

SUMMARY
August 24, 2015
Regional Environmental Conditions & Impacts Coordination

Roll Call:

| Name | Affiliation |
|--------------------|---|
| Alicia Marrs | OAR ESRL Physical Sciences Division |
| Bill Peterson | NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center |
| Claudia Nierenberg | OAR Climate Program Office |
| Crescent Moegling | NOS Office of Coast Survey |
| Dave DuBois | NM State Climatologist |
| Derek Arndt | NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information |
| Doug Kluck | NESDIS NCEI |
| Jake Crouch | NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information |
| John Ewald | NOAA Communications |
| Julie Thomas | Southern California Coast Ocean Observing System |
| Karin Bumbaco | JISAO/Assistant WA State Climatologist |
| Kathleen Bogan | OAR ESRL Physical Sciences Division |
| Kevin Werner | NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information |
| Kristen Koch | NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center |
| Mark Strom | NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center |
| Michelle Stokes | NWS Colorado Basin River Forecast Center |
| Nate Mantua | NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center |
| Nick Bond | WA State Climatologist |
| Patrick Rutten | NMFS Restoration Center |
| Rebecca Smyth | NOS Office for Coastal Management |
| Richard Lataitis | OAR ESRL Physical Sciences Division |
| Roger Pierce | NWS Weather Forecast Office, San Diego |
| Roger Pulwarty | OAR Climate Program Office |
| Tim Brown | Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) |
| Timi Vann | NOAA Regional Coordinator |
| Toby Garfield | NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center |

Summary: Kevin Werner welcomed attendees to the meeting and conducted roll call. He explained the purpose and goals of the call and walked through the [presentation](#) with Timi Vann providing an example of collected regional impacts. Kevin noted that regional NWS representatives were not able to join; there are a record 40 incident meteorologists (IMET) deployed to assist with the regional wildfire crisis.

Questions:

- Nick Bond asked if the regional impacts spreadsheet was for internal use only, or if it was intended to be more publicly available. Kevin responded that it is primarily for this group's internal use to help us organize our calls and help inform our seasonal wrap-up. Nick commented that this impacts spreadsheet could be of public interest, but that if it were publicly available then we would have a duty to keep it current and there are time considerations to that. Kevin agreed, and noted that we do not want this coordination effort to be cumbersome.

- Nate Mantua asked about the plan for doing the seasonal summary – specifically, who will do this, and how often will it be done?
- John Ewald asked a related question about monthly summaries – specifically if the regional summaries would be based on the NCEI monthly summaries with updates from the spreadsheet. He also asked about timing required to feed the NCEI monthly summary. Kevin responded that some impacts would come from the spreadsheet but that it was not likely that everything would go into the NCEI monthly summary update. The timing is to develop the communications the last week of the month in order to feed the NCEI State of the Climate.
- Becky Smyth asked if, as this ENSO develops, this coordination group will collect and discuss response coordination. That is, how we should or might need to coordinate responses to our regional constituents to help them address and mitigate impacts. Kevin responded that although the primary purpose is to document impacts, that this forum could be helpful in terms of regional response. It could be useful to see the alignment of environmental conditions, human system or NOAA mission impacts, and then the third dimension of where we receive specific requests for support or help in response to a particular impact.
- Bill Peterson noted that we've seen warm SST for over a year, so we can't necessarily claim that impacts are from the ENSO. When ENSO arrives, how will we know impacts are associated with it relative to other phenomenon? Nick Bond noted that we can't separate specific attributes. Kevin clarified that these calls aren't intended to ascertain causation. We are noting two things: current conditions, and current reported impacts. It is up to the research community to associate impacts with specific phenomena.
- Doug Kluck suggested this group communicate anticipated impacts. These are the things that we expect to have happen, and whether or not they did happen. He also noted that some impacts won't be known until later next year and beyond.
- Pat Rutten reported that the CA Governor's Office was furious over the "Godzilla" El Niño news coverage that came out from NASA last week and noted that there is discussion about messaging how ENSO does not mean an end to drought. This will be a growing communications issue, particularly for California.
- John Ewald identified a simple format for the monthly summary targeting in region elected officials: Short and digestible summaries of changes over the last month. Include a status of the ENSO and "The Blob" – including how long these are predicted to persist; significant environmental changes from last summary; and identification of new issues and impacts.
- Roger Pulwarty suggested that as the ENSO evolves, it would be helpful to keep track of similarities and differences from the 1983 and 1998 events since these are often considered analogs for significant ENSO events.
- Karin Bumbaco asked if there were criteria for including or excluding impacts information on the spreadsheet. Kevin said there was not, that this is informal and that it is fine to use your best judgment.
- Deke Arndt said he would value field input on regional impacts. He also hoped to provide regional support to address situations from a HQ perspective – that is, a two way dialog whereby summary information is fed to the State of the Climate, and regionally relevant tools and data are identified to address impacts.