



June 20, 2023

007120JUN2023

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Via email: janet.coit@noaa.gov

Dear Ms. Coit:

At its May 23-25th, 2023, meeting, the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) received a presentation on an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to determine if updates to the Guidelines for National Standards (NS) 4, 8, and 9 are needed to improve federal fisheries management. The goal of the ANPR is to solicit public input on the current guidelines, including areas/issues that may benefit from further consideration or revisions.

The ANPR focuses on climate-related impacts and promoting Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) in fisheries as it relates specifically to NS 4, 8, and 9. The agency is also considering updating the interpretations of “fishing communities,” as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and as it relates to fair and equitable allocation of marine resources, EEJ, and climate-ready fisheries.

Potential revisions to the National Standards should be discussed and deliberated carefully by each Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC), as any modifications to the guidelines will influence the development and implementation of fishery management measures. Presentations on the ANPR will be offered to each RFMC between June and August 2023; however, the public comment period closes on September 12, 2023. Because this rushed timeline precludes many RFMCs of the opportunity to draft letters for further consideration and deliberation before submittal, the CCC passed the following motion:

Motion: The CCC recommends that NMFS extend the comment deadline on the ANPR for National Standards 4, 8, and 9 Guidelines to October 15.

Motion carried without opposition.

Caribbean

Executive Director: Miguel Rolon
Chair: Marcos Hanke

Gulf of Mexico

Executive Director: Dr. Carrie Simmons
Chair: Greg Stunz

South Atlantic

Executive Director: John Carmichael
Chair: Dr. Carolyn Belcher

Mid Atlantic

Executive Director: Dr. Christopher Moore
Chair: Mike Luisi

New England

Executive Director: Thomas Nies
Chair: Eric Reid

North Pacific

Executive Director: David Witherell
Chair: Simon Kinneen

Pacific

Executive Director: Merrick Burden
Chair: Marc Gorelnik

Western Pacific

Executive Director: Kitty Simonds
Chair: John Gourley

The RFMCs are the primary users of the NS guidelines, each with unique stakeholder needs; therefore, we respectfully request an extension of the deadline for comments on this ANPR. Do not hesitate to reach out to Gulf Council leadership should you have any questions.

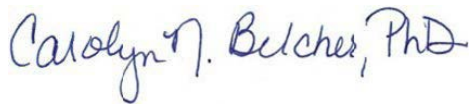
Sincerely,




Mike Luisi, Chair
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Eric Reid, Chair
New England Fishery Management Council



Carolyn Belcher, Ph.D., Chair
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Gregory Stunz, Ph.D., Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



Marcos Hanke, Chair
Caribbean Fishery Management Council



Simon Kinneen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council



Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council



John Gourley, Chair
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council

cc: Mr. Sam Rauch / Ms. Kelly Denit / Ms. Marian McPherson / Thomas Nies / Christopher Moore / John Carmichael / Carrie Simmons / Miguel Rolon / Merrick Burden / Kitty Simonds / David Witherell