



NOAA
FISHERIES

Advancing Equity and Environmental Justice in the Southeast through Conservation and Management of Living Marine Resources:

Request for Information

About Us

Department of Commerce



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



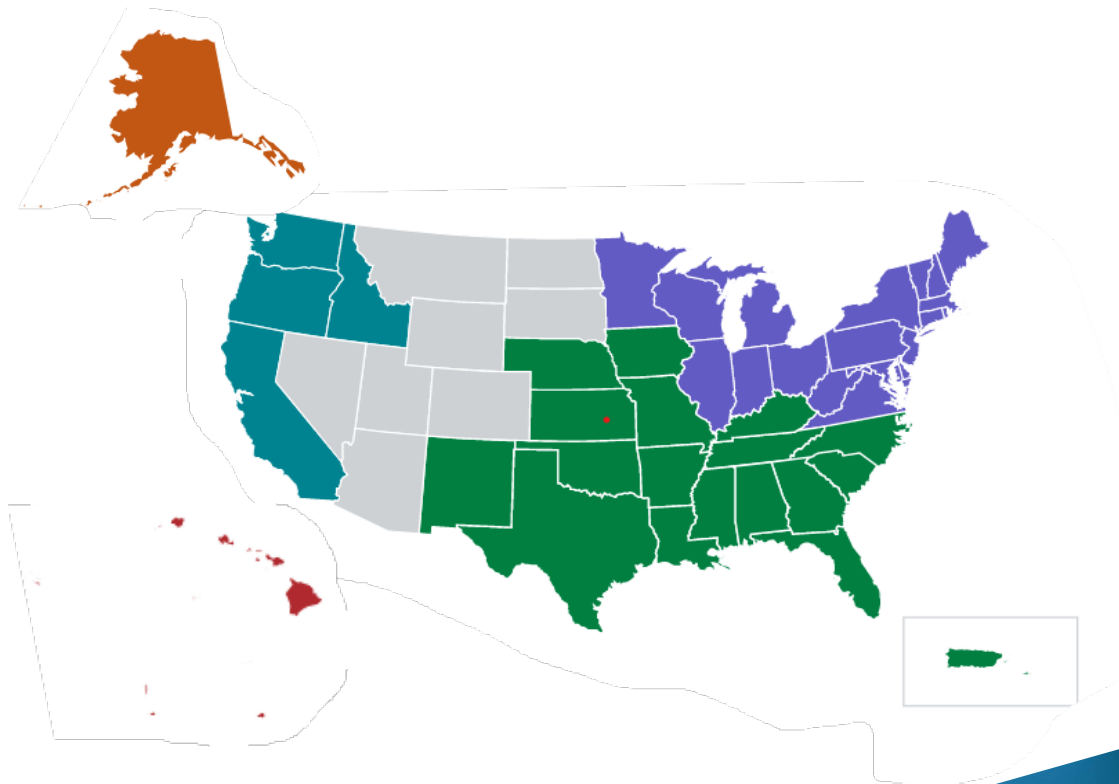
NOAA Fisheries



Regional Offices



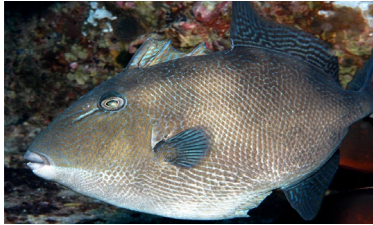
Science Centers





More Than Just Fish...

Fishery Management



Maintain healthy fish stocks important to commercial, recreational, and subsistence sectors of fisheries, and provide safe, sustainable seafood

Protected Resources



Conserve and recover marine mammals and other endangered and threatened species (corals, turtles, sawfish, sturgeon, sharks, rays, Nassau grouper...)

Habitat



Avoid, minimize and mitigate habitat loss, and enhance and/or restore habitat

Marine Aquaculture



Support opportunities to meet growing demand for seafood with sustainable aquaculture



Executive Orders for Equity and Environmental Justice

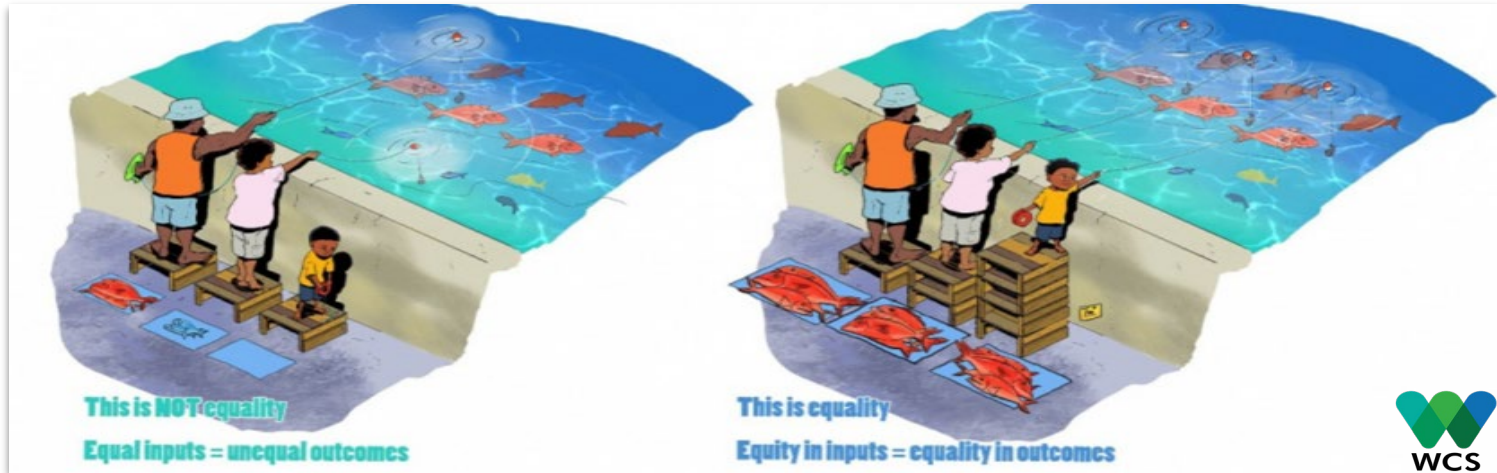
- Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All - [EO 14096](#) (2023)
- Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government - [EO 14091](#) (2023)
- Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government - [EO 13985](#) (2021)
- Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad - [EO 14008](#) (2021)
- Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations - [EO 12898](#) (1994)



Photo by Barry Yeoma

Key Terms: Equity

Equity means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.



Definition from Executive Order 13985.





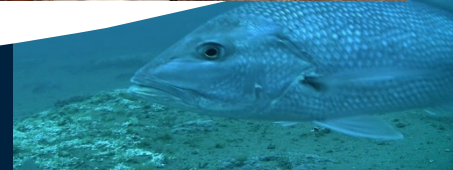
Key Terms: Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies including but not limited to:

- Equitable protection from environmental and health hazards
- Equitable access to decision-making processes
- Equitable opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized



Definition from the Environmental Protection Agency.





Key Terms: Underserved Communities

Underserved communities have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.



These include geographic communities as well as populations sharing a particular characteristic such as: women and girls; Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons*, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; persons facing discrimination or barriers related to gender identity; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

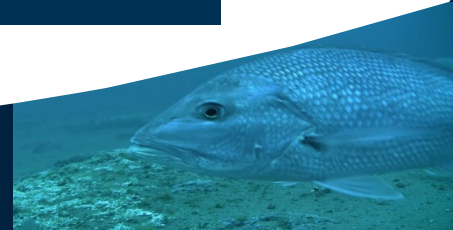
Definition based on Executive Order 13985

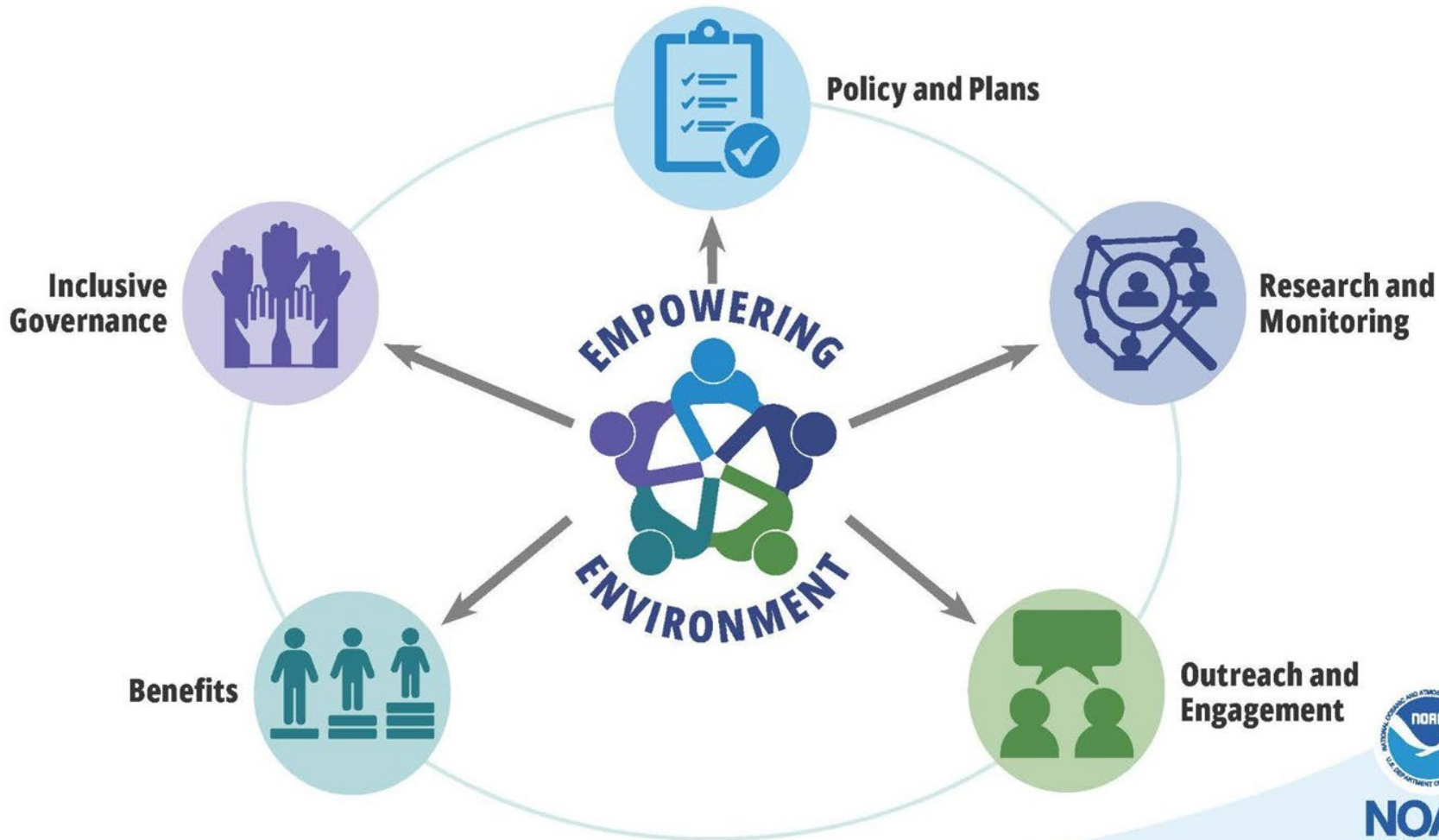




NOAA Fisheries' EEJ Goals

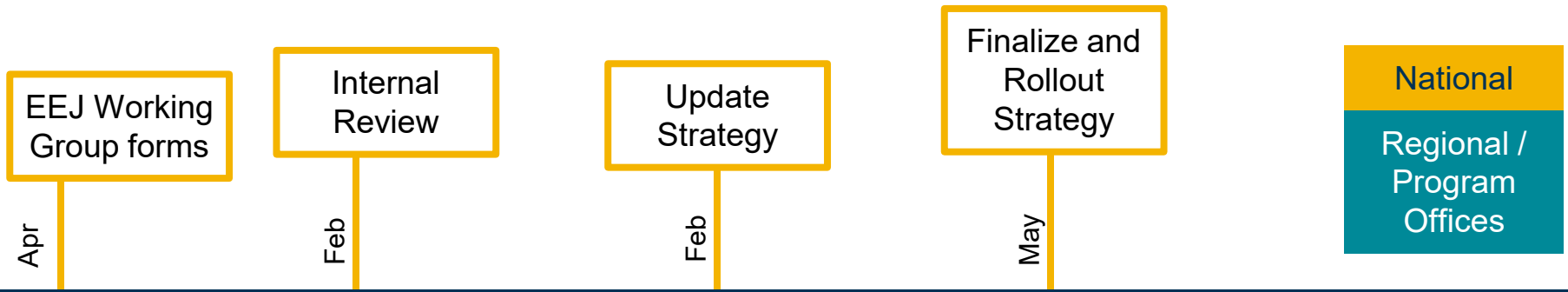
- 1. Prioritize identification, equitable treatment, and meaningful involvement of underserved communities**
- 2. Provide equitable delivery of services**
- 3. Prioritize EEJ in our mission work with demonstrable progress**





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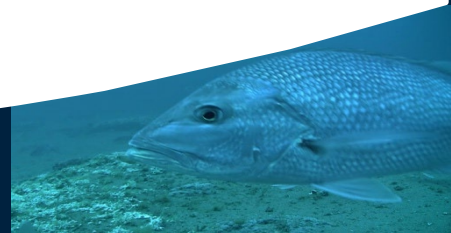
Next Steps





Southeast Engagement Strategies

- Public Request for Information
- Virtual listening session
- Focus Group meetings with underserved communities





For More Information

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<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/about-us/southeast-equity-and-environmental-justice-implementation-plan>


NEWS

NOAA Fisheries Releases Final Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy

May 22, 2023

Agency to incorporate equity and environmental justice into the vital services we provide to all communities.

Feature Story | National



More Information

- > Final Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy (PDF, 41 pages)
- > Final Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy—Spanish (PDF, 41 pages)

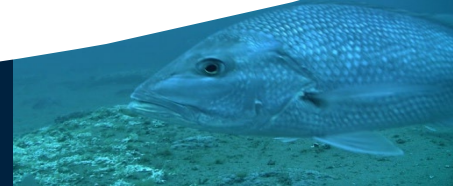
Recent News

VIDEO

Climate Change and Marine Animals: A Conservation Challenge
National

FEATURE STORY

Celebrating Seaweed by the Seashore
New England & Mid-Atlantic | National



Public Comment

To make an oral public comment today, please sign up here: →

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScviNDCCdkbtoW4fVDe2UtezomclUwCEQCrvlvXF_P9_2SRLw/viewform



To submit written comments, click here: →

<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/NOAA-NMFS-2023-0092-0001>



- All comments will be registered and submitted to the official record.
- NOAA staff will not respond, but will consider your comments when drafting the Southeast Equity and Environmental Justice Implementation Plan.
- We will call on and unmute registered speakers in the order they registered.
- **Please remember this meeting is being recorded.**

Public Comments will be time-limited to ensure all stakeholders have an opportunity to speak.

When you are called on:

- Please state your name clearly and let us know if you are representing an organization
- Limit comment time to 5 minutes or less
- Refrain from using offensive language
- Please MUTE your microphone when you are finished speaking

If you have insufficient time to say all you want, please consider submitting a written comment.

05:00

Time
Remaining
(minutes)