

# EEJ Strategy

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COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 11-13, 2023

ARLINGTON, VA

# NOAA Fisheries, Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy

Table 1. NOAA Fisheries’ three overarching goals and six core areas and objectives

<b>NOAA Fisheries’ Equity and Environmental Justice Goals</b>				
<b>Prioritize identification, equitable treatment, and meaningful involvement of underserved communities.</b>	<b>Provide equitable delivery of services.</b>	<b>Prioritize EEJ in our mission work with demonstrable progress.</b>		
<b>Core Areas and Objectives</b>				
<p><b>Empowering Environment:</b></p> <p>Provide the institutional support, including training and resources, needed to implement multiple EEJ approaches at NOAA Fisheries. Internal leadership and management will identify EEJ as priorities and encourage staff to consider EEJ in every aspect of their work.</p>				
<p><b>Policy and Plans:</b></p> <p>Ensure that our policies promote equal opportunities for all and do not create unintended inequities or unequal burdens for underserved communities.</p>	<p><b>Research and Monitoring:</b></p> <p>Identify underserved communities and their needs, conduct collaborative research, and assess impacts of management decisions.</p>	<p><b>Outreach and Engagement:</b></p> <p>Build relationships with underserved communities to better understand their engagement preferences, and improve information sharing with all communities.</p>	<p><b>Benefits:</b></p> <p>Distribute benefits equitably among communities by increasing the access to opportunities for underserved communities.</p>	<p><b>Inclusive Governance:</b></p> <p>Enable the meaningful involvement of underserved communities in decision-making processes.</p>

# Brief History of CCC Approved Steps

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- At its October 2022 meeting, the Council Coordination Committee's (CCC) equity and environmental justice working group (EEJ WG) presented terms of reference to formalize the WG and alternative strategies for the potential use of a workshop to discuss EEJ concerns and questions, brainstorm ideas, identify problems, and develop potential solutions for the CCC to consider.

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- At its May 2023 meeting, NMFS presented its final EEJ strategy following the public comment period in September 2022.
- Based on the final results of the public comment period, it was encouraging to see the outcomes of applying EEJ across the different regions.
- The regional offices are working on their regional implementation plans to include the identification of priorities to address EEJ.

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- Following the development of the regional implementation plans, the CCC EEJ WG requests a national workshop to identify priorities for each region and avenues to support the Councils to achieve those priorities.
- Join efforts may be made with NGOs such as the Environmental Defense Fund(EDF) on their proposed Workshop “Best Practices for Equitable, Just and Climate-Resilient Fisheries” which would engage regional offices, science centers, Councils staff, and SSCs. This will be a virtual workshop proposed for Spring 2024. All paid by EDF.

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- Each region will continue working on the implementation of the EEJ strategy
- At this meeting CCC needs to decide on the next steps regarding the EEJ strategy.

# Objectives presented at the October 2022 meeting re: National Workshop

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## 1. Conceptual model 1: Next Steps for EEJ

- a. Conduct an EEJ workshop with Council members and staff from each region to share information on issues, ideas, and solutions related to EEJ. At this workshop, participants could discuss and develop concrete ideas to implement “1-3 Next Steps” presented in Appendix B. This model and approach would require the CCC to prioritize next steps to be the focal point of the workshop.

## 2. Conceptual model 2: NOAA and Council Collaboration

- a. Conduct a multi-regional and national-level workshop with staff from all Councils and NOAA Fisheries to discuss the role of the Councils as partners for implementing the NOAA Fisheries EEJ Strategy. This model would require that the Councils and NOAA Fisheries staff have the same level of engagement in workshop planning and attendance.

# Action Items

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- Directs the CCC EEJ Working group to develop a National Workshop to discuss goal and priorities that align with the NOAA Fisheries EEJ Strategy and find pathways for potential funding to support the workshop with collaboration of Councils, NOAA, and NGOs (e.g., EDF)