

Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)

A CCC-sponsored function

The Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Steering Committee for Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)¹ was created by the CCC in 2019 (CMOD [Terms of Reference](#)). The inaugural CMOD workshop occurred in November 2022, and the CCC approved another meeting for 2025. The Steering Committee met virtually on September 6, 2023, to provide recommendations to the CCC.

CMOD Synthesis for CCC

Based on the NPFMC estimate, the meeting venue and facilitator contract for CMOD 2025 will incur costs of ~\$115,000, to be shared between NMFS (\$57,500) and the 8 Councils (\$57,500).

- Under the current cost structure, costs for the venue, invited speakers, and facilitators are shared equally between NMFS (50%) and the eight Councils (50%).
- Each Council and NMFS will fund travel for their own participants, which brings the total estimate for the meeting to \$230,000. This represents a slight increase from last time due to the increased cost of travel and meeting space rental.

The Steering Committee recommended a theme and skill session for CMOD 2025.

- Theme: Adapting Council risk policies through operational changes to harvest control rules.
- Skills focus: Effective communication of complex fishery management actions from Council members to stakeholders.

Next steps

- With concurrence from the CCC, NPFMC will proceed with arranging a meeting venue for CMOD 2025 to occur in the first part of 2025, in Vancouver, WA.
- Once a facilitator has been selected, and funds received from NMFS, NPFMC will arrange a contract with the other Councils for the remaining shared costs.
- The Steering Committee will work with the facilitator to further advise on planning for the meeting, including agenda and target participants. The Steering Committee will report back to the CCC in 2024.

Planning for CMOD 2025

Cost Estimate

NPFMC provided a rough cost estimate for a workshop in **Vancouver, WA**, captured in the table below, based on the cost structure used in 2022. Vancouver was chosen for this estimate as it is an accessible location very close to a major airport (Portland, OR) which is fairly central for all Councils and cost-effective.

¹ NPFMC - Bill Tweit (chair), Diana Evans; NEFMC - Cate O'Keefe; MAFMC - Mary Sabo Clark; SAFMC - John Carmichael; CFMC - Miguel Rolon; GMFMC - Emily Muehlstein; PFMF - Bob Dooley; WPFMC - Kitty Simmonds/Amy Vandehey; NMFS - Stephanie Hunt.

The total estimated cost for the Councils and NMFS for a 2025 workshop is ~\$230,000. The cost increase compared to 2019 primarily reflects the increased cost of meeting venues and per diem. Of this amount, ~\$115,000 is shared costs (facilitator contract, invited presenters, meeting venue), to be shared equally between NMFS (50%) and the eight Councils (50%). The remainder is participant travel, which will be paid by NMFS and the Councils individually for their participants.

In response to feedback from the 2022 facilitators, the budget estimate incorporates additional scoping hours for the facilitators without incurring additional costs, by shifting the arrangement of meeting logistics from the facilitators to the host Council, NPFMC.

NPFMC also costed out holding the meeting in Las Vegas, NV, as well as Phoenix, AZ on the recommendation of the Steering Committee. Both locations are central, and Las Vegas has the advantage of cheap airfares from most regions in the winter and spring months, and below-GSA room rates. The total meeting cost was similar with all three locations, though distributed slightly differently between meeting facility costs and airfare and hotel rooms. The Steering Committee was comfortable with the Vancouver, WA venue, which has some advantages for NPFMC administrative staff who will be arranging logistics for the meeting, as it is a venue where Council meetings are also held.

		2025 Vancouver, Washington
Council travel	Travel/per diem/Council member stipends for 4 people	~\$12,300/Council (~\$98,500 total)
Shared costs	Travel/per diem for facilitators, experts, and presenters; contracts for meeting room, catering, AV, and facilitators	~\$115,000
	SUBTOTAL SHARED COSTS:	\$115,000
	NOAA Shared costs	\$57,500
	Council Shared costs	\$57,500
NMFS travel	Travel/per diem for 12 people (10 NOAA participants + 2 NOAA invited experts)	~\$16,500

The Committee discussed whether any other changes for CMOD 2025 should be considered which might affect the budget or the facilitator RFP. One comment from participants in the previous workshop was to consider more opportunities for breakout groups and small group discussions, to engage all participants. NPFMC will ensure that the meeting venue includes at least 2 meeting rooms to allow for small group breakouts. The Steering Committee will address other suggested improvements with the facilitators once they have been selected.

Theme and Skill Session for CMOD 2025

The Committee considered what to recommend as a theme for the next CMOD meeting. Ideas included topics addressed during previous [Fisheries Forum meetings](#), linking CMOD in some way to the [SCS8](#) theme (Applying ABC control rules in a Changing Environment) that has been identified for their meeting in 2024, or to something related to the IRA funding and climate-ready fisheries.

The Committee discussed linking aspects of several of the topics together, and noted that the CCC in May had requested that the SCS8 planning committee include an avenue for operationalizing its findings. As such, **the Committee recommends the following for the CMOD 2025 theme: Adapting Council risk policies through operational changes to harvest control rules.** The intent is to link the CMOD theme to an exploration of how to operationalize outcomes from SCS8. As with the 2022 planning experience, the intent would be to ask the facilitators to suggest ways to narrow down to an

appropriate agenda from this broad theme through their scoping process, and use the Steering Committee to provide feedback on which specific aspects of the topic to prioritize.

The Committee also considered ideas for a skill session for CMOD 2025, leaning on feedback from the 2022 facilitators that the session might be better geared towards a more generalized training that is less variable based on the individual practices of different Councils. **The Committee recommends the skill session focus on effective communication of complex fishery management actions from Council members to stakeholders.** The Committee discussed that as Council issues are frequently complex, both with respect to science and management constraints, an opportunity to develop communication skills could be effective either when messaging to constituents or to break down the issue when eliciting information from scientists. The training may also dovetail well with ongoing work by the CCC Communications subcommittee to develop a communications training for CCC members to help when speaking with constituents and media engagements. This would provide an opportunity to extend a similar training to other Council members.

Next steps

At this meeting, **the Steering Committee is looking for CCC concurrence with or feedback on the cost estimate and planned location for CMOD 2025, the recommended theme, and the skill session.** With that concurrence, the host Council (NPFMC) will proceed with securing a meeting venue for early 2025, and contracting with facilitators for the meeting.

Once the facilitators have been selected, the Steering Committee will convene with them before the CMOD 2025 event, in order to provide input on scoping and prioritizing the agenda for the meeting. The Committee will report back to the CCC in May and October 2024 with an update and refined agenda.

NEFMC also updated the Committee on the status of a small amount of remaining funds from CMOD 2022, and the Committee agreed that should the CCC concur with the proposed CMOD 2025 theme, these would be best used to support coordination to ensure that results from the SCS8 meeting in 2024 are available for planning CMOD 2025.