

SUMMARY
December 21, 2015
Regional Environmental Conditions & Impacts Coordination

Roll Call:

Name	Affiliation
Amanda Sheffiled	California Nevada Applications Program (CNAP)
Jim Milbury	NMFS West Coast Regional Office
Kristen Koch	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Lisa Crozier	NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Michael Milstein	NMFS West Coast Regional Office
Michelle Stokes	NWS Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Mike Anderson	CA State Climatologist
Roger Pierce	NWS Weather Forecast Office, San Diego
Timi Vann	NOAA Regional Coordinator
Valerie Were	NOAA PPI
Barry Thom	NMFS West Coast Regional Office
Chris Harvey	NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Crescent Moegling	NOS Office of Coast Survey
Dan Cayan	California Nevada Applications Program (CNAP)
Dave DuBois	NM State Climatologist
Jan Newton	Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems
John Stein	NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Kevin Werner	NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information
Ruth Howell	NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Toby Garfield	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Timi Vann welcomed attendees to the meeting and conducted roll call. Timi reported that Kevin Werner accepted a leadership position at NWS Headquarters, and she thanked him for his leadership on the project. Timi welcomed Dr. Dan McEvoy to the project as the new lead for climate, and she also welcomed Michael Milstein to the project as the lead for communications.

Environmental Conditions and Impacts Discussion: Dan briefed the group on the current status of regional climate conditions. Dan noted some unusual aspects of this ENSO event relative to the other strong events particularly with regard to different perspectives of ocean and atmospheric phenomena. Dan discussed variability across 6 significant events. He noted that some in the science community think we may have already seen the peak of this ENSO event. Toby Garfield commented that it was important for comparison to also look at where we were last year. The Northeast Pacific is significantly warmer than last year, so there are still remnants of “The blob”. Ruth Howell noted that the Harmful Algal Bloom closed Dungeness crab fisheries along the coast due to domoic acid poisoning. This is the most lucrative fishery in Washington and Oregon and the second most lucrative in California. It was noted that there is some good news on Sacramento Chinook as the counts are up and now 30% of normal. Although there were reports of some species displacement along the coast, NOAA Fisheries staff noted that they are not seeing typical El Niño zooplankton species, which is unusual.

Communications Discussion: Michael Milstein provided an overview of the intent behind the communications, and some early thoughts on what this might look like. Nina Oakly asked Michael if he was familiar with the regional quarterly outlook and impacts report, and how this product would be

different. This product is envisioned to drill down into the human interest and NOAA mission impacts and to tell a story about that. The frequency would ideally be about once per month and last through the duration of the project period (April time frame). Timi noted she would arrange a time to talk with Nina to discuss details. Chris Harvey will be at the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in March, and would like to have a copy of any communications information or reports, particularly as they may pertain to Pacific Fisheries Management Council resources and managed species. The deadline for this is January.

Lisa Crozier noted the response time between atmospheric conditions and biological effects. The timing of what is being reported is interesting. In terms of our ability of communicate what is happening, we would ideally be able to improve upon this with better (more timely) data returns. Perhaps this project could be used as part of a case study in this regard. It is hard to capture (and associate) impacts given the timing of data return lines and systems, particularly for the marine environment/ecosystem.

Jan Newton highlighted the Pacific Anomalies workshop January 20-21. There will be a short report out on "The Blob" and ENSO ocean connections, and ecosystem ramifications.