

Overview of Executive Orders pertaining to the Council and Proposed Approach to Gather Input



Overview Executive Orders

- 14276: “Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness”
- 14192: “Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation”
- Proposed Approach to Gather Input



Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

- May 6, 2025: Eugenio Pineiro-Soler (NOAA AA) requested:**
- Updated prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries by September 1, 2025.**

Section 4(a)(i) of EO 14276 includes the following specific language pertaining to the Regional Fishery Management Councils:

(i) The Secretary of Commerce shall request that each Regional Fishery Management Council, within 180 days of the date of this order, provide the Secretary of Commerce with updates to their recommendations submitted pursuant to Executive Order 13921, to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production. Building upon the earlier goals, identified actions should stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures. The Regional Fishery Management Councils will commit to a work plan and a schedule for implementation to ensure these actions are prioritized.

Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

- At the CCC meeting this EO was described as a top priority.
- Top component of the EO is the mandate to suspend, revise, or rescind regulations that unduly burden the commercial fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing sectors. Agencies are tasked with identifying the most overregulated fisheries, particularly those experiencing significant declines in landings or revenue.
- Councils have been asked to update the deregulatory recommendations they previously submitted under a similar process during the last administration. These updates should include specific actions that stabilize markets, improve access, enhance profitability, and prevent fishery closures. Additionally, Councils are expected to provide a work plan and implementation schedule for these actions.

Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation

- For each new regulation issued, at least 10 prior regulations be identified for elimination. This practice is to ensure that the cost of planned regulations is responsibly managed and controlled through a rigorous regulatory budgeting process.
- For fiscal year 2025, which is in progress, the heads of all agencies are directed to ensure that the total incremental cost of all new regulations, including repealed regulations, being finalized this year, shall be significantly less than zero, as determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (Director), unless otherwise required by law or instructions from the Director.
- The EO requires that agency actions have a neutral or negative regulatory budget, meaning the overall cost burden of regulations must decrease annually.

Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation

At the CCC meeting this EO was explained as:

- Majority of Council actions are considered deregulatory or are classified as "routine fishery management measures" – such as annual specifications – which are exempt from the 10-for-1 requirements. Discretionary regulatory actions are subject to evaluation to determine whether they are regulatory or deregulatory. DOC will compile a list of such actions each fall to assess overall compliance with the deregulatory targets.
- While statutory or court-mandated regulatory actions, such as ending overfishing or responding to ESA listings, should still be pursued, they may need to be offset by deregulatory actions elsewhere.
- Agencies have been instructed to strictly adhere to statutory mandates and avoid creating new regulatory burdens. Given limited agency resources, any discretionary regulatory proposals will require prioritization and careful evaluation.

Other EOs

Other EOs Not Specific to Fisheries But Might Be Considered:

- Restoring Gold Standard Science: to ensure that federally funded research is transparent, rigorous, and impactful, and that Federal decisions are informed by the most credible, reliable, and impartial scientific evidence available. Reproducibility, rigor, and unbiased peer review must be maintained.
- The President has also directed agencies to pursue actions that help lower the cost of living for U.S. citizens. In the fisheries context, efforts to reduce the cost of harvesting fish are a direct way to contribute to this objective.
- Additionally, agencies are expected to avoid or minimize anti-competitive practices, such as regulatory barriers to entry, in line with broader economic fairness goals.

Proposed Approach to Gather Input

Convene half day webinar meetings of the following advisory panels:

- Ad Hoc Red Snapper/Grouper Tilefish IFQ
- Coastal Migratory Species
- Red Drum
- Reef Fish
- Shrimp
- Spiny Lobster

Public Input

- Hold an evening webinar to gather public input
- Solicit public comments via online comment form

Next Steps

- Council staff will summarize feedback and organize for the Council to consider prioritizing during its August 25-28th 2025 meeting. At full Council, a final prioritized list should be considered to meet the September 1, 2025, deadline.
- Council staff will need to work with Southeast Regional Office staff and Council leadership to establish a work plan that is outlined in the EO as follows: “The Regional Fishery Management Councils will commit to a work plan and a schedule for implementation to ensure these actions are prioritized.”