

Executive Order: Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth (cont'd)

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Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting—June 18, 2020
Scallop Committee Meeting—June 19, 2020



New England
Fishery Management Council

Follow-up discussion on E.O.

See Doc.4

- E.O. requests regional Councils to identify actions that could “reduce burdens on domestic fishing and increase production within sustainable fisheries...”
- Recommended actions may include: changes to regulations, orders, guidance documents, or other similar agency actions
- Must be consistent with requirements of M-S Act, ESA, MMPA, etc.
- Request that Councils:
 1. Identify potential actions by November 2nd, 2020
 2. Submit proposal for how to initiate actions by May 2nd, 2021

Progress to date

- The AP moved forward the following recommended actions to the CTE at the May 26, 2020 meeting:
 1. Facilitate access to the Northern Edge (HAPC area)
 2. Leasing flexibility program for the LA Scallop fishery
 3. Modify LAGC closure noticing
 4. Pursue electronic (on-line) access area trip exchanges
- The CTE considered a motion on these recommendations, but ultimately postponed discussion until June 19th, 2020 meeting.

Some more guidance

- The Council will have their first discussion on the E.O. at the June meeting—there will be other opportunities to discuss recommended actions before a list needs to be submitted (i.e., September meeting).
- One way to look at this is getting an early start on what we usually do in August through the Council's priority setting process—identifying possible tasks for 2021 that address the E.O.
- The Committee does not need to develop a list for the June Council meeting
- If there are policies or guidance that could be changed, or if there are issues that are outside DOC/NOAA/NMFS but perhaps could be addressed by other agencies, bring them forward. Think big.

Some more guidance (con't)

- No new resources provided for this effort.
- Some E.O. ideas could be Council priorities, and some Council priorities may not address this E.O.
- The Council will discuss ways to address the E.O. next week.
 - One option could be to expedite the normal priorities process so that they are completed before the Council sends the letter to NMFS on the E.O..
 - That might mean a short (3-4 hours) Council webinar in late October to resolve priorities.

Next steps

- The AP's recommendations from the May 26 meeting will be taken back up by the Committee on June 19 (see last slide for tabled motion).
- AP can add to the list today, but this will not be the last opportunity to weigh-in on the E.O.
- Any additional input from the AP will be forwarded to the Committee tomorrow



Questions?

May 28, 2020 CTE motion

Motion 3: Hughes/Godfroy

The Committee recommends that the Council refer the following actions to the Secretary of Commerce for the Department's review in response to Section 4 of the President's Executive Order to "reduce burdens on domestic fishing and increase production within sustainable fisheries..."

1. Facilitate access to the Northern Edge (HAPC area)
2. A leasing flexibility program for the LA Scallop fishery
3. Modify LAGC closure noticing
4. Pursue electronic (on-line) access area trip exchanges

Rationale:

1. Northern Edge has been on the Council's priority list, but has not been made an official work priority.
2. There is additional flexibility needed for the LA component in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Modifying the LAGC closure notice would allow for a quicker notification to LAGC on closures.
4. It can take up to 14 days to exchange access area trips, streamlining this would help the LA fleet.

Motion 4: Hughes/Pappalardo

Move to postpone further discussion on Motion 3 to the next Scallop Committee meeting on June 19th, 2020.

Rationale: It is the intent of the Committee to take this up at its next meeting when more guidance is available.

The motion carried on unanimous consent.