

2018 Forum: Learning, Evaluation, and Planning
October 15-16, 2018 • Monterey, CA • Monterey Conference Center

Near-Final Agenda (Week of October 1st)

Forum objectives

The purpose of the 2018 Forum is to reflect on opportunities for incorporating learning, evaluation, and planning into the regional fishery management council process. Specifically, participants will:

- Share examples of regional approaches for setting priorities, engaging in short-term planning, and managing the workloads of council members and staff;
 - Examine the role of goals, objectives, and long-term planning in the council process, and consider opportunities for evaluation and reflection;
 - Discuss the value of ongoing learning within the council process and identify opportunities to support the professional and leadership development of council members and staff; and
 - Consider opportunities to continue learning, sharing experience, and strengthening connections within the federal fisheries management community, following the conclusion of the Fisheries Forum program.
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Sunday, October 14th

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Welcome reception (light dinner)

Turn 12, 400 Tyler Street

Walk from Hotel Pacific (directions provided). This is casual! Late arrivals are encouraged to attend.

Monday, October 15th

All Forum sessions will be held at the Monterey Conference Center, One Portola Plaza (directions provided).

7:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast

Meeting room: Steinbeck 1a and 1b

8:30 – 9:00 am

Opening remarks and introductions

9:00 – 10:45 am

Short-term planning: Getting it all done

Objective: Share regional approaches for setting priorities, managing tradeoffs, engaging in short-term workload planning, and using council and staff time efficiently.

Regional roundtable: Setting council priorities

- New England – Tom Nies, Executive Director, NEFMC
- Mid-Atlantic – Warren Elliott, Vice Chair, MAFMC
- South Atlantic – Brian Chevront, Deputy Director, SAFMC
- Caribbean – Vanessa Ramirez, Appointed Council Member, CFMC
- Gulf of Mexico – Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, GMFMC
- Pacific – Michele Culver, Washington Dept. Fish and Wildlife, PFMC
- North Pacific – Diana Evans, Deputy Director, NPFMC

Discussion

- What strategies or tools does your council use to establish and communicate priorities, and to support short-term workload planning?
- How do you manage tradeoffs (e.g., among FMPs and stakeholder groups) when allocating your council’s limited bandwidth to address priorities?
- Share an example of a time when your council’s short-term planning did not go as expected (e.g., due to an unexpected delay, a change in the scope of an action, an unanticipated issue, etc.). How did your council adjust?

10:45 – 11:00 am

Break

11:00 – 12:00 pm

Goals and objectives: Setting the guideposts

Objective: Consider the role of goals and objectives in the council process, and the approaches councils use to articulate high-level guidance and support decision making.

Discussion

- Where do goals, objectives, and other forms of guidance “live” in your council process? In what format? (e.g., FMP goals and objectives, purpose and need statements, strategic plans, council policy statements.)
- What are the benefits of articulating clear goals and objectives? What are the challenges?

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch

Stevenson Terrace

1:00 – 3:15 pm

Evaluation: Stepping back and taking stock

Objective: Explore regional examples of evaluation within the council process, and the role of evaluation and reflection in supporting the performance of council programs and operations.

Part 1: Regional examples

- New England Fishery Management Council Program Review – Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council
- Pacific Fishery Management Council 5 Year Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program Review – Jim Seger, Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management Council

Part 2: Breakout discussion: Informal evaluation

Discussion

- What are examples of formal evaluation processes and initiatives in your region? What informal opportunities exist for evaluation and reflection in the council process, including “built in” or recurring processes (e.g., setting annual catch limits, reviewing ecosystem information)?
- What findings and next steps resulted from these evaluation opportunities? How did your council respond?
- What role do goals and objectives play in supporting evaluation within your council’s process?

3:15 – 3:30 pm

Break

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Learning, mentorship and leadership

Objective: Share regional and individual experiences learning the council process, and identify opportunities to support ongoing learning, mentorship, and leadership development.

Regional roundtable discussion

Discussion

- What resources does your council provide to incoming council members and staff? (E.g., office visits, meet and greets, documents.)
- What experiences and resources did you personally find most valuable for overcoming the learning curve and participating effectively in your council role? Are there times when you experienced or provided peer mentorship?
- How can the council community foster leadership development? What opportunities exist for council members to develop their leadership skills?

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Dinner

Montrio, 414 Calle Principal. Walking directions provided.

Tuesday, October 16th

7:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast

Meeting room: Steinbeck 1a and 1b

8:30 – 8:45 am

Day 1 recap and Day 2 introduction

8:45 – 10:00 am

Long-term planning: Looking ahead

Objective: Share examples of approaches councils have taken to articulate values and aspirations, establish long-term goals, and support their implementation.

Regional examples (proposed)

- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Snapper Grouper Vision Blueprint – Michelle Duval, Former Designee, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and Former Chair, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Visioning and Strategic Plan – Warren Elliott, Vice Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Discussion

- What are the reasons for engaging in long-term planning? What are the advantages, and what are the challenges and limitations?
- How does long-term planning relate to Day 1 discussions about 1) short-term planning and prioritization, 2) goals and objectives, and 3) evaluation and reflection?

10:00 – 10:15 am

Break

10:15 – 12:00 pm

Institutional knowledge: How did we get here?

Objective: Reflect on the role of council history and institutional knowledge in supporting an effective council process, and strategies for capturing and sharing this knowledge.

Regional roundtable: Mapping council trajectories

Discussion

- What do you consider the formative experiences and phases of your council's history? (e.g., in terms of shaping your council's process and culture, major initiatives and actions, turning points, MSA reauthorization, etc.)
- What makes this history valuable? How has your council used lessons and insight from previous decisions?
- How does your council capture institutional knowledge in formal or informal ways? What are the opportunities and the challenges?

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 – 2:45 pm

Preparing for emerging challenges

Objective: Consider the emerging issues that may influence your council's process and priorities over the coming decade and discuss approaches for anticipating and preparing for those challenges.

Discussion

- What are the challenges, issues, and big ideas you foresee shaping your council's next 5 to 10 years? Which challenges are shared across regional fishery management councils, and which are unique to your region?
- How can councils begin laying the groundwork to anticipate and respond? Does addressing a new generation of challenges require new approaches or tools?

2:45 – 3:00 pm

Break

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Fisheries Forum reflections: Council networks and learning

Objective: Reflect on the ten years of the Fisheries Forum’s work, and identify opportunities for councils to continue learning, sharing experience, and building connections within the federal fisheries management community.

Discussion

- What issues and topics are valuable to discuss across council regions?
- How can councils support ongoing learning and networks of practice within the federal fisheries management community?

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Dinner

Scales, 30 Fisherman’s Wharf #1. Walking directions provided.

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