

Sustainable Fisheries Committee: Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab E

Agenda Item IV: Rice's Whale Critical Habitat Proposed Rule

Timeline Status: Presentation and Feedback

Council input and next steps: SERO staff will present an overview of the proposed rule to designate critical habitat for Rice's whale. The presentation will provide background information on the distribution of Rice's whale and discuss the proposed critical habitat area, the timeline for critical habitat designation, and next steps. The Committee should review the information presented, ask questions as needed, and determine if they want to provide a letter with comments on the critical habitat proposed rule.

Agenda Item V: SSC Recommendations on Discussion on MRIP Cumulative Estimate Reporting

Timeline Status: Presentation and Feedback

Council input and next steps: Dr. Jim Nance (Scientific and Statistical Committee [SSC]) will present the SSC's discussions regarding the Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) transition to cumulative and fishing year reporting, which is currently implemented and able to be queried on the NOAA Office of Science and Technology (OST) website. This approach is intended to aggregate recreational landings data for all waves in a 12-month period, thereby increasing the available sample size for the 12-month time period presented. Further, MRIP will describe the proportional standard error (PSE) for each 12-month period, and will notate whether it does or does not recommend use of those data for that species/area/year based on the PSE. Wave-specific recreational landings data may still be requested from NOAA OST, but will no longer be immediately publicly available. The Committee should consider the information presented and make any recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item VI: SSC Recommendations on Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Reference Points and Status Determinations

Timeline Status: Presentation and Discussion

Council input and next steps: Dr. Nance will summarize the SSC's discussions on updated technical guidance from NOAA Headquarters for National Standard 1 on reference points and stock status determinations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. There has been substantial research over the last 25 years on the scientific basis for reference points and their expected performance in the management of sustainable fisheries, and substantial experience gained from 25 years of stock monitoring and stock assessment implementation. Research includes: methods regarding management strategy evaluation;

evolution of integrated analysis assessment methods; development of methods to provide advice for data-limited stocks; development of additional ecosystem-based fishery management tools; and, investigation of changes in productivity due to regime shifts and climate change. Dr. Nance will review some of the approaches recommended by NOAA Headquarters, and pros/cons of alternatives where definitive advice is not feasible. The Committee should consider the information presented and make any recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item VII: SSC Recommendations on the Evaluation of Interim Analysis Process

Timeline Status: Presentation and Discussion

Council input and next steps: Dr. Nance will review SSC discussions about the interim analysis (IA) process. The SSC began this discussion in May 2023; for this iteration, the SEFSC provided direct recommendations for consideration by the SSC. The Committee should consider the information presented and make any recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item VIII: Presentation on Allocation Reviews

Timeline Status: Presentation and Discussion

Council input and next steps: Council staff will present an update on allocation reviews and reallocation amendments in the Gulf of Mexico. The presentation will discuss review timelines, reallocation decisions made by the Council, and upcoming reallocation actions. The interdependence between the various red snapper allocations in the Gulf will also be discussed. The Committee is expected to review the information presented, ask questions, make suggestions, and recommend next steps as needed.

Agenda Item IX: Draft Letter on NOAA Fisheries Request for Comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for National Standards 4, 8, and 9 Guidelines

Timeline Status: Discussion and Feedback

Council input and next steps: The Committee will review a draft letter prepared in response to the Advance 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 is to provide input on the current guidelines, including areas/issues that may benefit from further consideration and/or revisions, as appropriate. NS 4 states that allocations shall be fair and equitable; promote conservation; and not result in excessive shares. NS 8 states that proposed regulations should consider impacts to communities; provide for sustained participation; and, minimize adverse economic impacts, to the extent practicable. NS 9 states that proposed regulations should minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality, to the extent practicable. Specifically, NMFS is requesting climate and equity and environmental justice-

related input relating to NS 4, 8, and 9. NMFS also requests comments on options for minimizing bycatch under the NS 9 practicability standard; and on revisions to the guidelines that would incentivize reducing waste. The public comment period closes on September 12, 2023. The Committee should provide input on the draft letter and if appropriate, recommend approval of the letter by the Council.

Agenda Item VI: Other Business

Timeline Status: Potential Additional items

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by the Committee, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.
