

FISHERIES

Leadership & Sustainability

FORUM

Manager, Scientist and Stakeholder Perspectives

Block 2 – Overall Model, Priorities, Management Actions,
and Public Participation

Terms of reference 2a, 2b, 2c, 2f

Kim Gordon & Katie Latanich
Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum
March 13, 2017

Considerations

- Input was not always provided in the direct context of the Program Review terms of reference
- There are linkages across aspects of the Council process
- Presentations are not comprehensive of the volume, scope and depth of input presented in the summaries
- There are limitations to summarizing a summary
- Please see introduction section of each summary for important considerations

Outline

Manager and scientist input

- Annual priority setting process
- Fishery management plans
- Amendments and frameworks
- Public participation

Stakeholder input

- Elements of a good public decision-making process
- Stakeholder engagement

Manager and Scientist Input Summary

Overview and themes

Annual Priority Setting Process

- Process for setting annual priorities (M/S, 4.1)
- Alignment between priorities and capacity (M/S, 4.2)
 - Changing and adding priorities
 - Addressing mandatory actions
 - Understanding capacity and workload
 - Extending and expanding timelines
 - Responding to stakeholder needs
 - Creating time for planning
- Linkages to priority setting across the Council process
- Prioritization of fisheries and issues (M/S, 4.1)

Fishery Management Plans

- Perspectives on the number and scope of FMPs (M/S, 5.1)
- Overlapping issues (M/S. 5.1.1)
 - Bycatch interactions
 - Crosscutting issues
 - Administrative silos and complexity
- Suggestions (M/S, 5.1.2)
 - Improve efficiency and coordination
 - Simplify management
 - Reorganize FMPs
 - Revise ACL approach

Amendments and Frameworks

- Benefit of different pathways
- Timing considerations (M/S, 5.2.1)
 - ACLs and small changes
 - Large amendments
 - NEPA
- How actions move through the process (M/S, 5.2.2)
 - Overloading actions
 - Focus and commitment
 - Management Alternatives
 - Purpose, goals and objectives
- Agency approval of Council actions (M/S, 5.3)

Participatory Decision Making Process

- Strength: Opportunities for public participation and input
- Challenges (M/S, 7.2)
 - Understanding the Council process
 - Following Council actions
 - Level of public participation
 - Timing of public input
 - Structure of public comment opportunities
- Stakeholder perceptions (M/S, 7.3)
- Council communications (M/S 7.4)

Transparency and compliance with policies

...coming under TOR 3

Stakeholder Input Summary

Overview and themes

Elements of a good public process

TOR 2c: Does the overall model support an inclusive, transparent, and participatory public decision making process?

Earlier: from Section 3: Council Operations

3.1 Council process and perceptions of performance

Continuing: From Section 4: Stakeholder engagement

- 4.1 Strengths and challenges
- 4.2 Participating in the process and providing input
- 4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

Stakeholder Engagement

General points

- Stakeholder engagement reflects: opportunities for input, stakeholders' understanding of the Council process and specific issues, and their desire and ability to participate.
- Stakeholder engagement also depends on feeling heard: influencing outcomes but also feeling that input is acknowledged, valued, and respected.
- Perception that there is often a relationship between level of participation and effectiveness of engagement.

4.1 Strengths and challenges

Some perceived the following strengths to public engagement in the Council process:

- Opportunities and procedures are clear and transparent
- Council members and staff are accessible
- Information and documents are available
- There are many opportunities for input and public comment (meetings as well as public comment)
- Effective Council outreach and correspondence

4.1 Strengths and challenges

Some felt that there are challenges to maintaining stakeholder participation.

- Perception of declining participation overall
- Perception of fewer, less diverse stakeholder voices, and fewer young and new participants
- Concern about loss of institutional knowledge

4.1 Strengths and challenges

Contributors perceived barriers and disincentives to participation, including:

- Outcomes: Lack of progress or positive outcomes
- Representation: Ability to communicate concerns
- Drivers and influences: perception that process lacks transparency, influenced by strong interests, outcomes predetermined
- Information and rationale: Perception that stakeholder input, information, and consequences (e.g. social, economic, environmental) not considered
- Science: Credibility and quality of science perceived as lacking
- Value: Unclear whether Council values stakeholder input

4.1 Strengths and challenges

Contributors perceived other challenges to participating in the Council process, including:

- Complexity: Process is complicated
- Atmosphere: May feel intimidating or unwelcoming
- Commitment and costs: Time, travel, opportunity
- Transparency and accessibility: Influences and inputs not always transparent
- Information gaps: Gaps to staying informed
- Timing and timeliness: Opportunity to review meeting materials and respond between meetings
- Development of issues: Difficulty of tracking over time; potential for surprises

4.2 Participating in the process and providing input

Contributors identified several factors that influence whether and how they choose to provide input.

- Strategic considerations: the goal of providing input, the complexity of input, the target audience, point at which input will be most effective
- Other considerations: importance of the issue, convenience and accessibility of providing input, time constraints and timing, comfort level, sensitivity of the issue, acknowledgement of input

4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

Contributors shared ideas for enhancing and improving stakeholder engagement.

4.3.1 Council communications

4.3.2 Council meetings

4.3.3 Other opportunities for engagement

4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

Contributors shared ideas for enhancing and improving stakeholder engagement.

Themes:

- Meeting people where they are; making information accessible
- Helping stakeholders track the history and progression of issues
- Promoting opportunities for interaction and dialogue
- Reaching new and underrepresented stakeholders
- Recognizing that stakeholders engage and consume information in different ways

4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

4.3.1 Council communications:

General suggestions for information sharing

- Keep it simple.
- Making information digestible.
- Provide context and continuity.
- Emphasize critical information.
- Provide explanation and rationale.
- Provide targeted information by interest.
- Encourage early engagement.
- Utilize a range of communication methods.
- Target organizations, key contacts, and individuals.

4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

4.3.1 Council communications: *Education and information on key topics*

- General council process (e.g. MSA, regulatory process, pathways for Council action, and more)
- Public participation (e.g. opportunities, process, early participation)
- Council membership (e.g. nomination and appointments process, conflict of interest and recusal policies)
- Management history (e.g. key changes over time)
- Roles and responsibilities of Council bodies and other management partners
- Science and management topics (e.g., stock assessments, annual catch limits)

4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

4.3.2 Council meetings: *Public comment*

Contributors expressed strong concern about public comment, including:

- Comfort level
- Acknowledgement by Council
- Limiting comment
- Fairness
- Allowing comment at all meetings

4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

4.3.2 Council meetings: *Meetings and accessibility*

Contributors emphasized the following considerations:

- Meeting location: consider access, timing, and tradeoffs
- Timing: consider turnaround time between meetings
- Remote access: consider webinar access for all meetings
- Timeliness of materials: important for providing comments
- Availability of materials: interest in increased availability of technical/PDT documents

4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

4.3.2 Council meetings: *Meetings and accessibility*

Contributors emphasized the following considerations (continued):

- Use of acronyms: consider limiting or defining
- Use of presentations: valuable to public
- Within and between-meeting correspondence valuable
- Meeting agendas: consider varying order of items
- Limiting communications: consider eliminating use of electronic devices (phones, laptops)

4.3 Ideas and opportunities for improvement

4.3.3 Other opportunities for engagement

- Informal opportunities (workshops, small group or roundtables, social activities)
- Use of liaisons, intermediaries, or other representatives, ranging from communication to representation
- On-the-water engagement
- Email engagement
- Industry engagement in science
- Other partners: Work with other groups to support information-sharing

Questions?

Input summaries are available on the
Council's website (www.nefmc.org)