

DRAFT MAY 8
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Council Coordination Committee's (CCC) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report Subcommittee met with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) representatives on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 4 p.m. CCC members present included:

WPFMC: Kitty Simons and Arnold Palacios

NEFMC: Rip Cunningham, Terry Stockwell, and Tom Nies

MAFMC: Rick Robins, Chris Moore, and Lee Anderson

NPFMC: Eric Olson and David Witherell

GFMC: Doug Boyd and Steve Bortone

CFMC: Carlos Farchette and Geño Piñeiro-Soler

PFMC: Dorothy Lowman and Chuck Tracy

NMFS Staff included Emily Menashes, Alan Reisenhover, and John Bullard

Dorothy Lowman facilitated the meeting.

NMFS provided a briefing on their Action Plan (Attachment 2). They indicated that the Actions addressing Recommendations 1-3 in the OIG Report on financial disclosure forms and process were closely related and could be handled as a unit. Their Action Plan for Recommendation 5 on Regional Operating Agreements (ROA) was primarily a matter of documenting existing procedures as currently implemented by each Council, as opposed to an attempt to standardize ROA across Councils, at least initially. They also indicated that the Action Plan for Recommendation 6 on record handling was under way and mostly complete. They indicated that the Action Plan for Recommendation 4 on revising Operational Guidelines (OG) would be a more involved process that would require close coordination with the CCC.

Regarding OIG Recommendations 1-3, the Subcommittee consensus was that the current financial disclosure forms were difficult to interpret and needed revision. There was a suggestion for creating a living electronic form that could be viewed on-line but only updated by the Council member through a secure connection. There were also suggestions for better instructions and training, including periodic review for all Council members. There was some discussion of what constituted an appropriate review of the forms, for example, making sure all the entries made versus verifying the accuracy of the information provided through some method. NMFS indicated that General Counsel was investigating those issues.

Regarding OIG Recommendation 4, there was general support for a cooperative process to revise OG with an emphasis on developing a schedule that allows for effective CCC input throughout the revision process. Two Councils indicated their preference for the 1997 OG over the 2005 draft OG.

Regarding OIG Recommendation 6, there was a perception that information was sometimes conflicting, and support for additional training on records handling. There was a suggestion that the current policy materials distributed recently needed to be distilled to a more concise product.

The OIG Subcommittee recommends that the CCC divide the OIG Subcommittee into two separate subcommittees: one focusing on Recommendations 1-3 from the IOG Report dealing with financial disclosures, and a second dealing with Recommendations 3-6 on OG, ROA, and records handling. CCC Chair Wolford should appoint chairs for each respective subcommittee and then work with each chair to populate that subcommittee as quickly as possible. The OIG Subcommittee discussed the need to have appointed Council members on the first subcommittee and executive directors on the second. Each subcommittee would then work with our NMFS partners in developing the timelines and work products. It should be noted that the NMFS action plan calls for recommendations 1-3 to be implemented between December 31, 2013 and February 1, 2014; before the next scheduled CCC meeting. Recommendations 5 and 6 are scheduled for implementation prior to December 31, 2013, whereas Recommendation 4 will require a longer process, with interim steps planned around the 2014 and 2015 CCC meetings and final implementation by September 30, 2015.

PFMC
05/08/13