

Council Motion

B reports: Executive Order 14276 Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness Response October 2, 2025

The Secretary of Commerce requested each regional fishery management council provide recommendations, a workplan, and timelines pursuant to Section 4(a)(i) of EO 14276 to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and increase U.S. production via regulations under the Council's purview. A completed response from the North Pacific is due October 3. The Council reaffirms its June motion in response, including the actions currently under development by the Council and currently in the rulemaking process, and provides the following additional direction to complete the response and workplan. The response should also include explicit support and need for core marine surveys in the North Pacific, survey modernization, fisheries dependent data collection and monitoring, and NOAA staff to support agency functions.

1. Use Secretarial Authority. Include in the workplan an omnibus package on recordkeeping and reporting, monitoring, and correcting and streamlining of regulations developed and implemented by NMFS acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce under Magnuson Stevens Act 305(d) authority. These actions are listed in Table 3, Section 5.1 of the discussion paper and should include the following additions if possible: 1) the item to remove unnecessary reporting requirements for active/inactive periods for CPs should include removing requirements for CVs to submit the daily fishing logbook during periods of fishing inactivity or closed seasons, and 2) clarify or correct regulations to reflect past guidance for PSC disposal at meal plants.
2. Include in the workplan the following actions which need to go through the Council, initiated in staff tasking per the normal process:
 - a) An omnibus recording keeping package to include:
 - Reduce regulatory burden on vessels that catch small amounts of groundfish (described in Section 5.2.1 of the NMFS discussion paper)
 - Remove weekly production reports (described in Section 5.2.2)
 - Remove shortraker/rougheye species group (described in Section 5.2.3)
 - Add a framework mechanism in the FMPs to establish when NMFS should use the MSA Section 305(d) authority to take future actions (described in Section 6.1)
 - Housekeeping changes to remove obsolete or duplicative FMP language or to simplify the FMP so that modernization in recordkeeping and reporting could more easily occur under MSA Section 305(d) authority in future
 - b) Evaluation of removing the 2% IFQ deduction for sablefish delivered as "bled"
 - c) Evaluation of Lead Level 2 observer certification changes
 - d) Evaluation of changes in Bering Sea herring PSC management
3. Process Improvements
 - Streamline and condense the catch share program reviews required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act

- Remove NMFS Policy 01-119 specifying the need for regular allocation reviews
- Evaluate options for changing the timeline for approving charter management measures to reduce burden on the charter halibut sector via a pending discussion paper
- Eliminate the OMB requirement to sequester North Pacific observer fees, as these are industry paid fees to fund monitoring and not Congressional appropriations