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NOAA Fisheries' Equity and Environmental Justice

**Presentation to Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
November 14, 2023
Katie Zanowicz**

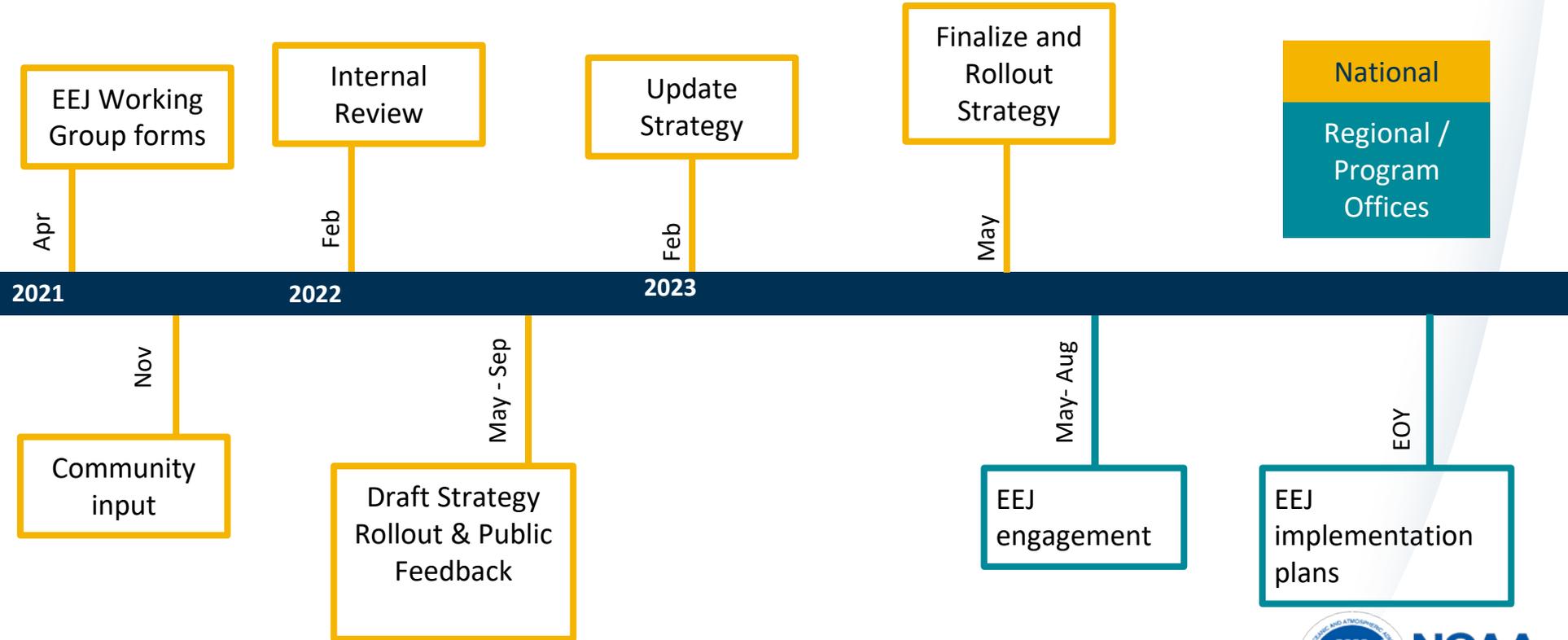
NOAA Fisheries' EEJ Strategy

- National Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy finalized in May 2023!
- EEJ Strategy
 - Guides us to serve all communities more equitably and effectively
 - Reflects input we received as part of an extensive public outreach and engagement process



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Next Steps



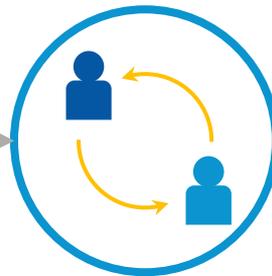
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Happening Now - NOAA Fisheries' Office and Regional Implementation Plans

1. Create an Engagement Plan



2. Engage Partners & Communities



3. Create EEJ Implementation Plan



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EEJ Regional Engagement

Alaska

- Virtual and in-person partner and community meetings



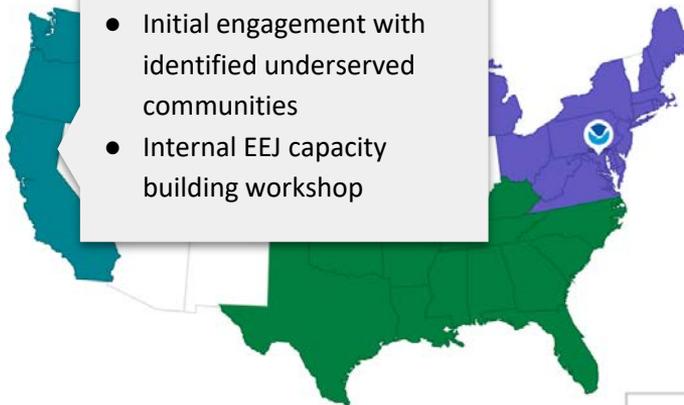
Pacific Islands

- In-person meetings with territorial partners
- 8 internal capacity building workshops



West Coast

- Initial engagement with identified underserved communities
- Internal EEJ capacity building workshop



New England/ Mid-Atlantic

- Ground truthing the identification of underserved communities using CSVI tool
- Working with partners to build lines of communication with communities

Southeast

- 29 focus groups across the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and US Caribbean



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EEJ Program Office Engagement

Sustainable Fisheries

- Engagement through Council meetings and related to Council diversity
- Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP) outreach with MSIs and HBCUs

Protected Resources

- Hire cultural liaisons for protected resources meetings in American Samoa, Saipan, and Guam
- EEJ Survey of federal and national partners

International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce

- Engage with DoC Minority Business Development Agency regarding seafood value chain minority businesses.
- Examine barriers to program participation by underserved communities

Science and Technology

- Support regional social science EEJ research efforts
- Develop strategy for advancing equitable access to student and intern opportunities
- Release Community Environmental Justice Explorer Dashboard



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Thank You!