FHC Meeting Summary

Date: August 12, 2025

Location: Online Meeting

Agenda

1. **Recap of Engagement on Eligibility**
2. **Meeting Purpose, Goals, and Guidelines**
3. **Draft Guiding Principles to Regional Design**
4. **Discussion on Eligibility Components**
5. **Review of Upcoming Engagement Schedule**

Actions

- RFA to schedule next FHC meeting for the Fall
- RFA to circulate BOEM guidance on shoreside businesses

Participants

Recreational/For-Hire Fishing	States	Developers	Ex-Officio	Project Team
Rom Whitaker	Joe Cimino	Ron Larsen	Doug Christel	Kris Ohleth
Rick Bellavance	Renee Zobel	Brian Krevor	Ursula Howson	Orran Brown, Jr.
Bob Rush			Brian Hooker	Justin Wind
				Joli Millner
				Charlotte Goeb

1. **Introduction**

   The meeting began with brief reintroductions by the FHC members and alternates present, followed by a brief overview of the agenda by the RFA. The attendees were notified of recent engagement which centered around claimant eligibility and preliminary loss eligibility discussions, and upcoming engagement in the Fall. The RFA reviewed the meeting's goals and purpose for sharing feedback and gauging consensus across caucuses on specific design components.

2. **Draft Guiding Principles to Regional Design**

   After introductions, the FHC provided feedback on the Draft Guiding Principles for Regional Design presented by the RFA. One fishing representative opined that the principles were reflective of his intentions for the program, particularly with the attention to decreasing burden on both the claimant and administrator. Several fishing representatives discussed the 90-10 rule, where the program is designed with 90% of circumstances in mind but allows for flexibility to handle the outlying 10%. In response to the 90-10 rule, fishing representatives pointed to the importance of being mindful of the diversity of fisheries; contemplating the role of an appeals process for the outlying 10%; and considering how full-time and part-time fisheries may factor.

3. **Eligibility Components**

To gauge consensus with the FHC, the RFA presented current eligibility positions and discussion questions where consensus has not yet been reached.

A. Fishing Area History
   - *The cross-caucus consensus is that a meaningful history of fishing in the affected area should be required for eligibility.* One fishing representative suggested the importance of defining the "affected area."
   - *When should the lookback period start?* A fishing representative expressed leaning towards the COP or the ROD as the start, whereas a developer representative expressed support for the COP as the start.
   - *How far should the lookback period be?* Fishing representatives expressed support for a longer lookback period to account for migratory species.
   - *How many trips per year should a fisherman have to fish in the area to be eligible?* A fishing representative suggested that eligibility should be based on proven income from the affected area.
   - *How should business/vessel transfers be addressed?* Fishing representatives suggested that fishing history should not transfer.

B. Data Hierarchy
   - *The suggested cross-caucus consensus is that VMS/AIS is preferred, followed by VTR and verified/time-stamped plotter records.* The fishing caucus explained that VTR is more appropriate than VMS and AIS for recreational fisheries.

C. Crew Compensation
   - *The suggested cross-caucus consensus is that direct crew claims are too administratively burdensome in a regional program.* One fishing representative expressed concern about owners disbursing crew compensation, while another fishing representative suggested that having crew compensation be derivative of vessel owner compensation would be a simpler process.

D. Shoreside Businesses
   - *Should for-hire/recreational shoreside businesses be included in direct compensation? The current BOEM guidance does not recommend compensation for for-hire/recreational shoreside support businesses.* One fishing representative suggested that there should be direct compensation for for-hire/recreational shoreside businesses. Another fishing representative pointed out that several existing programs support for-hire/recreational shoreside businesses through resiliency funds or other community programs.

4. **Upcoming Engagement Schedule**

The RFA closed the meeting with a preview of the engagement schedule for the Fall. This engagement will be focused on loss eligibility and valuation, including considerations of proof and causation thresholds.