

NOMECEC FY21 Progress

FY21 marked the start of the NOMECEC Council efforts to implement the NOMECEC Strategy. Below are highlights of these efforts.

1. Published Requests for Input (RFI) for NOMECEC Implementation Plan and NOMECEC Strategic Priorities (October 2020)

Two RFIs were published on October 13, 2020 to seek input on the [NOMECEC Implementation Plan](#) and the [Strategic Exploration Priorities for the Implementation Plan](#)

2. Hosted NOMECEC Public Listening Sessions (November 2020)

Two virtual public listening sessions were hosted on November 16 and 18 to introduce the NOMECEC Strategy and gather public input through facilitated discussions in breakout rooms.

3. Released the NOMECEC Implementation Plan (January 2021)

The Implementation Plan for the NOMECEC Strategy was [released](#) January 5, 2021, detailing the steps that agencies will take to fully map the deep waters of the U.S. EEZ by 2030 and the coastal U.S. waters by 2040, explore and characterize priority areas, support technological innovation, and promote increased collaboration with ocean stakeholders and the public.

4. Created the NOMECEC Council Security Group (January 2021)

The NOMECEC Council established the NOMECEC Council Security Group as part of the NOMECEC Implementation Plan to ensure effective coordination of mapping, exploration, and characterization activities with members of the national security and intelligence communities.

5. Hosted NOMECEC Tribal Listening Session (January 2021)

The Tribal Listening Session, offered through the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management, solicited input from federally recognized Tribal representatives regarding NOMECEC and the Implementation Plan. Following the Listening Session, a summary of the session, including themes and recommendations, was developed and shared with the Tribal representatives on April, 2021.

6. Published NOMECEC Two-Pager Factsheet (March 2021)

The NOMECEC Council developed a factsheet to provide an overview of the NOMECEC Strategy and synergies with other domestic and international efforts.

7. Published NOMECEC Article in ECO Magazine Special Issue on the UN Ocean Decade (May 2021)

The NOMECEC Council published an [article](#) on the NOMECEC Strategy and its connections to the UN Ocean Decade and other international efforts. The article was featured in ECO Magazine's Special Issue, reaching a wide international audience.

8. Developed NOMECEC Project Agency Guidelines (June 2021)

The NOMECEC Council developed an internal document outlining what constitutes a NOMECEC project and the review and communication requirements associated with NOMECEC projects.

9. Surveyed Agencies on NOMECEC Projects and Activities (Summer 2021)

The NOMECEC Council distributed a tasker to all Council member agencies to compile information on relevant agency projects, activities, data repositories, funding, and engagement germane to the NOMECEC mission.

10. Hosted UN Ocean Decade Webinar on the NOMECEC Strategy (September 2021)

The NOMECEC Council hosted a "Satellite Activity" [webinar](#) under the UN Ocean Decade "Predicted Ocean Laboratory" event on September 15, 2021. Guest speakers included Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John F. Kerry, Deputy Director for Climate and the Environment Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Seabed 2030 representative Dr. Vicki Ferrini, and the NOMECEC Council Co-Chairs and Executive Director.

11. Presented at the Deep Sea Biology Symposium (September 2021)

Mark Mueller, Interagency Working Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization Co-Chair, presented on behalf of the NOMECEC Council on the NOMECEC Strategy at this international conference on deep sea biology to engage international cross-sectoral stakeholders.

12. Conducting NOMECEC Blake Plateau Pilot Project (Ongoing)

Interagency mapping, exploration, and characterization work is ongoing in the Blake Plateau region of the U.S. EEZ.

13. Working with Science and Technology Policy Institute on Science & Technology Needs Report (Ongoing)

The NOMECEC Council is working with STPI to produce a report on S&T needs, priorities, and recommendations.