, which may come at the expense of other agencies across the federal government. But I think that's part of the priority setting process and to make sure that the fisheries piece stays a high priority so that you can get the wind money and the climate money, and all those other

pieces done. Yeah, have hope and don't give up.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you for those comments, Barry. Is that good, Jim? Any -- okay, great.

All right. We have Carrie Robinson online with us. And she's going to give us an update on the BIL. And turn it over to you, Carrie. I know you presented to us last November, so it's great to have your update again. You might want to introduce yourself as you get started. Thanks.

MS. ROBINSON: Hey guys, can you hear me?

CHAIR DAVIS: We can, loud and clear.

MS. ROBINSON: Great. Just tried to turn on my camera, and it's not working. So I think in the interest of time, I'm just going to focus on the slides. And as long as you can hear me, I think it's okay that you can't see me. That sound like a good plan?

CHAIR DAVIS: That's great.

MS. ROBINSON: Yep. All right. All right. Yes. I was with you several months ago, talking about the incredible opportunity that we have

under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for habitat restoration and fish passage. I am going to do just a wee bit of repeat to some of the things that I said before, just to make sure we're all clear on what I'm talking about. But then I'm going to be able to go a lot further than I was the last time we spoke.

So I'll be able to share with you the results of our first round of funding opportunities and also share with you some of our thinking for Round 2, because Round 2 is right around the corner. So lots of great things to share. Let's go to the next slide.

So one of the things that I think is really important to emphasize right in the beginning is that this approach to doing habitat conservation is not new for us. So we have a long history of working with our partners on habitat restoration and fish passage in two ways, through funding opportunities and our technical assistance. What's new is the unprecedented resources that are going into these funding opportunities, is really presenting an opportunity for all of us to have transformational

impacts for our coastal communities and coastal ecosystems. So next slide.

So just a reminder, we're talking about two provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law today. And those are the two that my office has responsibility for executing. There are a lot of exciting things in the bill; we're focusing on two provisions. And this is 891 million over five years.

Some of it is for habitat restoration, and some of it is for fish passage. Let's go to the next slide.

So we took those two provisions, and we ran four different funding competitions. So these went out last late spring, early summer. The first was fish passage, tribal fish passage, transformational habitat restoration, and then habitat restoration for underserved communities. So these four affectionately known as NOFOs went out, and we ran a process and selected projects. I think it's really important to emphasize, as I did for you before, how high the demand was in the first year. Demand for this first year is \$1.7 billion worth of projects. And we know this \$1.7 billion does not

capture all of the demand out there. We know that there were some partners who were not ready to apply in the first round. We actually are realizing there are some partners that didn't even know about this opportunity in Round 1. We also know that the 15 million cap that we had on projects in the first round meant that some of the really big projects that exceed that \$15 million cap also aren't captured in this demand number. So this doesn't surprise me. We know the demand for this kind of work in our country is really high, but it is nice to have a -- at least a dollar amount to attach to the interest for this kind of work. Okay, so round one results. Let's go to the next slide.

We selected 109 awards and totaling \$480 million across the country. So let me orient you a little bit to this map. And all of this information is on our website. I'm just talking about things that have already been announced. So the blue dots are our fish passage projects. The green are our tribal fish passage projects. Red is transformational habitat restoration. And orange is our underserved

communities competition. The difference between a dot and a triangle is simply if it spans across multiple states, we use a triangle, so you could see that it was in multiple states instead of just one.

So some things that I'm really excited about when you overlay all the four competitions on a map: We had really good geographic distribution. So we were really pleased to see that was one of our goals, to have good geographic distribution, to include the Great Lakes, to include Alaska. We even got out to the Western Pacific. In the bottom right there, you see a whole bunch of dots over top of each other. That's Puerto Rico. So a lot of -- a lot of great things happening all over the country here. The other thing I would like to emphasize here is that there is so much behind the dot here. Some of these, you know, are decade's worth of work to get ready to apply for this funding. There are a lot of partners captured in each dot, a lot of hard work, and also a lot of impact that we expect to see from funding this work in the future. All right. Let's go to the next slide.

So I want to talk a little bit about where our awardees -- like, what kind of sectors they represent. So there are 88 distinct awardees across a diversity of sectors. So on the left here, this circle, this is the percent of awards by applicant type. So green are nonprofit partners. The yellow gold are our tribal, Native Alaska, Native Hawaiian partners. And the blue are our city, state, county, government partners. So you can see that on the left, that is for all 88 awardees, what sector they're from.

If you look to the right, that is our new grantees to NOAA Fisheries.

And so this is something I am really excited to see, is that over 50 percent of these grantees are new to our agency. So again, the colors are the same. So the green are our nonprofit partners, yellow-gold are our tribal partners, and blue, city, state, county, government. So when we first put this out, we were not sure if we were only going to hear from kind of our tried-and-true partners who we've worked with for a long time. And what we're seeing is, yes, we are seeing those tried-and-true

partners, but we're also welcoming a lot of new partners with this new funding into this opportunity.

All right. Let's go to the next slide, Katie.

Okay. So this is a representation of the types of habitat restoration projects we are funding.

The blue is the number of awards, and the green is the total funding. Now, for those of you familiar with this kind of work, it's rare that there's only one type of habitat restoration happening in a project. But what we picked is kind of like, what is it mostly? Is it mostly an oyster project? Is it mostly a fish passage project? And represent that here. So take all this with a grain of salt. Some things that I'd like to point out, you'll see fish passage is the highest, both in award count and total funding, which is not surprising. If you look back to that early slide that I showed you, Congress gave us an entire provision focused on fish passage. So that is really congressional direction to have a focus of this funding be on fish passage.

Another thing I want to point out is the far right, capacity building. So these are projects

that are really focused on capacity building. And historically, we have not really been able to fund this kind of work. So we're really excited to fund capacity building. And a lot of this focus is in our underserved communities competition and our tribal fish passage competition. So we heard from those communities the need to fund capacity building. It's capacity building in order to do fish passage, capacity building in order to do habitat restoration.

And our hope is that these capacity building awards lead to on-the-ground projects in the future that are informed by bringing in the capacity of tribes and underserved communities to the planning and the engagement prior to those shovel ready projects. All right. Let's go to the next slide.

So we fund habitat restoration and fish passage work for a couple of key reasons. You know, one is we know that healthy habitat is fundamental for our nation's fisheries. We also know that habitat restoration can be the key to recovery for some of our endangered and threatened species. So this talks about 55 percent of our wards benefit listed species

with nearly 300 million in funding. So we were really excited to see that theme emerge from some of the results in the Round 1 funding, and then 24 awards or about \$126 million provide benefits to four different species in the spotlight. So you can see that represented below, Atlantic salmon, abalone southern resident killer whale. And for some of you, you might be wondering, you're really doing habitat restoration for southern resident killer whale? Well, we -- that represents the habitat restoration work for key price species for the southern resident killer whale. All right. Next slide.

Then we talk a little bit about some themes that have emerged from our underserved communities projects. So we ran a specific funding competition focused on underserved communities. And our goal was to ensure that underserved communities were integral to the projects that impacted them and then provide capacity, as I was just talking about, for them to more fully participate in habitat restoration. So in this particular competition, nearly 90 percent of the awardees are new to NOAA Fisheries.

So we are welcoming a lot of new partners to our work.

And we're funding kind of four different themes in round 1. One is on-the-ground habitat restoration in underserved communities and projects that will benefit underserved communities. Another category is training programs to break down the barriers for careers in habitat restoration. And these last two really are focused on capacity building, facilitating community participation and visioning efforts and then creating plans for future large scale habitat restoration. So we were really pleased with how many partners we heard. We had about seven times the demand as available resources for this particular competition. So there's a lot of interest in -- from these communities to do habitat restoration and fish passage work. Let's go to the next slide.

So what's next? We are getting ready for round 2. And round 2, we are just finished announcing round 1 projects and are gearing up for round 2. So first, continue technical assistance for our partners.

And technical assistance is really my team, out in

coastal communities working with our partners in two ways. One is we just announced 109 projects, and they will be working with those partners on those projects.

But also, it's helping partners get ready for round 2 so if you or any of your partners are interested in applying for round 2, we'd be happy to sit down and talk through your ideas, talk through if we think any of our four competitions are a good fit for the work that you're hoping to do, how to talk about putting together, you know, a really quality proposal for those competitions. We are gathering lessons from Round 1 as we get ready for round 2. So we were gathering those lessons from the day that the first NOFOs went out about a year ago. So a lot of partners reached out and gave us, you know, really helpful feedback about what worked for them, what was challenging for them, and we're incorporating all of that into round 2.

So a couple of things that I can forecast kind of coming for round 2: We will have longer application periods with a staggered release. And when I stagger -- say staggered release, I don't mean,

like, we'll run one competition and have it close and then open the next, but just, you know, some space between some of the competitions so they're not all released on the same day. Some of our partners who are interested in applying for multiple competitions shared with us how challenging that was to have everything released on the same day. We will be making minor changes to the selection criteria just for better balance. But if you look at the selection criteria from round 1, you -- you'll see a lot of similar things in round 2.

I think this next one is important, which is defining meaningful engagement more clearly. In all four of our competitions, we ask for our partners to outline their either current work or planned work for meaningful engagement with tribes and underserved communities. And some partners, that really resonated, and there are proposals that came in, knocked it out of the park. Other partners asked us a lot of really good questions about what do you exactly mean by meaningful engagement? So we are working on defining meaningful engagement and then having lists

of activities of things that you can be doing with underserved communities and tribes to make sure that your engagement with them is meaningful. So we're working on that for round 2. We also are looking to increase the consistency across our four funding opportunities wherever possible. Again, for those partners who are interested in applying for multiple funding opportunities, the more consistency there is, the easier it is. All right. Next slide.

So some questions that I have for all of you or things that might spur some discussion in whatever time we have left. Are there any questions for me about the process we use to execute these funds that would help you or any of your partners that you work with get ready for round 2? As you reflect upon the results of round 1, are there things that stood out to you as particularly positive that we can build upon? And I'd like to say, this is not just to make me feel good about what we did in round 1, but I -- it's really important for me to hear about what worked so that we can build upon that and keep going in that direction.

Third, are there any priorities related to habitat restoration or fish passage that you don't see reflected in the round 1 results that you're hoping to see in round 2? Any gaps there? I can't help you with everything, but if it's related to habitat restoration or fish passage, we might be able to incorporate that in round 2. And finally, how can we work together to seize this opportunity to make some progress in habitat restoration and fish passage in round 2?

So with that, I will leave it to somebody in the room to help me navigate any questions or comments for me.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Carrie. Thank you so much for that. This is Megan. That was a great overview of round 1. Very exciting to see all the different projects across the United States and territories. And I -- we do have MAFAC members that have questions or comments, so we're going to start off with Brett and then Joe, Barry, and then Pat.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Really appreciate the update, Carrie. Just really quick on hearkening to

your question around, like, meaningful engagement, what does that mean? And then some comments I heard earlier in this meeting around, you know, it's great to have interest in working in fisheries broadly, whether that is on recreational charter, aquaculture, commercial fishing, seafood production, you know, in a broad sense on policy management restoration, but getting some people to actually do the hands-on work on vessels or in operations is difficult for across all of those sectors. Is there any consideration on how -- I totally see an opportunity of bridging that gap from, you know, introduction, wherever you're at in a community in habitat restoration or, you know, fish passage as a way to get excited. So is there any thought and consideration on bridging that gap from being excited working on some of the projects that you're funding to then maybe even making a leap to working within kind of all of our industries that we are here for today?

MS. ROBINSON: Absolutely. So one of the themes in our -- that emerged from the projects that we're funding for underserved communities is one I

spoke about a little bit earlier about kind of breaking down some of the barriers towards careers in restoration work. So there's a great example of a project in Hawaii that will be focused on training Native Hawaiians in coral restoration work. So this is -- will be coral restoration -- and then getting them started in coral restoration work. And so this opportunity would be, you know, funding for jobs for Native Hawaiians to do coral restoration, get trained in Coral Restoration, which could then lead to a career in this kind of work, which we see a lot of funding going into coral restoration work around the country. So, like, that's an example of the kinds of things that we'll be funding that would lead to jobs right away, but also training towards career and something that we're interested in doing in our office. So we are looking for those kinds of opportunities to have connections for -- to have kind of pathways into our work.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Yeah. I would just echo and add that not only your work, but our work around the table on boats, on aquaculture facilities.

That's really important and we're seeing a huge shortage. And I see, you know, the work that you're doing is similar to people getting airtime to become pilots. It's expensive. It's hard to get that training. You know, the military offers one pathway to do that to then make a transition into the private sector. And just being interested in fisheries is great. And let's make sure that the agency helps us, and we can help you on identifying where there's opportunities to bridge that interest, to bridge that experience on the water, however that may be. Or in restoration to help fill in a dire need for workforce on our boats, on our aquaculture facilities, production facilities, et cetera. So thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Absolutely.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Brett. Joe.

MEMBER SCHUMACKER: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you, Carrie. Appreciate it. This is Joe Schumacher. I'm with the Quinault Indian Nation out in Washington State. Really appreciate this breakdown of the -- this amazing opportunity to get so much good work done out there. And I know

you're going into round two and you're looking for some advice, and I don't know if I can have anything meaningful here, but I'm hoping I can.

I'm really, really pleased that, you know, you now have the discretion to include capacity building in these awards to some degree. It was relatively minor, but it's so important to tribes because we are all challenged and just overwhelmed with the operations, administration, and implementation to using these funds out there. And we have great need for them. So we're watching money slide by, fly by us. We can't use it because we can't administer it. And so we just wanted to keep that on your radar. And I know you're going to hear this from the tribal discussions in the -- as you have them. But I want to reiterate it. It's so important to us. We just can't do it. And when I look at your map of the projects from round one, I see nine total tribal fish passage awards. And, you know, it's just that's -- there would be a lot more if the tribes were able to have the capacity to really operate these -- implement these grants, these monies. They're critical to us. Fish passage

is absolutely critical to the tribes up in Washington State and elsewhere in the United States, you know, for obvious reasons. The issues that -- historical issues of a destroyed habitat that we are found -- find ourselves trying to correct, you know, are just -- I -- it -- it's -- we're trying to -- we're trying to push a rock up a hill. And I don't know how much longer we can do this because salmon are in grave jeopardy. So we appreciate the opportunity, but we really need as much, I hate to use the word discretion, but the ability to implement the capacity within the tribes to help us get these monies and use them to reestablish or to fix the habitat that's been destroyed over this time. So just that. Tribal centric, I know, but that's what I'm here for. Thank you kindly.

MS. ROBINSON: Absolutely. We awarded -- there are 25 projects where a tribe was the applicant.

There were another 13 projects where a tribe is a sub-awardee. So another entity was the lead applicant, and then the tribe was a sub-awardee. So still receiving funding, but not kind of working

directly with us. And we have heard from different tribes one or the other model works best for them. So we have heard from some tribes that feel very strongly that they are the lead applicant, and we have heard from other tribes that they would much prefer not to be the lead applicant when given the choice and would rather be a sub-awardee. And so we are setting things up so that we have both options. In different competitions, we can structure things differently to accommodate that. And we absolutely are trying to emphasize that capacity building. The capacity that you need in order to do fish passage and to do habitat restoration is absolutely an eligible activity for these awards, because we have heard how important it is to build the capacity for tribes.

CHAIR DAVIS: Okay. And Joe, thanks for bringing that up, and Carrie, for your responses. I think what Joe and Brett are both talking about is how do you build that skill level in to not only the administration side, and which is, you know, a skill in itself to be trained into, but also on the implementation? So really nice comments there.

Barry.

MR. THOM: Yeah. Thanks, Carrie, and good to hear your voice. And just, you know, you're doing some real incredible work in getting this money out on the ground and getting it out quickly, which I think was one of the priorities for the program moving forward.

I have got a few things here, so you may have to take some notes. One is just can you talk a little bit about on the fish passage piece? My interpretation of -- based on how you've allocated the funding is that the fish passage piece was probably a little harder. There's less money allocated in that first year to passage versus the restoration side. And it's probably a little harder in terms of either getting applicants in or what's going on. And I know there's a ton more money out there for fish passage within other federal agents -- agencies. And so I'm just wondering if you could talk a little bit about the coordination that's occurring across the agencies to make sure you're hitting the right priorities.

The second piece was just more of a

technical issue of just understanding how much is left. So when I look at 481 million spent in this first round to get these first set of projects minus the habitat fish passage piece, that quite a bit of the habitat restoration money is obligated now. And so there's probably less of that. And just wanted to sort of -- what's that planned spend rate? How much is going to be left for year two or three or four for the habitat piece?

And then three, just in terms of how you did it. How did you overcome -- you know, when you look at the general map, there's projects all over the landscape. But how did you prevent or -- you know, how did you go through the process to prevent the peanut butter approach in making sure that you were addressing the highest priorities across the nation on these projects?

And then lastly, just related to Brett and Joe, and I know -- because I know some of these programs, it made me think about how we use -- how you use the Vet Corps program. And can the Vet Corps program -- maybe you could talk a little bit about

that where, you know, right now it's really focused on restoration or monitoring and some of those things. But I sort of had -- it made me think about whether it's worth having that expanded to some other even observers or other things like that. So I just wanted to see if you wanted to comment on that. Thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Absolutely. I think I might take these a bit out of order. So I am not at all surprised Barry, that you are doing the math and asking some good questions. So in round one, habitat -- transformational habitat restoration and underserved communities includes IRA Resources in addition to bill Resources. So I can send you those numbers separately, but it's about 160, \$170 million in IRA resources were included in round one for those two competitions. So the \$480 million represents all of our FY22 bill dollars, a piece of FY23 bill dollars, and then some IRA dollars for habitat restoration and underserved communities. So what's left? In round two, we have -- we will be putting out the rest of the FY23 bill dollars and the FY24 bill dollars, and more IRA resources as well. So I think

there's more left than if -- there's obviously more left than if we just had bill funding going towards these projects. So did I answer that question?

MR. THOM: Yeah. That helps a lot.

MS. ROBINSON: I want to make sure I answered that before I move on to the next.

MR. THOM: Yep. That helps explain it.

MS. ROBINSON: Okay. So other federal agencies. Yes. There is an interagency group focused on fish passage, and it includes all of the federal agencies that received bill funding for fish passage.

So the Department of Transportation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, us, FEMA, Department of Energy all received some type of fish passage funding. So we all have been meeting since last summer to make sure we're staying coordinated and synergistic across all this funding. So this is designed by Congress, right? They, by design, wanted each of us to focus on some aspect of fish passage. So we have a charter that outlines how we're all going to work together. We have regular meetings. And then we're working with each other on various competitions.

So, you know, for example, Fish and Wildlife Service folks sat on our selection panels and participated in our review process. NOAA Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife Service folks sat on the Department of Transportation review panels to make sure our fish expertise was influencing the projects that they are selecting over at DOT. So I've been really pleased with the interagency coordination that's going on with fish passage overall. And I think that I expect to see more of that in the coming year as well. And I do think that that helps us really look for that bigger impact across the board.

On the peanut butter versus -- you know, how do you make sure that it's not the peanut butter approach? To be honest, I think a lot of that comes through in the work that we're doing before that funding opportunity even comes out. So we're having a lot of really good conversations with our partners in specific places about mapping out, what's the work that needs to happen in a particular watershed? In a particular place? How would we prioritize this work? And what funding opportunities are out there for this

work? And getting all of the partners aligned on those priorities and thinking strategically about making sure that those priority projects are getting - - are the focus of the partners going into these funding opportunities. So I -- while we can certainly do that on the back end and can look at, as some of our selection criteria, kind of what -- where is there something that points to this particular project being the priority? Being the catalyst to the bigger impact that we're looking at? I do think some of the conversations before partners even apply are quite important, too. Gosh. And now I can't remember your question about Vet Corps. I just wrote down Vet Corps.

MR. THOM: Oh, it was just more of if you wanted to talk a little bit about Vet Corps. I was just thinking that -- sort of an out of the box idea of how you potentially could expand Vet Corps to a slightly broader suite of skills that they're working at. Right now, it's really more internal with monitoring and restoration and some of those things. But thinking about it more broadly from aquaculture or

other activities.

MS. ROBINSON: Absolutely. Absolutely.

And we have thought about this with both our Vet Corps program and our GulfCorps program in the Gulf of Mexico. So for those of you who are not familiar with those two programs, they are conservation corps programs. So if you thought about, like, AmeriCorps or Conservation Corps programs. But it is, you know, a way to provide jobs and training in our field to, on the case of Vet Corps, young veterans; on the case of GulfCorps, it's just young people in the Gulf of Mexico. And we've seen it as a great entree into our field. And I do think there are some real opportunities that we have not yet seized to incorporate Conservation Corps into project ideas. So you could have a kind of a large-scale habitat restoration. It could be a large-scale oyster restoration project. And then a part of the project could be providing funding to a Vet Corps to participate in some of the work, and then they would be getting trained in that kind of work as well. So I see that as an opportunity that we have not yet

tapped.

CHAIR DAVIS: Okay. Thank you, Barry, for those questions, and Carrie, for the answers. We'll move on to Pat, and after that we'll need to sort of wrap up. Thanks.

MEMBER SULLIVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll try to be brief. Thanks, Carrie, for the presentation. This is Pat Sullivan and I'm at Cornell University. One of the reasons I'm speaking up is I'm involved with the State of New York quite a bit in terms of dam removal in the context of pass -- fish passage. And I just wanted to share a few questions and a couple of comments.

So one is that I was noticing in the types of restoration projects funded that, you know, we see the distribution of award count versus total in terms of fish passage. But for capacity building, it's quite a bit different. So I'm guessing that taking a dam down is more expensive than building capacity. But maybe, you know, when I'm done with the list here, you could address that specifically. When I think about capacity building, you know, quite often, like

we were talking about today, it's in terms of management and science. What we're encountering in the Hudson River is -- estuary is basically that some of the capacity needs to go to outreach for getting communities to buy in that fish passage is a useful thing to do. And quite often, these dams are -- have been there forever and the local communities are actually reluctant to have any kind of change. So that may be something to think about as you're going through this.

And then finally, there's a lot of work that's been done on -- scientifically on optimal review -- removal of dams in multi-dam situations. So sometimes taking out some dams is better than taking out others and so forth. The approach that we take in Hudson River is catches catch cans. So if we can find an opportunity to remove a dam, we'll do that. But often, it's not necessarily the best dam to remove. And part of this has to do with the capacity of a community to accept change in the system. So I wonder if you could comment on those briefly. Thanks.

MS. ROBINSON: Sure. And your first one

is easy. Yes, dam removal is a lot more expensive than capacity building. Absolutely. But one of the things that I've been excited to see is that it doesn't take that much money in the grand scheme of this total amount to make many awards based on capacity building. So I think that we can, you know, have several of those awards out there and build capacity in some of these communities for this kind of work. Another thing to keep in mind is a lot of the projects that capacity building isn't the primary activity, it's a secondary activity. That wouldn't have been represented in that chart. So we could have done another chart that said how many of the 109 awards have capacity building, and I think it would've been really high. So it would've just been kind of a secondary purpose for those awards.

Which takes me to your second piece. I couldn't agree more that outreach to communities, talking about the work that our partners want to do, is really important. And when I talked about kind of meaningful engagement, particularly with underserved communities, and making sure that those communities

understand the work and feel that they can influence where the project goes is really important. And we encourage our partners to build that into their budget. So don't just build the dam removal into your budget, build the outreach and engagement that you need to do with the surrounding communities to make sure they're aware of the project and where it's going. And so that is also new for us, to encourage our partners to build that into their budgets, to really think about engagement, particularly with underserved communities.

MEMBER SULLIVAN: Great. Thank you.

CHAIR DAVIS: That's great. Thank you, Pat. Thank you so much, Carrie. We look forward to hearing more from you in the coming months and at the next MAFAC meeting. Look forward to hearing about round two when it gets released. And it's just been a great overview. Congratulations on your work and your team's work. And I think we're going to go ahead and take a break and -- from here. So thanks again. I don't know if you have any closing remarks?

MS. ROBINSON: All right. It was good to

talk with all of you. And sorry I'm not on camera. You would see me waving goodbye if you did right now.

It's -- it was great talking to you.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thanks for that. Thank you, Carrie. All right. So we have a 15-minute break. So enjoy that. We'll be back about 10 -- let's see. 10:45, it will be.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:31 a.m. and resumed at 10:47 a.m.)

CHAIR DAVIS: Okay. So we're getting close to the second half of our morning and wrapping up the meeting. We're going to have some not only subcommittee discussion around the strategic planning and budget with Stephanie leading that, but we're also going to have sub -- going to have subcommittee report outs. So this will be a good time to reflect on where we are, what we're doing, where we're going. And then we'll have a bit of a wrap up after that. So Stephanie, I'd like to turn it over to you now. Thanks.

MEMBER MORELAND: Thanks, everybody, for

your interest in continuing to be here for this portion of the discussion and opportunity to provide input to the subcommittee's next steps. The intent of this time is to just give an update on what work has been done at a subcommittee level on this topic, and then discuss what we want to do for next steps with respect to improving communications and messaging about the NOAA budget, mission critical core activities, and potential risk if needs are not met. That segment that I just read is -- was the outcome of our last MFAC meeting in terms of why we needed some subcommittee work and attention on this.

Subcommittee has met a few times, two really substantive meetings, one with the directors of the commissions. And really appreciate the input that they provided and insights from perspective of the commissions on partnership with NOAA, and opportunities they saw on the topic of budget priorities and clarity in terms of understanding impacts on budget gaps and opportunities for efficiency. The notes from the meeting with them is captured and the meeting -- in the email that Katie

sent out. So we'll talk a little bit about the header of that email in a minute. That's the main item for us to review in the subcommittee meeting. But in the email, you'll see review of subcommittee consultations to date, and those are summary notes from the meeting with the commission directors. And then a second substantive meeting that the subcommittee has had was one with Cisco and Brian Pollack and some members of their teams to talk more in depth beyond the budget presentation that MFAC received in our last full group meeting. Also extremely helpful to understand the budget process, what can be communicated, and where some risks and opportunities are.

As reviewed today for the FY24 budget, there was some positive news with respect to addressing eroding base. But I'd say overall from both of the subcommittee meetings, we're very alarmed and concerned about long-term strategic planning and ability to support data acquisition to support core activity. So for subcommittee consideration, we're -- or for -- yeah, for this group's consideration to ensure that we're aligned on a work plan going

forward. Our conclusions from both of those discussions honed us in on surveys, the infrastructure necessary to acquire data and then manage data on a go forward basis. We're concerned about whether a multi-year strategy exists to protect that core capability that's critical to support many other NOAA functions that all stakeholders lean on.

So the work of the subcommittee that we're suggesting is characterized with possibly a couple typos in the italicized paragraph that got emailed out today. And what we're proposing is really to focus in on strategic communications to understand and engage stakeholders and Hill on that core infrastructure necessary to support fleet facilities data infrastructure around core activities to continue to collect and acquire -- to acquire data and manage data. So I'm going to pause, have you look at the italicized paragraph to just get on the same page about what's being proposed, and then just open things for discussion and feedback on where we want to go with our time here together. The email would be from Katie. That'd be great.

CHAIR DAVIS: Brett, while she's doing that, do you want to add as our -- the mainstay subcommittee attendee? And Clay, I'll also invite you.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Yeah. I mean, I think one of the key components here, and I'm going to say this because I've been looking across my shoulder to see if I was going to see a new side of Pat, where if communications weren't included in this. I mean, you know, I don't know what's going to happen in a dark alley.

MEMBER SULLIVAN: I don't think I'd like it if I found out.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Yeah. Heard you. So we're still figuring this out. You know, basically, I really appreciate Stephanie leading the charge on this. And the first couple of meetings, especially with the commission executive directors was really helpful, as well as Cisco and others, because it basically provided us kind of like a landscape analysis of what's going on in NOAA. I always say if it's hard for me or other -- others around this room

to understand, it's probably guaranteed for maybe less informed folks to understand. So getting us up to speed and, you know, really having effective and equitable stakeholder engagement for broader support.

One thing that I have been thinking about personally is, of course, the value proposition that NOAA has to the country. And the value proposition includes many facets that we all care and work on. And I also firmly believe that there's a great opportunity to -- for us as MFAC members to help the agency communicate its value proposition, both to coastal and inland states or districts and regions, and really thinking creatively on how to do that with partnerships, current and new, when strengthening those. Thinking outside the box and creatively, how we can help fill in the gaps so that, you know, we don't have NOAA's budget continue to have ice poured over it. And we can make sure to help them in our capacity while the agency, of course, has to abide by its statutory authority.

So this is a creative process, and all are welcome. And I also really plan to fully understand a

lot of the strategies that were presented today. The recreational fishing strategy, the EJ strategy, future seas, and more to understand where the budget process fits in there and how we, as MFAC members, can assist in communicating the value proposition of the agency to the -- to the country. So all are welcome. I'm sure Stephanie and I are going to be meeting much to discuss how to come up with the next steps before we meet again in Silver Springs.

CHAIR DAVIS: Clay, do you have anything to add from your participation?

MEMBER TAM: Yeah. I -- you know, overall, this is my first in-person meeting. Thank you. And I appreciate all the attention and, you know, being here firsthand and hearing, like Brett said, from the top. And it's -- for us, we're so remote out there in the islands, we don't always get in tune. We know what goes on at a lower level, but getting up to this level is really important. And really understanding the landscape and knowing what's out there. And I think that's -- that -- that's really important.

I think overall, you know, I -- this may not fit here, but, you know, I'd like to thank the NOAA staff, fellow -- my -- our fellow MFAC members, and the commitment for helping our fishing communities. I think that's why we're all here. We're passionate about supporting our fishermen. This meeting, through my lens in time, is -- you know. And especially we hear of NOAA's tight budget constraints, increased demands, and, you know, we hear about a crash in fisheries. And I think looking forward and thinking outside the box for NOAA and more closely working with our fishing community, as we have heard and seen throughout the meeting through examples of our panel and whatever you experience on the dock with the charter boats. And they're working with Cisco, I think, that with these limited budgets, I think that's supporting, you know, cooperative fisheries research, SK grants, and giving our communities opportunities is the way forward, I think.

Then there's a great upside to that in that we can better data gathering. Like, from when we heard with Donna and the fleet in San Diego, that was

really impressive. Increased stakeholder involvement.

All the things that we -- we've talked about. But I think by, you know, having the capacity to build in terms of on water involvement. These guys are on the water all the time. Scientists can't always be there, but fishermen are always on the water 24-7, can be a valuable input.

And most importantly, I think empowering stakeholder ownership of our resource is really important for -- and a benefit to NOAA in that we now have partnership. We have people out there. And it doesn't take much, as you heard. I mean, it does take much, but in the sense of budget and dollars, I think that when you can empower our fishermen with the ability to have ownership within their resource, a lot of good can come out of that. And I think with that said, moving forward, I, you know, look forward to that engagement and what we hear and do today. Thank you.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thanks, Clay. So that speaks to some of the problem solving and efficiencies that can be gained by seeking partnerships if we all

have an understanding of what the needs are. And we want to start out here with a focus on trying to improve understanding in the communications about engagement with others on what the impacts are of the long-term planning needs that NOAA is undertaking. Again, I just want to emphasize, I sense strong risk to some very important program work at a time when there's increasing demand for surveys, the extent of surveys with migrating stocks, and then more information about the ecosystem in light of changes that are occurring. And everything we're hearing is a contraction and ability to fill those needs. And so this isn't about an in-cycle budget discussion. It's thinking about how communication can improve and understanding an articulation of the implications, negative plus the value if we are able to fund these core services. I reference in this initial Paragraph -- is there any way to make that bigger on the screen?

That the subcommittee would be able to reference work that was already done on this, National Academy of Public Administration's recommendations. Regarding budget, there's a big element in there that

is on communication, which is the main subject that we're going to be tackling, including calling for a more robust comprehensive congressional engagement strategy -- is one of the recommendations out of this report, reference specifically to long-term strategy and budget requirements, engaging in those conversations with congressional appropriators, and then also calling for an external communications and engagement strategy. And I think the subcommittee may be able to offer some specific elements that could be helpful to include in that. I don't have any insight on what the agency's doing currently with the NAPA recommendations, but it does provide a nice framework to drive priorities for the subcommittee.

Just going through this proposed area of work, and then again, we'll just open for discussions on suggestions on who the subcommittee should engage with as we proceed and whether this needs to be modified. Go forward area work: data acquisition and management are mission-critical and in jeopardy; improved communication is needed to support NOAA's budget strategy for fleet facilities, data

infrastructure, and other capital investments that are essential to maintain and modernize marine resource and ecosystem data acquisition and data management; effective and equitable stakeholder engagement for broader support from both coastal and inland communities will require more visibility and dialogue on trade-offs for in-cycle budget priorities; and greater understanding of programmatic implications of different funding assumptions over a five to 10 year time frame.

The subcommittee would explore the NAPA recommendations, NOAA strategies, tools used by other agencies to bring greater transparency to stakeholders, support for multi-year investments and core mission-critical infrastructure. Bottom line, subcommittee aims to provide recommendations for how the agency can improve its value proposition to the nation. So when MAFAC took this topic up earlier on budget communications, it was broad. It was talking about how do we support the agency's budget for core mission? This is a narrower set of topics, and it's thinking over a longer term how to solve this problem

on maintaining surveys and more basic infrastructure.

Bob?

MR. BEAL: Great. Thanks. Just -- yeah, I need to go catch a plane in about 10 minutes, so I didn't want to look like I was getting up and walking out in protest or anything like that, but the -- you know, as I said, in my opening comments on Tuesday, you know, this whole issue for the east -- the 15 East Coast states is a huge deal. You know, it's their growing concern about surveys and basic science being diminished in facilities and fleet and all these other things that are included in here, and obviously, those 15 states haven't seen anything that's written here, but I'm really confident they would absolutely support this 100 percent, and this is the direction that they would like to go.

And in fact, I've already started communicating this to some of the congressional offices. Not this, but just this notion of, you know, fundamental science and basic science, that underpinning of everything we do with climate change.

We can't -- you know, diminishing surveys and other

things right now is the opposite of that, you know, opposite of what we need to do. We need to expand them and move them -- you know, different gears into different areas that catch different fish -- or different species better because the South Atlantic species are moving to Mid-Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic to New England and then so on.

So you know, we are 100 percent behind this. If there's any way the commission, ASMSC can help or do anything, happy to do it. Let us know. And this is -- truly isn't from the -- our East Coast state, anyway, perspective isn't critical of NOAA at all. It -- it's the budget realities you guys are wrestling with. And if we can help convey the importance of, you know, this fundamental science back to Congress and others that can help, we're happy to do it.

MR. THOM: Thanks. And I agree with Bob on that sort of -- I think a lot of the good information, our input so far has been really good on the data and information and the priorities. I had a question about -- and not knowing how the MAFAC

process works. So one of the -- you know, the recommendation is to improve communications, but I don't understand in terms of the subcommittee providing recommendations that communications should be improved or, you know, what step in the process do we seek professional help on, like, what messages resonate and actually get some true communication support to help with that messaging or help NOAA fisheries with the messaging, so we can actually move it forward. Just a question I had.

MEMBER MORELAND: Well, I was wondering whether NOAA Fisheries had been working on communications along this line and it sounds like it's all within management and budget. And so I think the first step would be that NOAA Fisheries communications have some role. That's an example of recommendations that we could consider. I need to -- this isn't for sure a fact. This is my understanding of that today, and in terms of recommendations on communications, I think that all we can do is make recommendations that are over that longer time horizon given how I've observed MAFAC functions and as an advisory role.

But I think it's critical that we echo some of the NAPA recommendations and also, an updated perspective on that given the gap we're seeing in terms of forward planning on vessel strategy and other basic things that we focus on what -- who needs to be engaged and approve opening up some of the current budget process. It seems like things are so tight that there's not a chance for insights to get to communications professionals to then be able to get out in that manner that's going to resonate. And so things would have to be opened up, which was just going to be recommendations up through the process. Jennifer?

MS. LUKENS: I just want to comment a little bit on the process there. I think it can range from exactly what Stefanie just said. It can get into maybe specifics of specific messages that you think we may have been missing. It can recommend getting professional help. I mean, certainly, we have communication professionals, but that would be on top of what they are doing, I think is what you would be recommending. So it's -- there's boundaries in there,

but I think having specifics, but also general suggestions are also something that was within MAFAC's purview to provide recommendations. So --

MEMBER MORELAND: And do you have any update on what's happening with respect to the NAPA recommendations?

MS. LUKENS: We do. I can't give you a full-out -- I can't give you a full-out report on everything that we are doing with NAPA right now, but certainly, we have established working groups that have been working on taking what those different types of recommendations that they do have, in particularly working on the program plans ideas that is -- and therefore, looking at -- maybe I should just let Jim say this, but looking at a program from a national level perspective and not just individually within the budget and how we would do that and what we would do for a 10-year plan, what our angle was and what we need to get to that end goal instead of an annual budget, looking at things comprehensively, strategically. So we are working on those NAPA recommendations, but that is something through this

process we would, you know, be talking about with you-
all in the group and explaining where we are with all
of that. So we are working on those things, but they
haven't fallen silent. It's just not out in the open
yet. Jim, did I say anything wrong, or do you want to
clarify anything?

MR. LANDON: You did not say anything
wrong, but yeah. So I think just homing in on the
NAPA, you know, the five to 10 years, so the program
plans. We are actually well underway of identifying
and organizing essentially the program plans that
we're going to advance that are designed to look at
that five, 10-year, kind of, outlook. And I'll just -
- they are the things that I think you would hope we
would be looking at: surveys, aquaculture, counting IU
fishing, the North Atlantic right whale, some of -- so
there's a whole, kind of, litany. And obviously, the
-- or we -- we've got these phased and prioritized so
that we can't do these all at once.

But what these are really designed to do
is, I said, look at that five year, the 10-year
program per the NAPA report and put together, really,

an instrument to communicate the budget challenges. And the way we've framed it is what happens if there's no funding, which essentially translates into a degradation of services. What do we need to do to maintain the status quo and just stay flat? And then what are some of those inspirational -- kind of, where if we really want it to expand, what would that look like?

And it's not designed to be a budget ask.

It's designed just to be an informative document of this is what we think. You know, pick your course of action, and this is what we have determined would be the outcome of picking one of those courses. So in other words, you keep us flat. It's really going to mean a degradation and what you could expect to see in the five-to-10-year period with that flat budget or that relatively degraded capability is going to be the following. So those are -- that's the structure that we're utilizing for these program plans.

MEMBER MORELAND: So if you're far along in the program planning, then we'd actually have scenarios and then could actually get to where Barry

was going, which is what would resonate to make these scenarios compelling to the nation and to appropriators, and so what timeline are you on scenario planning, such that we could maybe get further in on what -- how to be more effective with appropriators and stakeholders that lean on NOAA?

MR. LANDON: Yeah, we are the -- we -- we've taken one step across the start line. We just started the process. We've identified the areas and we're putting together the teams that are going to be starting to -- working on these plans.

MEMBER MORELAND: Do Pat and then Matt.

MEMBER SULLIVAN: Oh. Okay. Thanks. Yeah. So I just wanted to articulate a few things that I've shared with Stefanie and Brett and others just for the group more broadly and to provide the context. So last time we met in person, I was bringing up this idea of communication, which is my way of thinking about communication, but maybe different than how others think about communication. And I was talking about reaching out to communities and so on, and I saw Janet's face drop because I knew

I know that she's been going from community to community to do this.

And I think what she was doing was exactly the right thing, but that it needs to be an institutional thing that needs to be done by NOAA and not just the director. And I think this is a hard thing for us to see. So I wanted to articulate it a little bit, and I don't really have any solutions because part of this involves money and time, but my experiences are based on personal experience and what I've seen work, and that is the difference between going out and having a dialogue with the fishing communities as opposed to putting something in a website or sending out an email or a flyer or something that basically says, this is what we're doing, and here's the information about it.

It's a difficult thing and especially difficult for scientists to communicate. And in particular, when situations are difficult, it -- it's difficult for a, sort of, scientist -- for -- I'm just explaining from my perspective -- to, sort of, get beyond explaining the facts and get into, you know, a

dialogue that results in understanding. And one of the examples I -- that comes to mind is one -- a meeting that we had that the Summer Flounder organization organized and Bob's leaving now, but Bob Beal was there and Jon Hare, and it was one of those things where the -- it was like the first dialogue in a long time where the fishermen were able to actually talk with some of the people responsible for management.

And not surprisingly, during that discussion, there was some fishermen there who began yelling at Bob and Jon, right? But the meeting was organized by the actual leadership of the Summer Flounder fisherman's organization. And they immediately, you know, asked the person who was yelling to step down because they had invited these people in, and they wanted to have a dialogue and that this wasn't helping the dialogue. So there was an element of the communication there that's more than me telling you what you should be doing.

There was a -- there was an attempt to have a dialogue and then bringing the folks from the

other side in effectively to help remedy the communication system and get things going. And I see that again and again, and the other example I give -- I hope I haven't said this too many times -- is when I was at the Halibut Commission, my boss and I, Don McCaughran, would go annually before their annual meetings, and we would go and talk with the fishers in Seattle. We would go and talk with the fishers in Vancouver. We would go and talk with the fishers in Alaska.

And even though the fishers might not have always understood what I was saying, they could ask questions and they appreciated I was there to communicate what's going on. This is a different kind of communication than putting something in a report or a flyer or whatever, and I -- you might think with the paragraph that was up there, I should be talking about statistics, but it's this other element of, kind of, getting the communication going between what we do as a community of scientists and managers are relative to the decisions that we make. And so I just wanted to articulate that I don't know how it fits in exactly

with what we're talking about here, but it's really important to me and I've been trying to make that change throughout my career in different places, and it's a -- communication is a difficult thing to communicate about.

MEMBER MORELAND: Pat, this is important.

It does fit really well in because people need to understand that NOAA delivers value and relevance to them in order to be advocates and suggest that NOAA should exist. And so I think it's critical and foundational but important for us to align right now that even if everyone loves NOAA and loves every NOAA program, they can't speak up and do anything about the budget if they don't have any insight that the budget is in jeopardy and they don't know what the budget trade-offs are that are being discussed internally, and right now, we don't have that insight.

All of us care deeply about a basic program element of ensuring that data continue to be gathered and that there continue to be effort or initiate effort on modernizing and ensuring a future where we have good information to base decisions on,

and that information is available when it's needed to managers and to stakeholders. At this time, I don't see a path that protects that, and I don't feel that there's any mechanism to talk about it with the agency or with appropriators. And so that particular piece I think needs to be solved and I'm hoping the subcommittee could help sort through and provide at least some support up to the secretary level for getting that more transparent dialogue so that if everyone were loved in NOAA, that we'd know how to speak up when something was in jeopardy.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: If I can just add an echo, Stefanie, and respond to you, Pat, totally agree. And I think it takes a commitment from both sides of the aisle to allow for hard conversations to happen. Perhaps there does need to be some grievances. We heard that from Charles yesterday. Let those be. Let those be something that is aired, but at the same time, we, the collective we, you know, also can do our job to either defend or guide some of those conversations in a productive manner.

And, you know, I can't say I'm going to --

well, what I can say is that I'd be willing to, you know, swim against the flow or, you know, against the grain on defending, quote, the feds, which is kind of scary to do in commercial fishing, but you -- it's okay to stick our necks out too, because we are trying to get a better understanding of what you're doing. And I have a better understanding of, really, the commitment of the agency and the utmost pressure and urgency that we're all facing because there's a Tyrannosaurus Rex trying to eat our Jeep in Jurassic Park.

So yeah, I think committing to dialogue, committing to honest conversations and committing to have each other's backs in the end is absolutely important, and I do want to really echo what you were saying about what is -- it was what Dr. Spinrad actually was explaining about the style of which when we communicate is not just what you're going to gain or what you're going to, sort of, lose, but you frame it in a way that if you don't fund this at X percent, what you're saying is that you're willing to give up -

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DR. SPINRAD: Logical consequences.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: -- logical consequences and being able to identify those and be aligned together with clear and consistent messaging will be really key.

MEMBER MORELAND: Matt?

MEMBER UPTON: Yeah, I agree with what's been said here. I think part of it's just almost a skill set for folks at the agency -- develop in terms of how they're communicating to key stakeholders, because I hear lots of presentations, different levels, and in general, sometimes it's like death by PowerPoint. And I think also, sometimes presentations aren't necessarily geared for the audience and communication is just really difficult, but when people are good at -- like, for example, I think Charles is really good yesterday. It's like what are -- there'll be, like, one or two things that the person is trying to communicate that you can take away. And sometimes, I feel like that's not the case.

And when I talk with staffers and other -- or members of Congress, I think they struggle with

that too, not just from the agency in general. There's, like, really complicated, I have the attention span of, like, a mosquito, like, how do I break it down? And it's a struggle I think that everybody faces at different levels, but to just, kind of, think about that and develop feedback loops when someone does a presentation, kind of, how to do it better because there's always room to communicate with more precision in a way that meets people at different levels, because everyone, when they're communicating, obviously, does it the way that they learn, but the chances are that the person that you're communicating with might not be that way, especially if there's a group of people in a room.

MEMBER MORELAND: I have Jocelyn, Sebastian and then Clay.

MEMBER RUNNEBAUM: Okay. Thank you. This is a helpful conversation. I'm finding myself a little bit confused though as to who the target audience is. Are we really focusing in on appropriators right now or as indicated in the language and that was on the screen, it's -- and from

the comments provided by Clay and Brett that were helpful, it sounds like communities are an important part of this consideration, and maybe the answer is both, but those seem like really different tasks that feel daunting. So I was just wondering for some clarity there, if possible.

MEMBER MORELAND: So I think the NAPA recommendations are great for a reference point that recommend a strategic plan for Congress and a strategic plan for external and both start with the ability to talk about impacts and scenarios, which we don't have today. And so I think there's those three layers. Sebastian?

MEMBER BELLE: Yeah. Thanks, Stefanie, and I just want to say, I think the work of this group is really important. You know, one of the challenges I think the agency has had for many years is this year-to-year budgeting cycle and not being able to think strategically over longer time periods, particularly with respect to large capital investments, things like vessels and, you know, big data crunching capacity. Makes it very difficult to

achieve what we're asking them to achieve. A couple thoughts, and one question. I think, you know, as the subcommittee goes forward and does its work, it probably has to have a discussion about what the limitations are on the agency with respect to communications, particularly to appropriators. And where are the places where the external stakeholders or MAFAC can help the agency communicate the priority and urgency of the budget needs and the, kind of, longer term budget needs?

So I think you have -- that has to be part of the discussion because the reality is there are times and places where the agency's hands are tied in terms of what they can and can't communicate to appropriators. And I know Stefanie and a bunch of other people at MAFAC know that very well. The other piece, going back to the NAPA recommendations, if the agency is just trying to put one foot over the starting line there, from a MAFAC perspective, and I - - I'm not going to be here, but you guys are going to be here.

If I were in your shoes, I would ask the

agency to report back to MAFAC at the next meeting with respect to a process diagram, if you will, for what they're going to go through to look at and come forward with the results of those recommendations and ask them to include a timeline, so that from a MAFAC perspective, you have some sense, number one, of what the processes they're going to go through and when they're going to achieve it, so you can, kind of, keep asking those questions and get the report back because I think unless you do that, that's a -- that's something that could go on for a long time and, you know, you might get turnover on MAFAC and it -- you just might lose some momentum there.

And then I guess the final point is that it is, I think -- in terms of demonstrating a value proposition for the agency, particularly to the public or to appropriators, I think you have to be honest, and I'm not suggesting that nobody would be honest, but I'm just saying you've got to be honest about what are the value of the resources we are managing and how much does it cost to manage them, because those are the kinds of questions that people are going to ask

and you have to -- you have to be able to answer them straight up.

And frankly, you know, for some resources, some individual stocks maybe, the answer may not be an answer that we want to hear. It may be that we're spending more money managing than they're worth. On the other hand, collectively, from a resource and cost of management point of view, I think we can make a very good, strong case, particularly with some of the results that came out of the last national security assessment that this is in the national interest. And that's a message that we should really hammer away at and use as a means of justifying heightened investment and longer-term strategic investment in the agency from a national interest point of view. And I'll stop there.

MEMBER MORELAND: Great.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Stefanie, can I just respond to Sebastian? I could not agree more. We saw that obviously in the pandemic and how critical infrastructure food providers were deemed essential and we were contributing to the food security of our

country. And, you know, we see missing -- populations in the US missing guidelines on how often you should be eating seafood, despite the benefits that have been hammered away for decades around health and heart, and now, you know, I see studies around seafood benefits around mental health and stress.

And so -- but we're not really getting through. We're getting beat by other protein sources if we're thinking about it in a consumption category.

So I'm wondering -- I also am -- just started the -- reading the NAPA report. Can we as MAFAC members help the agency with the scenario planning to speed up that process? You've been around the block a lot longer than I have. Just curious, like --

MEMBER BELLE: Oh.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Or how can we -- I agree with you on holding, kind of, the accountability and the timeline, but can we add capacity to help on that scenario planning process?

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MEMBER BELLE: I'm probably the wrong person to answer that. I think, you know, certainly,

agency staff might want to respond to that, but I think also the subcommittee should have that discussion and ask, you know, can we as a subcommittee help the agency through that process? My guess is the agency probably won't want a lot of help, but, you know, give them credit. And if they want help from the subcommittee, I think that's a great idea.

MS. LUKENS: We always welcome help. However, as your designated federal officer, I'm just reminding you all that your job is to provide the secretary of commerce recommendations on how to go forward. And that takes a process where we have to publish public notice and comment when we have a meeting and if you're providing us formal recommendations, it has to be done from the committee as a whole. But with that said, there can be some interplay in those subcommittee meetings and back and forth conversations that would not be formal recommendations, so it -- it's a -- I think officially, providing official recommendations, you have to go through the full committee, unless Heidi has found another way, but those are how the -- that's

how -- my regulations I need to keep us to.

MEMBER MORELAND: With multi-year capital investment strategies, other federal agencies have had to do this. And so I was hoping the subcommittee would be able to look at where this has been done successfully, other places, and how they were able to talk about the trade-offs, scenario planning, and get across the finish line these long-term investments. And before I pass to Clay, just please think about whether you're familiar with any successes, agency, program, any particular appropriations communication that's being done by other agencies that we should look to as an example of success. Clay?

MEMBER TAM: Yeah. Thank you, Stefanie. I agree with what Sebastian had said and Brett said. I think that, you know, on this level, and we've captured some of that in the statement on the -- going forward on this level, I think it's a multi-level, multi-approach thing. And I think where we talk about and where my experience and where it comes from is on the ground level. I mean, it's going to be a NOAA -- a counsel driven thing where we provide the

opportunity and the conduit to the community in terms of working with them, getting feedback and moving that up the line.

And if MAFAC can support that in terms of budget and moving that forward, I think then it'll be a win-win situation. We -- I understand from this level, we can't do that, but on the -- on these other levels, I think as message coming down and also going back up, I think there needs to be some synergy with that and moving the needle at some point. I mean, I think the -- when you think about it, the basics is we -- it's about -- fishing is about fishermen because without that, none of us would be here.

It is our job and our livelihoods, and I think it's important that we keep that in mind. And also with food security, it was more that brought it up. I mean, during pandemic, at least in the islands, it was really vital for fishermen to help our community at whatever cost it came. They may have not got the price, but for us and islands being isolated, it was very important and, you know, I applaud the community of fishermen for coming and supporting the

overall community in that aspect, and I think that's an important thing to look at and going forward, I think that, you know, having that, that Stefanie said, I think maybe a view from a -- another committee and successes would be important shaping and moving us forward. Thank you.

MEMBER MORELAND: Pat.

MEMBER SULLIVAN: Yeah. Thanks. I just wanted to comment on a mechanism. So I was really pleased with how the electronic reporting work went, and we brought in several folks who were experts in that area, but there was a lot of NOAA involvement with that, too. We had a few panels and so forth. But mainly the thing that was going on was this continued dialogue about what the issues were and how to work through that. And I think this could be appropriate for the commerce subcommittee too to kind of get that involvement, because it's one thing, as I was just saying, for us as a committee to kind of form and say, hey, you should do this. But having the dialogue, I'm doing it reverse now, having the dialogue with NOAA and hearing what they feel the

issues are relative to what you feel the issues are form some guidance, and there's nuances that are shared that can't be fully articulated in a recommendation, for example. So that when the recommendation comes out, there's a sort of deeper understanding on both sides about what's going on. So taking advantage of that structure that exists in the MAFAC community here would be really valuable, I think.

MEMBER MORELAND: Megan.

CHAIR DAVIS: Yeah. Just to take that a step further, as MAFAC, we can also write letters of support that we're very supportive of the NAPA process that's happening right now or we're very supportive of some aspect of what NOAA is doing to get that to the secretary of commerce. And then we can keep expanding upon that. So we have those mechanisms in place as MAFAC. We don't have to wait to produce a product along the way. And you -- you-all know that because we have been able to respond very quickly in terms of a letter. So that might be something that we could work on in the very short term as -- or, I mean, we

need to craft what we want to say, but I'm very supportive of us. This is a really important dialogue that we're having. Appreciate all the input that's coming out of this. So just something for us to think about.

MEMBER MORELAND: I think that's a great idea. Natasha, before I turn to you, I have a question for Jennifer or Jim on whether those recommendations, the value of those recommendations is seen internally or if perhaps some MAFAC perspective on why they're important or what elements are particularly important would be helpful for getting focus.

MS. LUKENS: Well, certainly all of your recommendations are seen internally, and we do -- I hope we've done a good point of reporting back to you how your recommendations have been used and who they've been shared with, and all the way up to the secretary is where the recommendations do go. So, you know, each case is different on what it is, a formal set of recommendations versus just a letter of support noting that may get a different type of use. So it's

case dependent, I think, on what the issue is and the timing.

MEMBER MORELAND: So basically informed scenario planning is a piece of the NAPA recommendations, and all things hinge on that. You can't communicate to anybody that something's in jeopardy if no one can see that it's in jeopardy. And so that might be an area we could think about emphasizing in terms of priority flexibility for NOAA to provide more information externally and to the hill. Natasha?

MEMBER HAYDEN: Thank you, Stefanie. I really appreciate this conversation, the discussion. The NAPA recommendations, do you know if there -- if it includes prioritizing social science and/or indigenous community participation, outreach, those kinds of things?

MEMBER MORELAND: I think the level of the recommendations are more about what kind of information beyond the blue book could be and should be communicated, rather than speaking about budget priorities or about the specifics on how to engage.

And so I think the recommendations provide direction that would lead to more detail that you're talking about. But it's my understanding, they're at a higher level, that you need a strategic plan. For example, you need a communications plan, you need to be able to externally communicate more than you are on impacts and scenarios, and you need to have a high-level strategy on the hill with appropriators that's multi-year. It's more of that nature.

MEMBER HAYDEN: Okay. Thanks.

MEMBER MORELAND: So there's room for that addition on the engagement.

MEMBER HAYDEN: Thank you. That helps because one of the things that I think about, and I'm very Alaska-centric, is that, you know, the -- I think Jocelyn asked earlier if it was -- you know, is the audience, the -- our lead -- our delegation, or is it the communities or both? And when I think about NOAA and NOAA's role in fisheries and how that impacts our communities, that there's -- my experience is there's a massive disconnect between the communities, the people that live in -- you know, just regular people,

they don't understand. They don't know. They don't realize. And like you said, if you don't know something's in jeopardy, you don't think that you need to advocate for it or participate in it.

And so it is critical to find a way to engage the communities in a way that will help -- I'm going to say it's us. Help us understand what the impacts are going to be. And I think in my community, like drilling down closer, you know, Kodiak Island and the Alutiiq people of Kodiak Island have been -- have had so much impact in their ability to participate in fisheries. You know, Clay said, it's the fishermen. Like, we're all fishermen. You know, we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for fishermen. That it is not even -- there's -- it's like there's not even a thing. People who fish and live in the villages and in the towns don't have that as a -- think that there's an opportunity to impact in this way, like we're discussing here. And so just putting some thought into how to reconnect that disconnect, you know, like -- and I'm open to hearing, you know, what can I do to help reconnect that disconnect between the people who

participate and are impacted directly by it, and how we advise NOAA.

MEMBER MORELAND: So I think that this effort is intended to empower advocacy. That people have enough information to know, yes, I care that there is this information continue to be gathered about the ecosystem. Yes, I care that the Gulf of Alaska surveys are funded, so that you've got baseline information that feeds all these other processes and fisheries management. That this is about getting that information in the hands of people, so that they can advocate and support continued investment in science.

Is that reasonable for the work of this committee?

MEMBER HAYDEN: Yeah, absolutely. And so, you know, again, I'm -- I would -- I'm open to, and I would really like to hear more about how I can help people in the community understand that that's a thing.

MEMBER MORELAND: Right.

MEMBER HAYDEN: That that's a thing because, you know, I'm in the middle of it and I'm still having a hard time understanding how I can

influence any of the processes that are going to translate into impact for my husband, who owns a fishing boat. You know, we own a fishing boat, you know. And I've been trying to figure that out. Like, I'm trying to figure out how to do that. And if I can't do it, I -- you know, 99 percent of the other people in my community are not going to be able to do it either.

MEMBER MORELAND: Yeah. Great. So this process is particularly opaque -- and by design and with very firm care about the opaqueness from leadership and who we have an opportunity to make a recommendation to. That's my perception. And so I think that's exactly what we have for an opportunity this summer to do some work group meetings on.

So as a next step, we'll work on getting scheduling out. Everyone is welcome. It would be nice to know who intends to participate on a regular basis to get some continuity and alignment on who we want to consult with. And then what or how we handle the scope, because this is a big project, and we want to piece it out. So we'll work on scheduling and

getting out news on what the meeting cadence is. And then please think about and provide advice. If you've got examples of those capital multi-year projects that have been successfully moved through the process, like what we need to do on vessels, some kind of a fleet plan and facility maintenance and data infrastructure.

If there's any examples of success where agencies have been able to open up their process to be able to have more strategic planning, that would be great. And any suggestions on who to engage with would also be welcome. Thanks.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Stefanie. Thank you for leading this discussion and the subcommittee and for your team that's been working with you. This was a really great dialogue over the last hour. I think it's really helped us to understand where the committee's going and how all the MAFAC members can participate. It's -- so looking forward to that moving forward.

We are now going to shift into report out.

So, really, Stefanie for your subcommittee, do you feel -- you can have a few more minutes, but I think

you did a nice wrap up report out at the end there.

MEMBER MORELAND: Great.

CHAIR DAVIS: So we have three other subcommittees that will report out over the -- two other subcommittees that will report out over this next 30 minutes. And so we have protected resources with Sara, but we also have Linda on the commerce. And then if Jocelyn would like to also report out on next steps. So I suppose we're three, right? Climate and ecosystem. So let's go in that order with -- yes?

MEMBER MCDONALD: I think also comments on any of the climate stuff --

CHAIR DAVIS: Yes. Yeah. And let's leave some room. Maybe, Jocelyn, we can have you last and also leave some room for any comments on the panels that we had yesterday. So let's do that. So here we go with Sara first reporting out. Thank you.

MEMBER MCDONALD: Thank you, Madam Chair.

So thanks, everybody. As a reminder, the Protective Resources Subcommittee is working on a survey. It's been two years. I was just looking at my notes. The

purpose of this survey is in response to several years ago now, there were -- the agency put out guidelines on how to deter marine mammal interactions with everything from fishing gear to waterfront property and docks, to aquaculture operations. And so it's pretty much all the stakeholders involved, but when they put out those guidelines, they didn't have any information about how effective any of these deterrents are. And so the purpose of the survey is to try and find out if anyone's implemented anything, and how effective any of that has been or how often different user groups are implementing some of those deterrents to help -- because there are over 71, I believe, deterrents in the guidelines. To help the agency, maybe if they have desire and funds, to test the effectiveness of a handful of the ones that are most widely used so that we can get an idea. Because why allow something if it's not useful and nobody's using it or it's not feasible. So that's the purpose of the survey.

The survey was designed and created within like six months. We've been spending the last year

and a half working on the PRA, which is a Paperwork Reduction Act, which is essentially approval to actually administer the survey. So that's what we've been really spending all this time. And just as an FYI, 85 to 90 percent of the Protective Resources Subcommittee, we are all transitioning off MAFAC on -- in March of next year. And so we need to get this done. We all really want to get this done. Otherwise, it's going to be Pat and Tom doing the whole thing.

So we do have -- luckily Katie's been really helpful in working with OMB and trying to get the -- this PRA moving forward. And she believes the information that she's gotten from the -- from OMB is that we might be able to get this expedited, finally expedited, after a year and a half expedited. And that our goal is to have it, the PRA approval by August. Which, so our timeline then would be to distribute the survey September 5th, which is the day after Labor Day, where hopefully, especially with some of our user groups, things are hopefully kind of slowing down a little bit. We would send a reminder

of the survey, September 26th, and then close the survey on October 24th. That will give us -- that will give Pat time to have preliminary results that he could present at the November MAFAC meeting. And Pat and me. So it's not going to just be you. I won't leave it all to you. I promise.

And so what we discussed next was we do have a list that is right now in a Google Doc that I'm going to -- that I'm going to translate into a Google Sheet with different methods of distributing the survey. So the survey's just going to be a link to a Google form, and we have different points of contact, for example, Fish News Email List. That's Katie working with Laura kind of thing. Katie's on there a lot. Russ is gone. Russ is on there a lot --

-- Okay. Good. That we were -- yeah, taking his name. Heidi's name is on here a lot. But what we'd like to do is, you know, we all have contacts, we all are a part of different listservs. We're all a part of different trade associations. And so an opportunity for everybody, not just the

subcommittee members to put their name on the list of, yes, I'll send the link to my Listserv that I'm on of whatever, or my trade, you know, organization that I'm involved with. So it could be local. It could be distributed, you know, more widely. However, you know, you -- wherever your sphere of influence is, we would love that. Also, the agency -- and I'll work on creating like a -- just a quick summary of -- that's short and to the point, and what is the relevance of this survey? You know why we're doing it? Send that to Laura, Katie and Laura to -- and have NOAA do the comms, so that NOAA can then put it on their social media, and then we can share it through our social media. Love -- Brett, any -- love to see your name on this list. Let's put it that way. Because I know you're -- this is your area of expertise.

So really, that's where we are right now.

And if we can get this Google Sheet kind of filled out and ready to go so that once we can -- we pull the trigger on September 5th, we can all pull the trigger kind of at the same time. We're also thinking of creating QR codes, so that if anyone wants to create

signs, Joe, you were mentioning something about signs, and anything printable where you know. So a QR code also to the survey link would be great. So that's where we are with this. We're seeing the light. Our goal is really, you know, to have this all wrapped up before the majority of us roll off MAFAC next spring. So. And I'm happy to take any questions.

CHAIR DAVIS: Yeah. Yeah. Sara, kudos to you and your team, you really have had perseverance on this one, and it's really great. It's an amazing survey. It's been beta tested or alpha tested. Beta tested. So now we're into the alpha testing soon. So that is going to be really exciting. Anybody have any questions for Sarah and her committee. Donna?

MEMBER KALEZ: I just really want to give a shout-out to Sara because she really worked her behind off on this, and she did a great job, so thank you so much. And Pat. And Pat.

MEMBER MCDONALD: I was about to say, and Pat and Katie, and, I mean, everybody, really, but -- and early on Heidi and Gabby, I mean, it's just it's been a process. It was unexpected. Like I said, the

survey was the easy part. And I think the other thing is we might want to socialize -- I know Sebastian's rolling off, but Megan and some of the aquaculture folks, we might want to have some pre-survey meetings with certain user groups to kind of walk them through it and the why and why it's relevant and how it's not really diving in. We won't be able to figure out who you are and -- you know, and just answer any questions. So we might want to do some of that socializing too before we actually pull the trigger, or even immediately after. So. So more to come from me.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: And happy to help. I know I've been quiet, but happy to help in any way. And I will echo the, you know, unfamiliar with the mechanics of what you're doing and sort of the processes. And I don't envy trying to, like, work around the Paperwork Reduction Act and citizen science project to inform NOAA and getting all those check marks checked. Boxes checked. I can't think right now. We're on day three here.

CHAIR DAVIS: We're in the final hour --

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: But happy to help, and also really think about what you said something about the rollout. And so I agree all at once, but then what are specific opportunities that may be happening or announcements that may be happening starting in September that you can latch onto that this is sparking that discussion already, and so that you can have that kind of rollout. And it doesn't all have to be at once, too. I agree there's a great initial push, but then finding times when people are already gathering is efficient, and then finding opportunities that are either known or probably unknown, also that the survey can kind of work within so that it's amplified on its importance.

MEMBER MCDONALD: Thank you. Yes. Yes. Thank you. We appreciate your help.

CHAIR DAVIS: That's great. That's great. Well, good target dates and products over the next few months, so that's terrific. Thank you. Again, Sara and team.

We're going to move on to Linda. Excuse me. If you could give a report out to from the

subcommittee discussion.

MEMBER O'DIERNO: Yes. We've decided to move forward with this subcommittee. Our basic goal is to develop recommendations for the agency to assist in the development of fair and reciprocal trade. Right now, there are a number of issues. Trade policy tends to be very muddled. If you look at the ranking, seafood is near and dear to our hearts, but we're really low on the ranking of products that we're exporting and importing. So we're down in the queue, and we have to make sure that someone is making our voices heard. If you look at our whole national attitude towards trade, we believe in free trade market access. What that means is products come into this country at a zero percent tariff. Often, if we are exporting to that same country, our industry is often faced with 23, 25 percent tariffs going into that nation. So it is not really a level playing field.

If you look at the product itself, it's extremely confusing. We have thousands of different species with different characteristics. They're farmed

and fished in different ways. So it's an extremely confusing commodity. If we look at the distribution chain, there's a lack of transparency. We don't know how product is moving through the system. You can have issues. Someone higher up can look and say, well, you know, we now have an agreement with the EU to sell bivalve molluscan shellfish. And it took 10 years to get to that point, but there's still only two states that can access that market. And also, we haven't looked at what the nuances are. Is that system working? And I've heard some rumblings that it's not working as well as it should be. So there are a number of different issues out there. So hopefully we can make some inroads in trying to get our voices heard.

What I did was I provided a basic paper that talked about trade policy issues, and that was based upon a 2020 survey of industry concerns. So those industry concerns are all distilled in that paper. So we have a list of different issues that are concerned with our industry, some more so than -- with one product than another. Shrimp, obviously the zero-

tariff issue is the most pressing issue for them. So it's going to vary based on the product. And thanks to the good offices of Heidi and Jennifer, we're going to have a webinar with Alexa Cole, who heads up the NOAA Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce. I wrote it down. That's why I knew what it was. See, Heidi. So one of the things that we're asking you to do is think of specific questions that you would like possibly answered in that webinar. And I already wrote yours down, Pat, about what their priorities are. So that's the next step.

I am going to reach out to those individuals who provided comments during that 2020 round, because now coronavirus is hopefully in our rear-view mirror, and things may have changed. Are the situations still the same? Are there additional concerns? So I will be reaching out to those folks and provide the information that they give us. We also looking at -- possibly looking at what are the top priorities, but I think we need to be more informed. And so that webinar will help, the new responses will help. We need to think about what our

priorities are and what the priorities of our constituents are. So our goal is fair and reciprocal trade and assisting in the development of that. Any comments or suggestions?

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Just point of clarification. The audience of that survey in 2020, and then the audience of the webinar, can MEMBER O'DIERNO: The webinar is this group.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Oh, okay.

MEMBER O'DIERNO: The audience for the 2020 survey, essentially NOAA solicited comments from industry and environmental groups. So that's what the responses are. They are all on the website. You can access them and take a look at them. MAFAC also provided comments at that time.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: Thank you.

MEMBER O'DIERNO: Anything else I can answer? Any suggestions moving forward? And that webinar, we're trying to have that in the near future so that we can begin moving forward and have regular meetings of this group. Okay, everyone. Thank you.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Linda. Thank you

for taking a lead on that subcommittee commerce work.

And it was a great discussion, and I know Heidi and Katie will be following up to see who else would like to participate, and we'll go from there. So thank you for that.

Jocelyn let's turn over to you to give a little recap on where you and your committee's going to go next, and also to open up to people's reactions and comments regarding the panels yesterday. Thank you, Jocelyn.

MEMBER RUNNEBAUM: Yeah. Thank you.

First, I would like to thank Clay. He brought us some delicious treats from Hawaii that maybe you had on the back table. So thank you, Clay. He also kindly provided some information on the projects that Charles was talking about yesterday. So some of you -- I think everybody got one of these. If you didn't, let me know. Sorry if I missed you. And then Clay also brought out a book on Traditional-Based Natural Resource Management: Practice and Application in the Hawaiian Islands, but I believe that Charles contributed to this book as well. So if you're

interested, I forced some copies on people, so Clay didn't have to carry these back to Hawaii. And if you want a copy, he can get you one.

So by the next MAFAC meeting we're really hoping to have some draft definitions on -- or principles on what should be included in definitions on climate-ready fisheries, climate-ready fisheries management, and climate-ready fishing communities. So we're hoping to be able to bring that to the full MAFAC in November. Following that, we would then start to come up with some action items of how to bridge the science to management gap, and hopefully have some recommendations there.

So we will be meeting this coming Monday, the 5th of June. If you're able to make it, I think that'll be a good opportunity for the group to really dive in and debrief on the panels and really how we're going to incorporate what we learned during this meeting into some of the products that we're pulling together and some of the information we already have down on paper, and come up with some clear next steps.

So hopefully we'll have a little bit of a collective

effort of how to bring all this together and move forward.

I think that's really all I have for updates. So I'll just open it up to reactions or thoughts on yesterday. I just really want to thank everybody's participation on MAFAC and interest in this topic. The time flew by. And thank you, Jamie and Charles, who are sticking it out to the bitter end for participating in your interests, and just being able to provide a lot of insight into what you're experiencing or have experienced. So thank you.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Jocelyn, for that overview of where you're going next, and once again, applauses to you and Meredith for leading such a great effort with your team. So let's open up for a little bit of dialogue from what we heard yesterday. Matt, you have your hand up?

MEMBER UPTON: Thanks. Yeah, I was just really struck by how well-prepared all the different panelists were, and what they shared. One piece that really stuck with me is Charles's idea about kind of how regulations for the counsel process become so

rigid. And then Jamie and I were chatting a little bit afterwards about this. And just within the context of how rapidly things are changing the ecosystem, and then this very rigid regulatory process, it struck me that just more of a need for kind of voluntary non-regulatory actions that are taken with different sectors kind of collaborating, versus a really rigid, usually combative process that gets drawn out for a few years, and then litigated or doesn't really have folks kind of come together and really figure stuff out. So I think that's something I'll be thinking about in Alaska and how that applies.

And I'm sure for other sectors, that's a big part of it. And then I had another comment later, but I want to hear other folks' ideas, too.

MEMBER RUNNEBAUM: Thanks for that comment, Matt. I think the comment that struck me that Jamie made was at the very beginning when she said it's time to call people in. And so I think that what you're reflecting on is an opportunity to call everybody in and take action. So thank you.

MEMBER MORELAND: Thanks. I was really

impressed by the morning panel, thinking about how to frame up what we know and the path forward on trying to move faster on ecosystem considerations and changing ocean conditions. There's a lot there, and there was a lot of structure in that that was comforting that we need to do better and need to do more. But it seems like there's a really good framework to continue to build from. And I'm pleased that the ACLIM experience is looked at as something to continue to learn from and expand from nationally.

I think in terms of the afternoon panel, one piece that I mentioned in talking with others that I felt like wasn't represented is the ability for industry to take real-time information and respond to it with management measures that are self-imposed. And in our experience working with fishery co-ops, there can be agreed upon action plans and if then scenarios, the framework concept that Merrick was talking about yesterday, where we can draw it out contractually, agree on data governance, and if certain conditions occur, then certain management measures are triggered. And it's a way where things

can happen very quickly, very real time, and also not be a burden in terms of agency, administering, and funding. And then we provide transparency to how that works through reporting and accountability through the counsel process. So I think it's just experience that works well, and I'm thinking of changing conditions with respect to where bycatch is prevalent, actions can be taken on the ground very quickly through use of those kinds of cooperative agreements.

Other ideas that came up yesterday were a bit of a concern, and so as the committee moves forward and thinks about what to continue to explore, there was a lot of suggestion around the agency actively providing more flexibility in terms of business diversification. And in regions where resources are fully allocated, that's a large topic and one that I feel needs to be discussed and defined further if that is something that's pursued. And another was really looking at federal monetary subsidization for supporting business strategies, I think that also creates a lot of things that would need to be looked more closely at in terms of the

effect of that. Pardon me?

CHAIR DAVIS: Did you say the subsidies?

MEMBER MORELAND: Financial subsidies as the way to make businesses more resilient for wild capture public resources in terms of policy, that's a big step to take because it already is a public resource. And so I think -- well, there certainly is a role, and the importance of disaster response responses significant. There were some ideas that were more long term thrown out yesterday that were a bit concerning to me in terms of public policy that I think warrant discussion.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Stefanie. Richard and then Matt.

MEMBER YAMADA: So -- excuse me. So I was kind of impressed yesterday in, you know, Cisco's presentation about how fast the data is coming in and how climate change is the data's showing us that things are changing really rapidly. And my concern is that, you know, management is pretty much inflexible to make changes that rapidly we can respond to the changing conditions that rapidly. And, you know, in

my world, we're looking at, you know, do -- having, you know, all the analysis and filtering this data to provide an environment that we can actually harvest fish, and our goals have always been to provide some kind of stability and predictability in the future for fishermen. Because it's hard to, you know, every year -- you can't do business planning when you don't know what the future's going to look like.

And so I guess the task is, going forward, is how do you -- how does management prepare to deal with this new objective of a variable kind of future where we -- the data's, you know, when you're looking at -- we look at trends, right? When the trends are not going to be very predictable in the near future, how do you make your management system flexible? And I think Stefanie brought up a good point. Maybe you kick it into the industry where you give them the ability to respond to the data a lot quicker without all the management kind of constraints. And what would that model look like? What kind of -- what kind of, you know, you know, freedom would industry be given in the new world where, you know, they're given

the reins now?

Because, really, we have a good system. We have, you know, a system that allows for a lot of public input and a lot of, you know, security measures that, you know, everybody's heard, but it is kind of stifling in that, you know, through -- regulations take a couple years, and we don't have that kind of time. You know, things are happening so quickly. By the time the regulation gets put into place, it might be working against us or not even addressing the key issue. So I think we need to, as managers, look at how we're going to be -- what kind of models can we use or employ that makes the management system more flexible and still accountable, but maybe have industry have the, you know, play a bigger role in maybe self-management, you know, in some regards? So that was a good discussion we had on how we're going to really react to this climate change. Other than knowing that it's happening, what is management going to do about it? Thanks.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Richard. Matt?

MEMBER UPTON: Yeah. The other point that

I wanted to make and was reflecting on was around diversification of businesses as a response. And I guess I pushed back on that a little bit, and I was kind of trying to collect my thoughts. And how I think about the industry, particularly in Alaska, is there's a real network effect where you have different sectors, but they're all interconnected through the vendors that they work with. And then some companies will be, you know, in one sector here, but then also buying salmon over here, and then also have partnerships with different community groups. And so what I worry about within the climate change and some of the challenges is that when a particular fishery is struggling, sometimes under kind of equity concerns, the inclination can be to really focus attention on another fishery that might have a bycatch directed kind of relationship.

And so if you end up kind of hurting another fishery in addition to the directed fishery that's already hurt, the network effect gets really hurt throughout all the fisheries. Because then crew members that might shift over to the other fishery

aren't able to do that. The vendors that we're supporting are being supported by the fishery that's being impacted have equity concerns. And a community development group that might have investments in that all get hurt. So I think it's a difficult kind of issues that we always face, and they get extremely emotional, but at least in Alaska, I hope people just consider the network effect that happens. And anyone who's fished up there, or is involved in the industry, just knows how interconnected things are, and that can be a good thing at times and other people can sometimes view as a negative. And so I think that the resiliency is going to be actually not so much around diversification, but around, really, the network effect that -- that's up there, if I'm articulating it. Thanks.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you, Matt. Natasha, we'll take your comments and then we'll wrap up this part of the session. Thanks.

MEMBER HAYDEN: Okay. Thank you. The -- I really appreciated the panels yesterday. Yep. Meredith and Jocelyn, you guys did an excellent job of

bringing people together with a lot to share. That was really valuable. The couple of things I heard, so calling everybody in, well, we want to call everybody in, you know, but we need to be careful about making recommendations that may have long-term impacts to the status quo. That's very confusing to me. So diversification in a system that is designed to fully allocate -- not just fully allocate the resources, but to fully allocate and assign ownership of the resources, you know, on a species basis or, you know, gear type. And then how do you diversify that when that's not how the system is intended to work?

So there, you know, so all of the things I'm saying now is just, you know, I'm basically, you know, preaching to the choir. It's not really a question that I have. It's like -- or maybe the question is, is that how do you make changes? When the system is, in part, working as it was intended, that the individuals, or, you know, the groups or the participants, you know, obtain what their objective was, but then it's not working out as you had hoped? And, you know, Matt, you brought up bycatch, but we

haven't talked about that at all, you know. And I think it's really interesting talking about it in the framework of, you know, people that are concerned about equity.

And this is one of the things that I was thinking about earlier when I was, you know, asking how do I -- how do I help contribute to make recommendations when, you know, in Alaska -- and I know this is -- and Tom has talked about this a lot, about how people are fishing to get dinner, you know, people are fishing to get food, and you -- you're coming to participate in the process, and that's not really a priority when we're talking about the, you know, the distribution and tariffs and, you know, the strategies and -- all of those things are, you know, critically important in networking, and I understand, Matt, what you're saying, you know, but it -- to me, it is -- it's a -- it is fractured from how communities are reliant on and have participated on -- in and, you know, are a part of the ecosystem of fisheries.

So I think that, you know, I'm looking

forward to learning more about this going forward. You know, the climate is changing, you know, the climate is -- that's like the focus of this topic and resilience and building climate ready fisheries. And, you know, the people that I know in our communities is, you know, we're going to be there whether we have a heat wave and there's, you know, I mean, as long as there's enough fish for us to feed our families, and I've been waiting for an opportunity to say this for the last couple of days. But during the start of the pandemic, I was like, it -- I used to say, you know, if there's a zombie apocalypse, stick with me. Like I am surviving. I have a fishing pole. I have a boat.

I have a gun. You know, I can row. And -- so in the case of a pandemic, you know, apocalypse sticks with me. I mean, I even called my daughter, she was with her boyfriend in Arkansas, and I was like, girl, you need to come back to Alaska because we're going to be fine. You know, I mean, legitimately, like in 100 years, we're still going to be fine. Like we're still going to be there.

And I've heard the talk about like, you

know, fisheries in peril, businesses in peril, you know, that they're not going to be able to stay in business and they're not going to be entities, they're going to go extinct, you know, but our people are not going to go extinct. I mean, as long as there's people on the planet, we're still going to be there and we're still going to be eating fish. So, you know, like long term strategies on climate and whatever we got to do is, you know, a lot of it is hunker down and endure. You know, you just -- we're just going to get through it. And we do all need to come together, and we do all need to think like, okay, I do need to think about what's happening in Japan. I do need to think about what is happening in Russia and Ukraine and all of these other things. Because I'm not, you know, I'm vulnerable to that, as well, you know, but it can't be at the expense of me being able to feed myself and to feed my children and to teach my children how to fish.

And I feel like that -- it's got to be either one or the other. And so, you know, I -- that -- that's how I want to contribute, is how do we, you know, instead of it being one or the other, how do we work together

towards us being able to do that and participate in the fisheries and, you know, Matt still have a business and still have a job and his community is able to continue? So thanks.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you very much, Natasha. Jocelyn, would you like to close things up? Thank you.

MEMBER RUNNEBAUM: Yeah. I -- thank you. These were all really great perspectives and really helpful comments to think about as we move into next week and the next phases of our work. So everybody has an invitation to join in and participate. It's been really great dialogue and I've really appreciated all the perspectives. So Jamie, if I can steal your words, please come join us. I'm calling you in now.

CHAIR DAVIS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the leads reporting out on the subcommittee. We're now going to go into our closing session. I will say a few words. Then I'd like to turn it over to Janet to say a few closing words. And then I'd like to turn it back over to Heidi and Jennifer to close things out for the meeting. So I don't know

where the time goes. Like we have -- it's been such a, again, such a really robust and dynamic discussion, both with MAFAC, the commissions, and of course, NOAA leadership. We're always so excited to hear the updates from all of you and with the staffs. So I just want to thank everybody.

We're looking forward to having several months now before our next meeting to work on -- we have four subcommittees working, each of them at different stages. So we're going to definitely be working towards products that we will be working towards over the next few months from all of the subcommittees, and maybe hopefully some letters or recommendations and things like that that can go forward to NOAA leadership and the Secretary of Commerce. We also have some potential comments that we'll be able to provide in terms of implementation plans on the EEJ, on National Seafood Strategy, and other plans and things like that. Bye, Jocelyn. Thank you.

MEMBER MORELAND: Thank you, Jocelyn. I was going to thank you. Now you're leaving.

MEMBER VEERHUSEN: You're not going away that easy.

MEMBER MORELAND: Thank you so much. Sorry.

CHAIR DAVIS: Bye-bye. That's great. Well, I don't have much more to say except to thank all of you and to now turn it over to Janet. So thank you, Janet, for your closing comments.

MS. COIT: Thank you. I'd like to start by calling out Sebastian Belle. Sebastian, you weren't able to be with us in person, which was our loss. However, we do realize this is your last meeting, and I wanted to just acknowledge the many, many contributions you've made and how much value we found from having you with -- here with your expertise in marine aquaculture and processing and marketing and farm management and regulations, your national reputation and role in terms of the growth of aquaculture and your past experience as a commercial fisherman. I know you and Roger, who we recognized at the event, were co-chairs of the commerce subcommittee, and I think that was an interesting

pairing and very beneficial to us for the topics around seafood consumption, the recommendations around a National Seafood Counsel, and kind of a much deeper dive into the seafood sector.

The offshore wind working group, working waterfronts, your perspective has just been so appreciated, and I -- I'm glad you took that opportunity. Was that yesterday or the day before, you know, to really push us on change and thinking beyond status quo. And certainly supporting the aquaculture industry and its growth is something that we're very excited about as part of this National Seafood Strategy and beyond. But it's a lot to take the time out to serve on MAFAC for six years. And just from all of us want to thank you for your contributions and for adding strength and wisdom to this agency. So thank you, Sebastian.

MEMBER BELLE: Just very quickly, Janet. I -- you know, I -- right back at you. And to my colleagues on MAFAC, I've learned a lot from you. You brought me back to my fishing roots, and that's a scary thought for me. I now remember why I got out of

fishing, and you reminded me of why I got out of fishing. And -- but most importantly, thanks to Megan for her able chairmanship and to NOAA staff for their really hard work and support. I can't say enough about the hard work the staff does and level of professionalism that you guys all bring to the committee. So thanks a lot. And it's been a pleasure, and I -- I'm sure that MAFAC will do great work in the future. So thank you.

MS. COIT: Thank you, Sebastian. And I will definitely look for you again on my next trip to Maine. Good. And then I want to. Thank our wonderful chair, Megan Davis, who I'm sure everyone agrees is -- fosters such a welcoming respectful environment. Really in awe of you, Megan. Thank you.

I was going to thank Jocelyn and Meredith, but -- no. Yeah. I was so sorry to miss -- I had been looking forward when I saw the agenda to your session, Cisco, and the talk about Future Seas, for sure. But those two panels, and I was in and out, I know they were fantastic. Even hearing the remarks in follow up endorsed that view. And so I wanted to

thank them and everyone who participated in that.

I think I'll end by thanking our staff because I just want to make a couple other comments. One -- I can't think of another venue in my role where there is such a constructive, open, diverse, thoughtful set of comments and conversations. It makes me value MAFAC greatly. And I think we all come away from these meetings changed, you know, with new perspectives as we listen to one another, and that makes me very hopeful. I sit at these meetings, and I always think, you know, what is uniquely my role, and what is uniquely your role? What is my role under the law? What are the constraints that I have? But where are the openings? Where are the places to call people in? Where can we -- as NOAA Fisheries garner more wisdom and expertise and foster change. Because I think one thing that comes through in this meeting and the conversation, we had about science is that status quo is not cutting it. Status quo is defeat. So the ideas that you guys have put forward and the comments and your worries and -- have been really thought provoking for me and for Cisco and for Jim.

This stuff is hard. It's complicated. It's anxiety producing in terms of issues from investing in businesses to subsistence and cultural issues that are disappearing in a painful, emotional way. So, you know, we need to find our openings. I just want to acknowledge the richness of the contributions here and how I think they truly do fulfill the mandate of MAFAC in terms of providing us advice and bringing -- I was struck by all your comments about the tension between the strictures of the law and the processes and the SSC, to the Counsel, and the APA and MMPA, and then what you're talking about being -- taking risks, being innovative, trying experiments, having plans that allow us to fail and then have contingency measures. And they're -- those things are really intention. So, again, a lot of thinking that I think all of us have had are what can we do within the existing authorities that we have to better lean towards flexibility and risk taking and innovative approaches and letting people figure out with their expertise and their common sense, you know, how to help do these things?

So I'm just so impressed by how smart and thoughtful everyone is. I think this was a fantastic meeting. And I'll just end by saying, next week we get to announce our Inflation Reduction Act spend plan. And I think you'll see that the investments that we're making reflect the issues that you have raised and talked about here, issues around making sure we have surveys and that we expand them, issues around climate resilience and management, issues around Pacific Salmon. And it is -- I got asked yesterday by Jocelyn and Jamie about what are the fun parts of the job. You know, the opportunities to get to know all of you, boy, that's right up there. But also, we do have an opportunity to make significant investments and maybe accelerate progress around, hopefully, the issues that we discussed here. So thank you so much. It's been very frustrating to me to have to be in and out and juggling and tap dancing at the same time, but it's been powerful and exactly the shot in the arm that I needed just this moment. So I thank each and every one of you.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you so much, Janet.

We're always so happy when we can have you here. Doesn't matter how much time. We're just really always pleased that you could be here with us and to provide your comments. So thank you.

MS. COIT: I just -- Megan, I realized I was going to save to the end thanking the NOAA staff, and I'm sure you're going to do that, too, but let's both do it because I want to thank Jennifer for her steady hand on the tiller, Heidi and Katie for all the myriad things you've done to make this meeting successful, and then, you know, everyone else who's been involved in putting this on --

CHAIR DAVIS: -- before Donna leaves --

MS. COIT: Yeah. And Donna.

MEMBER KALEZ: Bye, everyone.

CHAIR DAVIS: Thank you for that, Janet. That's great. Yeah. She was trying to sneak out. I was like -- we got her just in the nick of time. We also still have Cisco here, so thank you, Cisco, for participating. You really brought a -- I mean, with your staff here in the Southwest region, it was really an even more elevated discussion, and we really

appreciated that. So thank you so much. Now, I'd like to turn it over to Jennifer and Heidi to conclude our session. Thank you.

MS. LUKENS: All right. Thank you. Thank you. For both of your comments, Megan and Janet, I just wanted to take a moment and express my gratitude for each and every person in here for making this meeting -- it -- it's a successful meeting because everybody put time and energy into it, from Heidi and Katie, to -- you-all do everything, and I just sit up here and ask them things. So I'm on the computer the whole time asking them questions. So it takes a lot of input to prepare for this type of meeting, but also all of the subcommittee work that goes along with it.

So my gratitude to both of you. You're both rock stars, so thank you.

My gratitude towards -- gratitude for the members of NOAA Fisheries' leadership. They have insane schedules. I witness it every day. And I -- you can hear it, but until you live it with them, it's crazy. So the fact that they all -- they're not all here right now, but they -- all of them are here and

they all do care greatly what every single one of you say and are here to listen. And even if they aren't here the whole time, they are listening to what I've told them -- the takeaways from this meeting and ultimately the recommendation. So thank you to our leadership team for making the time.

And then, last but not least, gratitude for every single one of the -- you members for your service. We can set these meetings up, but your work in-between, your thoughts, your ideas, and showing up and engaging in the conversation really does help enable us to do our job better. And you know, we're public servants at NOAA, but you-all are contributing a great service and really do value that from the bottom of my heart. It really does -- that's the way it's supposed to be is to get that public and expert advice and recommendation. So gratitude.

And since I'm throwing all my gratitude out here, the folks here who have made the meeting seamless, let's give them -- the IT folks and Kristen who is outside there, our contractor, and the people who support our leadership, and all those other folks

there in the audience. So just want to say thank you.

We are going to talk next about our next meeting. We have a tentative date of the week of November 13th somewhere in the DC Metro region. And this is where I start getting into trouble, and then I need to look to Heidi and Katie to see if I've forgotten anything or any other logistics or any questions about that.

MS. LOVETT: Not tentative. I would say it's on everybody's calendar. And we shared it a while ago so -- and it works with the leadership, so I would say --

MS. LUKENS: It's not tentative.

MS. LOVETT: It's -- that's our date.

MS. LUKENS: It is in stone. So, see, I told you I need them.

MS. LOVETT: The only other thing I would note is Neri and Faraz have been rock stars, as well, helping with all your travel. And- one of us will be sending out a form where you can sort of record all your expenses, and we ask that you do submit that quickly. All of us, including staff, are supposed to

submit those things within five days of when your travel ends, and you will get reimbursed within five days.

So it'll all happen fast. They will need a -- as you leave here, it's usually easiest if you ask for an electronic copy of your hotel bill so that you can just send it by email right to them, as well.

And any other big bills you might have like parking back at your airports or whatever else you have. You don't have to worry about your food expenses, et cetera.

MS. ZANOWICZ: I have one more thing.

MS. LOVETT: Oh, sorry.

MS. ZANOWICZ: Also, on your way out, if you can drop your name tags and table tents at the registration desk, we would appreciate it.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 12:36 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPRING MEETING

Before: NOAA

Date: 06-02-23

Place: San Diego, California

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