

2017 REPORT TO CONGRESS

ON THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND
RECUSAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS
AND

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEES

AND

ON APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP
FOR REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 302(b)(2)(B) AND SECTION 302(j)(9) OF THE
MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

PREPARED BY:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE



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A. BACKGROUND

This report combines the reporting requirements of Section 302(b)(2)(B) and Section 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) into a comprehensive source on the activities of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and their Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs). Previous versions of these reports were filed and completed separately.

This report: 1) assesses the efforts and actions taken by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and the Councils in 2017 to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the MSA and 2) assesses the annual apportionment of Council membership.

Section 302(j)(9) of the MSA requires the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress on actions taken by the Secretary and the Councils to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the MSA, including identifying any conflict-of-interest problems with respect to the Councils and SSCs, and recommendations for addressing any such problems.

Section 302(b)(2)(B) requires the Secretary to report annually to Congress on actions taken to achieve, to the extent practicable, a “fair and balanced apportionment, on a rotating or other basis, of the active participants (or their representatives) in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of [each Regional Fishery Management] Council.”

The MSA established eight Councils: New England (NEFMC), Mid-Atlantic (MAFMC), South Atlantic (SAFMC), Gulf of Mexico (GMFMC), Caribbean (CFMC), Pacific (PFMC), North Pacific (NPFMC), and Western Pacific (WPFMC). Councils prepare and submit fishery management plans (FMPs) to the Secretary for fisheries under Council authority that require conservation and management, and any amendments necessary to manage the fisheries consistent with the MSA.

The voting members of each Council include the principal state official (or the official’s designee) with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each constituent state, who is designated by the governor; the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the geographic area concerned (or the Regional Administrator’s designee); and members required to be appointed by the Secretary in accordance with Sections 302(b)(2) and (b)(5) of the MSA. In addition, non-voting members represent the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of State, and the Marine Fisheries Commissions.

Additionally, each Council is required to establish and appoint members to an SSC to provide the Councils ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions. This includes recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum sustainable yield, and achieving rebuilding targets; and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat status, social and economic impacts of management measures, and sustainability of fishing practices. Members of the SSCs are federal and state employees, academics, or independent experts with scientific or technical credentials and experience. These SSC members assist the Councils in the evaluation of biological and other scientific information used by the Council for fishery management.

PART I: DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND RECUSAL REQUIREMENTS

B. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS

Council nominees, Council members, and members of SSCs must file a Statement of Financial Interests to fulfill the requirements of the MSA. This financial information must be disclosed on the NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests. It is unlawful for a Council member to knowingly and willfully fail to disclose, or to falsely disclose, any financial interest as required by the MSA, or to knowingly vote on a Council decision in violation of the MSA. *See* 50 CFR 600.325(i).

Section 302(j)(2) of the MSA requires “affected individuals”¹ (defined in Section 302(j)(1) of the MSA) to disclose any financial interest held by the individual, the spouse, minor child, or partner of that individual; and any organization (other than the Council) in which that individual is serving as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee in any harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity that is being, or will be, undertaken within any fishery over which a Council has jurisdiction, or with respect to an individual or organization with a financial interest in such activity. “Financial interests” include stock, equity, or other ownership interests, or employment with any entity that engages in or that provides services to someone engaged in any harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity. *See* 50 CFR 600.235(a) (defining financial interest).

An individual who is nominated by the governor of a state for appointment as a voting member of a Council—and before appointment by the Secretary—must file a Statement of Financial Interests form with the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries by April 15 or, if nominated after March 15, one month after nomination by the governor. An affected individual who is a voting member of a Council, appointed by the Secretary in accordance with Section 302(b)(2) or (b)(5) who is not subject to disclosure and recusal requirements under the laws of an Indian tribal government, must file a Statement of Financial Interests within 45 days of taking office with the executive director of the Council, and must file an update with the executive director of the Council within 30 days of the time any such financial interest is acquired or substantially changed and by February 1 of each year.

Affected individuals must disclose any financial interests on NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests. This form is currently available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/financial-disclosure-statements>

Guidance on reporting and filing procedures for complying with financial disclosure requirements are found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/financial-disclosure-statements> and at 50 CFR 600.235.

The Executive Director of the Council provides copies of all Statements of Financial Interests to the NMFS Regional Administrator, the Regional Attorney who advises the Council, and the NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries. Statements of Financial Interests are kept on file by each Council, made available on the Council internet site, made available for public inspection at the

¹ “Affected individual” is also defined in NOAA regulations at 50 CFR 600.235.

Council offices during reasonable hours, and kept on file by the NMFS Regional Office for use in reviewing determinations under Section 302(j)(7).

An individual who is appointed to an SSC in accordance with Section 302(g)(1) of the MSA must file a Statement of Financial Interests with the Regional Administrator. The Regional Administrator shall maintain on file the Financial Interest Forms of all SSC members for at least 5 years after the expiration of that individual's term on the SSC. Councils may also keep a copy on file for their own purposes.

Voting Requirements and Financial Conflicts of Interest

An affected individual required to disclose a financial interest under 302(j)(2) of the MSA shall not vote on a Council decision that would have a "significant and predictable effect" on a financial interest disclosed on his or her Statement of Financial Interests. In accordance with Section 302(j)(7) of the MSA, a Council decision shall be considered to have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest if there is a close causal link between the decision and an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit" to the member's financial interest. In accordance with regulations at 50 CFR 600.235(c)(3), an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit" means "a quantifiable positive or negative impact with regard to a matter likely to affect a fishery or sector of the fishery in which the affected individual has a significant interest, as indicated by:

- (a) a greater than 10 percent interest in the total harvest or the sector of the fishery under consideration by the Council;
- (b) a greater than 10 percent interest in the marketing or processing of the total harvest or the sector of the fishery under consideration by the Council; or
- (c) full or partial ownership of more than 10 percent of the vessels using the same gear type within the fishery, or the sector of the fishery, under consideration by the Council."

Although an affected individual may not vote, he or she may participate in Council deliberations relating to the decision after notifying the Council of the voting recusal and identifying the financial interest that would be affected.

At the request of an affected individual, or at the initiative of an appropriate designated official,² the designated official shall make a determination for the record as to whether a Council decision would have a "significant and predictable effect"³ on a financial interest. Within 10 days,⁴ any Council member may submit a written request to the Secretary to review any determination made. The review of the determination must be completed within 30 days. Any affected individual who does not vote on a Council decision in accordance with Section 302(j)(7) may state for the record how he or she would have voted.

²Designated official is a person with expertise in federal conflict-of-interest requirements who is designated by the Secretary, in consultation with the Council, to attend Council meetings and make determinations under paragraph 302(7)(B) of the MSA. In practice, this has been the NOAA Regional Attorney who advises the Council.

³ 50 CFR 600.235(f)

⁴ 50 CFR 600.235(g)(1)

Though considered an affected individual, a member of an SSC is not subject to the voting restrictions under the MSA. It is expected that SSC members maintain a high standard of conduct consistent with Department of Commerce ethics rules and Council procedures. Questions regarding conflict of interest requirements for SSC members should be addressed to the Regional Attorney who advises the Councils.

C. ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS

To gather information necessary to meet the requirements of Section 302(j)(9) to provide this report, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries requested that each NMFS Regional Administrator and Council provide the following information on efforts to meet the requirements of the reauthorized MSA:

(1) Action taken by each Council, including committees and advisory panels, on implementing the MSA disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements.

Per regulation, Council members and SSC members submit Statement of Financial Interests forms at the beginning of each year and as their financial interests changed, to be kept on file by NMFS. For 2017, all of the Regional Fishery Management Councils reported that they continued to request, receive, and make available to the public completed Statements of Financial Interests for Council members appointed by the Secretary. Statements of Financial Interests for voting council members appointed by the Secretary in 2017 were provided to NMFS to be kept on file, were posted on each of the Councils' respective websites, and were publicly available at each Council meeting. Each Region-Council pair, including the NOAA Regional General Counsel Section, implemented procedural directive 01-116-01 in order to review the financial disclosures of each Council member prior to each Council meeting and provided recusal advice to the Council members. The procedural directive can be found here:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/01/116/01-116-01.pdf>⁵

(2) Documentation of any time a voting Council member recuses himself or herself from a vote, the reason given, and any other relevant circumstances, per 50 CFR 600.235(d).

NEFMC:

At the January 2017 meeting, Council Member Mary Beth Tooley recused herself from votes relating to the Industry Funded Monitoring (IFM) Omnibus Amendment (postponement, alternatives, preferred alternative, and additions). Ms. Tooley recused herself because she is employed by a company that holds interests in commercial herring vessels that may harvest greater than 10% of the fishery.

At the April 2017 meeting, Council Member Mary Beth Tooley recused herself from votes relating to the IFM Omnibus Amendment (approval of herring alternatives, observer coverage, clarifications, adjustments, preferred alternatives and submission). Ms. Tooley recused herself

⁵ NOAA Fisheries is currently undergoing a transformation to a new website. The web links to the policy and procedural directives may be out of date by the time of publication. Contact the NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries for updated links.

because she is employed by a company that holds interests in commercial herring vessels that may harvest greater than 10% of the fishery.

At the April 2017 meeting, Council Member Eric Reid recused himself from deliberating and voting on the IFM Omnibus Amendment (sub-option 5 of the amendment). Mr. Reid recused himself because he is employed by a company that has ownership interests in two fishing vessels that would be the only vessels affected by one of the motions the Council considered in this amendment.

MAFMC:

At the April 2017 meeting, Laurie Nolan recused herself from votes related to the Final Fishery Specifications for the Golden Tilefish Fishery for 2018, 2019, and 2020. Ms. Nolan recused herself because she is the onshore manager for two commercial tilefish fishing vessels in New York.

At the October 2017 meeting, Laurie Nolan recused herself from votes related to the Golden Tilefish IFQ 5-year Review Report. Ms. Nolan recused herself because she is the onshore manager for two commercial tilefish fishing vessels in New York.

PFMC:

At the March 2017 meeting, Council Member David Crabbe recused himself from one vote related to the Proposed Deep-set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits. The Council action on this agenda item was to consider expedited review criteria and make recommendations to NMFS on exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications to test deep-set buoy gear. Mr. Crabbe recused himself because he was the owner of a boat associated with the EFP application.

At the September 2017 meeting, Council member Bradley Pettinger recused himself from one vote related to the Coastwide Non-whiting Midwater Trawl Exempted Fishing Permit Final Action and Gear Modification EFP Review. Mr. Pettinger recused himself because he was an author of the EFP, which was developed primarily prior to his appointment (August 2017).

WPFMC:

At the June 2017 meeting, Council member Archie Soliai recused himself from three votes concerning the American Samoa Large Vessel Prohibited Area action and one vote concerning the American Samoa Longline Permit Modification action. Mr. Soliai recused himself because of his full-time employment with the StarKist cannery in American Samoa, which provides most of the fish processing for the longline fishery landings of albacore.

At the June 2017 meeting, Council member Michael Goto recused himself from a vote concerning options for fishing regulations in the expanded area of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Mr. Goto recused himself because of his partial ownership of the United Fishing Agency.

At the October 2017 meeting, Council members Christinna Lutu-Sanchez and Archie Soliai recused themselves from voting on the final action to modify the American Samoa longline limited entry permit program. Ms. Lutu-Sanchez recused herself due to harvesting over 10% of

the affected fishery and Mr. Soliai recused himself because of his employment with StarKist cannery, which processes over 10% of the affected fishery.

(3) Documentation of any Council member requests for determination for the need for a recusal by that Council member, and the results of that determination, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(1).

SAFMC:

At the March 2017 meeting, there was a request for a determination related to the Exempted Fishing Permit Application – Year Round Allocation Pilot Program South Atlantic Commercial Fishing Collaborative. NOAA General Counsel (GC) determined that Christopher Conklin and Charlie Phillips would need to recuse themselves from voting on the application. Ultimately, the Essential Fishing Permit (EFP) request was withdrawn and no vote was taken.

(4) Documentation of any determination by a designated official on the basis of the knowledge of the designated official or of written and signed information received before or during a Council meeting and the results of that determination, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(2)(i)-(ii).

NPFMC:

At the April 2017 meeting, the Alaska Section of NOAA GC prepared determinations and concluded that Simon Kinneen was required to be recused from voting on two Council actions. He was recused from voting on the CDQ Ownership Caps Final Action and the EFH Omnibus Amendments Final Action because his financial interest exceeded the 10% harvesting recusal thresholds for these actions.

At the June 2017 meeting, the Alaska Section of NOAA GC prepared determinations and concluded that two Council members were required to be recused from voting on two separate actions. Simon Kinneen was required to be recused from voting on the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Section Yellowfin Sole Fishery Final Action because his financial interest exceeded the 10% harvesting recusal threshold. Kenny Down was required to be recused from voting on the Lead Level 2 Observer Final Action because his financial interest exceeded the vessel ownership recusal threshold.

(5) Documentation of any requests for determination on recusals of a Council member based on information provided to a designated official and the results of that determination, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(3).

None reported in 2017

(6) Documentation of any requests for review of a determination and the results of that review per 50 CFR 600.235(g).

None reported in 2017

(7) Any circumstances where a Council member's NOAA Form 88-195, Statement of Financial Interests, was found to be in error, the circumstances relevant to the error, and its resolution.

None reported in 2017

(8) Any instances of Council member resignations or removal due to concerns about disclosure of financial interests or recusal and circumstances relevant to each occurrence, per 50 CFR 600.235(i).

None reported in 2017

(9) Any similar instances to the above regarding SSC members.

NEFMC:

At the January 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Chris Legault recused himself from votes related to the Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological recommendations for witch flounder because he was involved in the scientific work that was reviewed by the SSC.

At the August 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Chris Legault recused himself from votes related to the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder action because he was involved in the scientific work that was reviewed by the SSC.

At the October 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Chris Legault recused himself from votes related to the development of the committee's recommendations for an overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch for Georges Bank cod for fishing years 2018-2020.

PFMC:

At the March 2017 SSC meeting, Dan Holland recused himself from votes related to the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report because he was a contributing author of the report.

At the April 2017 SSC meeting, John Field recused himself from votes related to the Implementing a Next Generation Stock Assessment Enterprise: An Update to NOAA Fisheries' Stock Assessment Improvement Plan draft report because he contributed to the document.

At the June 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Aaron Berger, Dr. Andre Punt, and Dr. Theresa Tsou recused themselves from votes related to the Final Stock Assessments and Catch Reports because they supervised staff who contributed to the arrowtooth update assessment.

At the June 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Budrick and Dr. Dave Sampson recused themselves from votes related to the final stock assessments and catch reports because they contributed to the arrowtooth update assessment.

At the June 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Field recused himself from votes related to the final stock assessments and catch reports because he contributed to the blackgill and bocaccio update assessments and supervised staff who prepared the cowcod catch report.

At the June 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Owen Hamel recused himself from votes related to the final stock assessments and catch reports because he contributed to the arrowtooth update assessment and supervised staff who prepared the darkblotched update assessment.

At the June 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Dan Holland recused himself from votes related to the trawl catch shares review draft report and intersector allocation report because he contributed to the analyses informing the trawl catches shares review report.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Aaron Berger recused himself from votes related to adopting the final stock assessments because he was the lead of the Stock Assessment Team (STAT) on the Oregon blue/deacon rockfish (BDR) assessment.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Budrick recused himself from votes related to adopting the final stock assessments because he was on the STAT for the CA scorpionfish assessment.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Field recused himself from votes related to adopting final stock assessments because he supervised staff who prepared the California BDR and California scorpionfish assessments.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Owen Hamel recused himself from votes related to adopting the final stock assessments because he supervised staff who prepared the Oregon BDR, Pacific Ocean Perch, lingcod, yelloweye, and yellowtail assessments.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Theresa Tsou recused herself from votes related to adopting the final stock assessments because she was on the STAT for the northern lingcod assessment.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Field recused himself from votes related to the topic selection of the stock assessment methodology review because he was one of the sponsors of a methodology topic that was proposed for review.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Field recused himself from voting on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment because he contributed to the assessment.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Dan Hollard and Dr. Andre Punt recused themselves from votes related to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives: Scoping and Selection agenda topic because they were principal investigators on the fishery participation choices.

At the September 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Andre Punt recused himself from votes related to the Initial Harvest Specifications and Management Measure Actions for 2019-2020 Management because he co-authored the sigma analysis prepared by Kristin Privitera-Johnson.

At the November 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Budrick recused himself from votes related to the final topic selection for the off-year science and stock assessment methodology review because he contributed to the proposed nearshore remotely operated vehicle survey in California.

At the November 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Field recused himself from votes related to the final topic selection for the Off-year Science and Stock Assessment Methodology Review because he was one of the sponsors of a methodology topic proposed for review.

At the November 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. John Field recused himself from votes related to the Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2019-2020 because he supervised staff who contributed to the Depletion-Based Stock Reduction Analysis (DB-SRA) assessments of Washington cabezon and starry flounder.

At the November 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Owen Hamel recused himself from votes related to the Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2019-2020 because he supervised staff who contributed to the Washington cabezon DB-SRA assessment.

At the November 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Theresa Tsou recused herself from votes related to the Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2019-2020 because she contributed to the DB-SRA assessments of Washington cabezon and starry flounder.

At the November 2017 SSC meeting, Dr. Owen Hamel recused himself from votes related to the Final Stock Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses for groundfish because he supervised staff who contributed to the Washington cabezon DB-SRA assessment.

(10) Actions taken to ensure individuals appointed to an SSC file a timely Statement of Financial Interests with the Regional Administrator, to be kept on file by NMFS, per 50 CFR 600.235(b)(5).

In 2017, each of the Regional Fishery Management Councils' Executive Directors requested annual Statement of Financial Interests forms from the SSC members and forwarded all completed forms to the NMFS Regional Administrator to meet the requirements of 50 CFR 600.235(b)(5).

In addition to those actions completed by all the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the MAFMC and NPFMC made the SSC Statements of Financial Interests forms publicly available on their websites. The PFMC also required SSC nominees to submit Statements of Financial Interests forms with their nomination materials so the Council could consider them prior to making appointments.

Action Taken by the Secretary and the Councils

(1) NMFS continues to follow the 2014 policy and procedural directives for Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosures. The purpose of these documents is to strengthen the policy guidance on the review of financial disclosures by appointed members of the Councils. These documents clarify the responsibilities of NMFS, NOAA Office of General Counsel (GC), and Regional Sections and Councils relating to Council member financial disclosures, which are within those responsibilities established in implementing regulations (see 50 CFR 600.235). NMFS is coordinating with the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) and NOAA GC to update and clarify those procedures.

The directives establish a vetting process to review the completeness and accuracy of information in nominees' and members' disclosure forms. Separately from the process for submission and review of financial disclosures described above, NMFS also provided a brief clarification of the process by which NMFS, NOAA GC, and the Councils identify Council members' conflicts of interest within the procedural directive. The policy directive can be found

here: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/01/01-116.pdf>. The procedural directive can be found here: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/01/116/01-116-01.pdf>.⁶

(2) The Councils continue to make Statement of Financial Interests forms for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary available for public viewing at Council offices and at Council meetings at reasonable hours, and available on Council websites.

(3) NMFS, in conjunction with NOAA GC, is continuing to review the process by which recusal determinations are prepared and issued and clarifying guidance provided to the Councils and the public on how the financial disclosure regulations are implemented. This is being done in response to issues raised by the NPFMC in 2015 and to ensure that the recusal process is as clear and transparent as possible. The agency discussed these efforts with the Fishery Management Council Coordination Committee (CCC) during their June 2016 meeting. At the February 2017 CCC meeting, NMFS shared a draft revision to the policy with the Councils and indicated that NMFS would give the Councils an opportunity to review and provide any comment prior to finalizing the policy. The Councils also requested additional clarification in regard to the attribution policy for recusal determinations and the application of the close causal link requirement in Section 302(j)(7) of the MSA. NMFS plans to present a progress update on addressing these issues at the February 2018 CCC meeting.

(4) NMFS and the Councils continue to ensure Statements of Financial Interests are completed by SSC members and provided to NMFS to be kept on file.

(5) NMFS continues to ensure that all Statements of Financial Interests completed by voting Council members appointed by the Secretary are posted on Council websites, and ensure that copies are forwarded to appropriate NMFS offices and NOAA GC. Both NMFS and the Councils want to ensure their members are well aware of their responsibilities for financial disclosure and recusal, and the benefits of those disclosures allowing them to participate in all Council activities. NOAA GC will regularly communicate the existing policies and procedures to all NMFS employees, Council members, and Council staff by conducting an annual briefing of financial disclosure requirements. Additionally, these requirements are addressed at the training of all new Council members, as required by the MSA.

(6) NMFS updated the Statement of Financial Interests form and published a revised version of this form online, per Office of Personnel Management guidance and regulation. Based upon input from the Councils and users of the form, the revised form provides some additional clarification on questions and corrects some errors.

⁶ NOAA Fisheries is currently undergoing a transformation to a new website. The web links to the policy and procedural directives may be out of date by the time of publication. Contact the NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries for updated links.

PART II: APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

D. FAIR AND BALANCED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the MSA requires that members of each Council appointed by the Secretary must be individuals who are “knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest, of the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned.” Pursuant to Section 302(b)(2)(B), the Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall “ensure a fair and balanced apportionment...in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of the Council.”

The consideration of balance and fairness between commercial and recreational fishing sectors is a required element in the Secretary’s appointment of Council members. Equally important is the stewardship responsibilities of Councils and the appointment of individuals who can work collectively with other members to achieve the conservation standards under the MSA. Successful nominees, therefore, are those who are qualified in accordance with the provisions at 50 CFR 600.215 and who will best contribute to the stewardship of marine fishery resources.⁷ Generally, the most qualified nominees are those who:

1. Have achieved a level of leadership in promoting stewardship of the marine fishery resources under the jurisdiction of the Councils to which they would be appointed; and
2. Participate in, or represent commercial fishermen participating in, one or more commercial fisheries under the Councils’ jurisdictions (including aquaculture); or
3. Participate in, or represent recreational fishermen participating in, one or more recreational fisheries under the Councils’ jurisdictions; or
4. Are otherwise experienced and/or knowledgeable in leadership of organizations whose members participate in a fishery or in management and conservation of natural resources, or are representatives of consumers, teachers, journalists, writers, consultants, lawyers, or marine fishery researchers.

Before evaluating each Council with respect to fairness and balance, the Secretary must first have a standard for such judgments. Voting members should be individuals with prescribed qualifications related to commercial or to recreational fishing within the Council’s area of jurisdiction, or individuals with qualifications in one of the “other” related fishing interest categories, who are personally committed to meeting the Council’s trusteeship responsibilities for living marine resources.

For the purposes of this report, three general fishing interest sectors are discussed: the commercial fishing sector, the recreational fishing sector, and an “other” sector. The “other” sector consists of appointed members with knowledge of and experience in biological, economic, or social sciences; environmental or ecological matters; consumer affairs; and associated fields.

Nominees may be categorized as participating in more than one of the three general fishing interest sectors. In these cases, NMFS’ determination about a nominee’s primary interest sector is the result of NMFS’ interpretation of: 1) supporting background information provided by the

⁷ The qualifications for appointment are derived from Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the MSA and are also included in regulations contained at 50 CFR 600.215.

nominating governor; 2) background information provided by the nominee, reflecting the nominee's demonstrated principal participation; and 3) other supplemental information provided.

E. APPORTIONMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council members are appointed from among qualified individuals nominated by the governors of the Councils' states in each Council's region and, in the case of tribal representation on the PFMC, from among representatives nominated by the appropriate tribal governments.

Appointed members serve 3-year terms and can be reappointed to serve three consecutive terms. A major factor in meeting the requirement to balance membership is the role of the governors in nominating qualified individuals who are knowledgeable regarding conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources. The process works best when governors provide the Secretary with a variety of highly qualified nominees who meet the requirements of the MSA.

For governor-nominated seats, the Secretary will select an appointee for an obligatory seat (state-specific) from the list of qualified nominees submitted by the governor of that state. In filling at-large seats (regional), the Secretary will select an appointee from the list of all qualified candidates submitted by regional state governors.

In 2017, the Secretary announced the appointment or reappointment of 22 voting obligatory and at-large Council members. NMFS did not receive any complete nomination packages by the March 15, 2017 deadline for the two WPFMC at-large seats; as a result, NMFS reopened the submission period for these two seats until April 28, 2017. NMFS received nomination letters and supporting materials from both the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa for the two at-large seats. Table 1 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretary-appointed Council voting members by sector for 2015, 2016, and 2017. In June 2017, the representations of the new appointees announced were 10 commercial representatives, 6 recreational representatives, and 6 representatives for the "other" sector.

Because of the limited number of Council seats, not all sectors and localities can be represented on each Council. In addition, the Secretary's appointments are constrained by the nominations submitted by the governors. Within these parameters, the Secretary aims to select appointees who possess the breadth of knowledge and experience to provide balance on each Council, and who pursue their Council roles as stewards and trustees of living resources. To the extent practicable, the appointments also seek to rotate membership, thereby distributing participation among all sectors of the fisheries-specific actions. The distribution of representation on each Council is also adjusted, where possible, to achieve a balance of interest among sectors or to provide needed experience to address changing priorities.

Where sector or gear components are not represented on a Council, membership on the various Council advisory panels and committees is also crucial to providing those sectors with representation during Council deliberations, as well as with a voice on specific issues of interest.

Women and Minority Representation

Eight women, appointed by the Secretary, currently serve on the Councils. NMFS continues to encourage governors to nominate qualified female and minority candidates.

F. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

Table 1 shows the current appointed Council members sorted numerically by fishing sector. Table 2 lists the 30 Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2018. Table 3 sorts the 30 Council members into the three general fishing sector categories. The MSA prohibits the reappointment of Council members to a fourth consecutive term; eight of the 30 members whose terms expire in 2017 have served three consecutive terms and thus will be ineligible to be re-nominated.

**TABLE 1: CURRENT APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY
BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2015-2017)**

	Year	Commercial	Recreational	“Other”	Total
NEFMC	2015	7	1	4	12
	2016	6	2	4	12
	2017	7	2	3	12
MAFMC	2015	4	5	4	13
	2016	4	5	4	13
	2017	5	5	3	13
SAFMC	2015	4	4	0	8
	2016	4	4	0	8
	2017	4	4	0	8
GMFMC	2015	4	4	3	11
	2016	4	4	3	11
	2017	3	4	4	11
CFMC	2015	2	1	1	4
	2016	2	1	1	4
	2017	2	2	0	4
PFMC	2015	2	3	4	9
	2016	2	3	4	9
	2017	2	3	4	9
NPFMC	2015	6	1	0	7
	2016	6	1	0	7
	2017	6	1	0	7
WPFMC	2015	2	2	4	8
	2016	3	2	3	8
	2017	4	2	2	8
ALL COUNCILS	2015	31	21	20	72
	2016	31	22	19	72
	2017	33	23	16	72

**TABLE 2: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2018,
GROUPED BY OBLIGATORY OR AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT**

OBLIGATORY MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSECUTIVE TERMS SERVED	AT-LARGE MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSECUTIVE TERMS SERVED
<u>New England</u>					
M. McKenzie/CT (O)	2012	2	V. Balzano/ME (C)	2012	2
T. Alexander/ME (C)	2012	2			
J. Quinn/MA (O)	2012	2			
E. Reid/RI (C)	2015	1			
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>					
A. Nowalsky/NJ (R)	2015	1	S. Winslow/NC (R)	2015	1
P. Defur/VA (O)	2015	1	A. Dilernia/NY (R)	2012	2
<u>South Atlantic</u>					
B. Hartig, III/FL (C)	2009	3*	C. Phillips/GA (C) A. Beckwith/NC (R)	2009	3*
E. Bowen/GA (R)	2013	1		2012	2
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u>					
J. Green, Jr./AL (R)	2009	3*	E. Swindell, Jr./LA (C) D. Diaz/MS (O)	2015	1
J. Sanchez/FL (C)	2012	2		2015	1
C. Matens/LA (R)	2012	2			
<u>Caribbean</u>					
C. Farchette/USVI (R)	2009	3*	C. Velazquez/PR (C)	2015	1
<u>Pacific</u>					
D. Crabbe/CA (C)	2009	3*	W. Brizendine, II/CA (R) P. Anderson/WA (O)	2009	3*
D. Lowman/OR (O)	2009	3*		2015	1
J. Oatman/WA (Tribal)	2015	1			
<u>North Pacific</u>					
H. Hull/AK (C)	2009	3*	There are no at-large seats on the North Pacific Council.		
A. Mezirow/AK (R)	2015	1			
C. Cross/WA (C)	2012	2			
<u>Western Pacific</u>					
M. Duenas/GU (C)	2012	2	There are no expiring at-large seats on the Western Pacific Council.		
M. Goto/HI (C)	2012	2			
20 Obligatory Members			10 At-Large Members		

*These members have served three consecutive terms; therefore, they are ineligible by law for reappointment to a fourth consecutive term.

C = Commercial Sector

R = Recreational Sector

O = Other Sector

**TABLE 3: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2018,
GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES**

COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	OTHER	TOTAL SEATS
<u>New England</u> T. Alexander/ME E. Reid/RI V. Balzano/ME		M. McKenzie/CT J. Quinn/MA	5
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	A. Nowalsky/NJ S. Winslow/NC A. Dilemia/NY	P. Defur/VA	4
<u>South Atlantic</u> B. Hartig, III/FL C. Phillips/GA	E. Bowen/GA A. Beckwith/NC		4
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u> J. Sanchez/FL E. Swindell, Jr./LA	J. Green, Jr./AL C. Matens/LA	D. Diaz/MS	5
<u>Caribbean</u> C. Velazquez/PR	C. Farchette/USVI		2
<u>Pacific</u> D. Crabbe/CA	W. Brizendine, II/CA	D. Lowman/OR P. Anderson/WA J. Oatman/WA (Tribal)	5
<u>North Pacific</u> H. Hull/AK C. Cross/WA	A. Mezirow/AK		3
<u>Western Pacific</u> M. Duenas/GU M. Goto/HI			2
TOTAL 13	TOTAL 10	TOTAL 7	TOTAL 30

G. SECRETARY'S 2017 APPOINTMENTS/REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following sections update Council appointment rosters, specify apportionment totals for Council members, discuss fishery management issues and challenges being addressed by each Council, and make Secretarial recommendations for future nomination and appointment considerations. The latter reflects information included in letters sent to the constituent state governors requesting nominees, consistent with regulations at 50 CFR 600.215. The governors are required to submit their nominees by March 15 of each year.

1. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2017 for four NEFMC members. As a result of the 2017 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives changed to seven commercial, two recreational, and three "other" from six commercial, two recreational, and four "other." The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the NEFMC remains unchanged. The appointee and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Peter T. Kendall/C
Elizabeth M. P. Etrie/C
John Pappalardo/C
Ernest F. Stockwell/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
Reappointment
Reappointment
Mary Beth Nickell-Tooley/C

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NEFMC:

2017 NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	MCKENZIE, MATTHEW G.	CT	2018	O
O	ALEXANDER, TERRY A.	ME	2018	C
O	QUINN, JOHN F.	MA	2018	O
O	GODFROY, MARK H.	NH	2019	R
O	REID, ERIC E.	RI	2018	C
A	STOCKWELL, ERNEST F.	ME	2020	C
A	BALZANO, VINCENT M.	ME	2018	C
A	SISSENWINE, MICHAEL	MA	2019	O
A	ETRIE, ELIZABETH M. P.	MA	2020	C
A	PAPPALARDO, JOHN	MA	2020	C
A	KENDALL, PETER T.	NH	2020	C
A	BELLAVANCE, RICHARD J. JR.	RI	2019	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2018:

1. Matthew G. McKenzie – other sector – obligatory seat (Connecticut)
2. Terry A. Alexander – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Maine)
3. John F. Quinn – other sector – obligatory seat (Massachusetts)
4. Eric E. Reid – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Rhode Island)
5. Vincent M. Balzano – commercial sector – at-large seat (Maine)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the seven members whose terms do not expire in 2018, four are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational sector, and one is from the “other” sector. Members from the commercial harvesting sector have experience in the groundfish, scallop, herring, spiny dogfish, skate, whiting, and monkfish fisheries. The recreational fishing sector members have experience in the recreational fisheries for groundfish species managed by the Council, as well as other marine recreational fisheries in the Northeast.

The five upcoming vacancies include three outgoing members from the commercial sector and two from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, but with particular emphasis on the commercial and “other” sectors in order to maintain the current balance on the Council. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The NEFMC is responsible for six Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Northeast (NE) Multispecies, Atlantic Sea Scallop, Atlantic Herring, Deep-Sea Red Crab, Northeast Skates, and Atlantic Salmon. In addition, the NEFMC and MAFMC are jointly responsible for two FMPs (Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish). The NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the Monkfish FMP and the MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the Spiny Dogfish FMP.

While species managed by the NEFMC are primarily commercial, the multispecies fishery has an important recreational component (party/charter and private vessels). The Atlantic salmon fishery is considered recreational, although possession of Atlantic salmon is prohibited in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the Atlantic Salmon FMP, and there is no commercial or recreational fishery for Atlantic salmon in the EEZ. Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch. Fishing gear technology and selectivity are areas of great interest—to allow healthy stocks to be harvested at or near their optimum yields while protecting overfished and rebuilding stocks, particularly in the multispecies fishery. Also of concern are measures protecting marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

2. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2017 for five MAFMC members. As a result of the 2017 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives changed to five commercial, five recreational, and three “other” from four commercial, five recreational, and four “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the MAFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Earl Gwin/C
Francis D. Hemilright/C
Stephen Heins/R
G. Warren Elliott/R
Laurie A. Nolan/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Howard King, III/O
Reappointment
John G. McMurray/R
Reappointment
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the MAFMC:

2017 MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	TOWNSEND, PAUL W.	DE	2019	C
O	GWIN, EARL	MD	2020	C
O	HEMILRIGHT, FRANCIS D.	NC	2020	C
O	NOWALSKY, ADAM C.	NJ	2018	R
O	HEINS, STEPHEN	NY	2020	R
O	ELLIOTT, G. WARREN	PA	2020	R
O	DEFUR, PETER L.	VA	2018	O
A	SLACUM, HAROLD W.	MD	2019	R
A	WINSLOW, SARA E.	NC	2018	O
A	HUGHES, PETER B.	NJ	2019	C
A	NOLAN, LAURIE A.	NY	2020	C
A	DILERNIA, ANTHONY D.	NY	2018	R
A	MANN, ROGER L.	VA	2019	O

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2018:

1. Adam C. Nowalsky – recreational sector – obligatory seat (New Jersey)
2. Peter L. Defur – other sector – obligatory seat (Virginia)
3. Sara E. Winslow – other sector – at-large seat (North Carolina)
4. Anthony D. Dileria – recreational sector – at-large seat (New York)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the nine members whose terms do not expire in 2018, five are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and one is from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial sector members’ experiences include harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen or charter boat owners.

The four upcoming vacancies include two outgoing members from the recreational sector and two from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, but with particular emphasis on the recreational and “other” sectors in order to maintain the current balance on the Council. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The MAFMC is exclusively responsible for five FMPs: Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Golden Tilefish; and Atlantic Bluefish. In addition, the MAFMC and the NEFMC are jointly responsible for two other FMPs (Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish). The MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the Spiny Dogfish FMP and the NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the Monkfish FMP.

Some of these fisheries are primarily commercial (e.g., surfclam, ocean quahog, tilefish, spiny dogfish, monkfish, squid, Atlantic mackerel, and butterfish), while others have significant recreational components (bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass). Management of all fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch.

3. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2017 for two SAFMC members. Because of the 2017 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged from four commercial, four recreational and zero “other”. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the SAFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

William C. Brewer, Jr./R
Mark E. Brown/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the SAFMC:

2017 SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	HARTIG, BENJAMIN C. III	FL	2018	C
O	BOWEN, EDWARD Z.	GA	2018	R
O	GRINER, ROBERT T.	NC	2019	C
O	CONKLIN, CHRISTOPHER C.	SC	2019	C
A	BREWER, WILLIAM C. JR.	FL	2020	R
A	PHILLIPS, CHARLES M.	GA	2018	C
A	BECKWITH, ANNA B.	NC	2018	R
A	BROWN, MARK E.	SC	2020	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2018:

1. Benjamin C. Hartig, III – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Florida)
2. Edward Z. Bowen – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Georgia)
3. Charles M. Phillips – commercial sector – at-large seat (Georgia)
4. Anna B. Beckwith – recreational sector – at-large seat (North Carolina)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the four members whose terms do not expire in 2018, two are from the commercial sector and two are from the recreational sector. The commercial members experience includes harvesting, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen. The governors are encouraged to nominate nominees from both the commercial and recreational sectors so that the Secretary can achieve a balance between these two interest groups. While nominees selected to help balance the commercial and recreational sectors are important, the governors are also encouraged to nominate nominees from the “other” sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The SAFMC has prepared FMPs and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic EEZ: shrimp (penaeid and rock); coral, coral reef, and live/hard bottom habitats; golden crab; dolphin/wahoo; *Sargassum*; and the snapper-grouper species complex. The SAFMC and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagic species in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2017 for three GMFMC members. As a result of the 2017 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives changed to three commercial, four recreational, and four “other” from four commercial, four recreational, and three “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the GMFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector
 Robert Shipp/O
 Phillip Dyskow/R
 Gregory W. Stunz/O

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
 David A. Walker/C
 Pamela L. Dana/R
 Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the GMFMC:

2017 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	GREENE, JOHN R. JR.	AL	2018	R
O	SANCHEZ, JUAN M.	FL	2018	C
O	MATENS, CAMPO E.	LA	2018	R
O	BOSARGE, LEANN N.	MS	2019	C
O	BOYD, DOUGLASS W.	TX	2019	R
A	SHIPP, ROBERT	AL	2020	O
A	DYSKOW, PHILLIP	FL	2020	R
A	FRAZER, THOMAS K.	FL	2019	O
A	SWINDELL, EDWARD W. JR.	LA	2018	C
A	DIAZ, DALE A.	MS	2018	O
A	STUNZ, GREGORY W.	TX	2020	O

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2018:

1. John R. Greene, Jr. – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Alabama)
2. Juan M. Sanchez – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Florida)
3. Campo E. Matens – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Louisiana)
4. Edward W. Swindell, Jr. – commercial sector – at-large seat (Louisiana)
5. Dale A. Diaz – other sector – at-large seat (Mississippi)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the six members whose terms do not expire in 2018, one is from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational sector, and three are from the “other” sector. The commercial members’ experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen or charter boat owners.

The five Council members whose terms expire in 2018 include two outgoing members from the commercial sector, two from the recreational sector, and one from the “other” sector. The governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial and recreational sectors so that the Secretary can achieve a balance between these two interest groups. While nominees from each sector—commercial and recreational—are important, the governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the “other” sector. This would include individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The GMFMC has prepared FMPs and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone: reef fish, shrimp, coral and coral reefs, red drum, and aquaculture. The GMFMC and the SAFMC have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagics species in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region.

5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

The term of service expired for one CFMC member in 2017. Because of the reappointment to the vacant position, the composition of fishing sector representatives was unchanged from two commercial and two recreational. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the CFMC remains unchanged. The appointee is as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Marcos R. Hanke/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the CFMC:

2017 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	FARCHETTE, CARLOS F.	USVI	2018	R
O	HANKE, MARCOS R.	PR	2020	R
A	VELAZQUEZ, CARLOS J.	PR	2018	C
A	BLANCHARD, LOUIS A.	USVI	2019	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2018:

1. Carlos F. Farchette – recreational sector – obligatory seat (US Virgin Islands)
2. Carlos J. Velazquez – commercial sector – at-large seat (Puerto Rico)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the two members whose terms do not expire in 2018, one is from the commercial fishing sector and one is from the recreational fishing sector. The 2018 vacancies will be from the commercial fishing sector and the recreational sector. The governors are encouraged to recommend a nominee from the commercial fishing sector or a nominee with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The CFMC has prepared FMPs and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone: queen conch, spiny lobster, reef fish, and corals and reef associated plants and invertebrates.

6. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2017 for two PFMC members. Because of the 2017 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged from two commercial, three recreational, and three “other”. There is one tribal representative, who is counted as a member of the “other” sector. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of available at-large seats on the PFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Richard H. Lincoln/O
Bradley Pettinger/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
Jeffrey N. Feldner/C

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the PFMC:

2017 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	CRABBE, DAVID M.	CA	2018	C
O	POLLARD, HERBERT A. II	ID	2019	R
O	LOWMAN, DOROTHY M.	OR	2018	O
O	LINCOLN, RICHARD H.	WA	2020	O
	<i>PFMC TRIBAL SEAT:</i>			
O	OATMAN, JOSEPH Y.	WA	2018	T
A	BRIZENDINE, WILLIAM L. II	CA	2018	R
A	GORELNIK, MARC M.	CA	2019	R
A	PETTINGER, BRADLEY	OR	2020	C
A	ANDERSON, PHILIP A.	WA	2018	O

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2018:

1. David M. Crabbe – commercial sector – obligatory seat (California)
2. Dorothy M. Lowman – other sector – obligatory seat (Oregon)
3. Joseph Y. Oatman – other sector – obligatory tribal seat (Washington)
4. William L. Brizendine, II – recreational sector – at-large seat (California)
5. Philip A. Anderson – other sector – at-large seat (Washington)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the four members whose terms do not expire in 2018, two are from the recreational fishing sector, one is from the commercial fishing sector, and one is from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial member’s experience includes harvesting and knowledge of the seafood industry. The recreational representatives include a member of board of directors for a recreational fishing association, and a recreational angler.

The five upcoming vacancies in 2018 include one outgoing member from the commercial sector, two outgoing members from the recreational sector, and two outgoing members from the “other” sector (including the tribal member). One commercial, one recreational, and one other (not the tribal member) are serving their third consecutive terms, which means they are not eligible for reappointment. The other two outgoing members are currently serving their first term, which means both are eligible for reappointment.

The state governors are encouraged to provide the Secretary with nominees from the “other” sector with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, as well as nominees from the commercial and recreational sectors as a basis for maintaining a balance of interests from the three sectors. The tribal governments with federally recognized fishing rights in California, Oregon, Washington, or Idaho are encouraged to submit nominees for the tribal seat.

DISCUSSION:

The PFMC has prepared FMPs for Pacific Coast groundfish, West Coast salmon, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species. The PFMC has also adopted a Fishery Ecosystem Plan and an Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix to help integrate ecosystem considerations into its fishery management decisions.

The PFMC has responsibility for recommending allocations of Pacific halibut among treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial and recreational fishers in Area 2A under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act.

7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2017 for two NPFMC obligatory members. Because of the 2017 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC is unchanged from six commercial, one recreational, and no “other.” There are no available at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Simon Kinneen/C	Reappointment
Kenneth Down/C	Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NPFMC:

2017 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Members)				
Obligatory	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	HULL, HOWARD D.	AK	2018	C
O	LAUKITIS, MICHAEL	AK	2019	C
O	PETERSON, THERESA A.	AK	2019	C
O	KINNEEN, SIMON	AK	2020	C
O	MEZIROV, ANDREW D.	AK	2018	R
O	CROSS, CRAIG A.	WA	2018	C
O	DOWN, KENNETH	WA	2020	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2018:

1. Howard D. Hull – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Alaska)
2. Andrew D. Mezirow – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Alaska)
3. Craig A. Cross – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Washington)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The four members whose terms do not expire in 2018 are from the commercial fishing sector. The commercial sector members have experience in processing and harvesting. The three upcoming vacancies include two outgoing members from the commercial sector and one from the recreational sector. Although commercial fisheries are particularly important in this region, the governors are encouraged to continue to nominate persons from the recreational fishing sector and from the “other” sector. “Other” sector nominees should include persons with backgrounds in academics, fisheries management, environmental science, economics, or social

science, and who have knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management. Recently, Alaska native tribal entities also have voiced strong support for greater representation on the NPFMC.

DISCUSSION:

The NPFMC has six FMPs: Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska, Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area, Salmon Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the Coast of Alaska, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab, the Scallop Fishery off Alaska, and Fishery Resources of the Arctic Management Area.

8. Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2017 for three WPFMC members. Because of the 2017 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the WPFMC is changed to four commercial, two recreational, and two “other” from three commercial, three recreational and two “other”. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the WPFMC changed when a nominee from American Samoa was appointed to a seat previously held by Hawaii. The new appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

John E. Gourley/O
 Eo. E. Mokoma/C
 Edwin A. Ebisui/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
 Frederick M. Rice/R
 Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the WPFMC:

2017 WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	DUENAS, MICHAEL P.	GU	2018	C
O	SOLAI, ARCHIE T.	AS	2019	O
O	GOURLEY, JOHN E.	CNMI	2020	O
O	GOTO, MICHAEL K.	HI	2018	C
A	SENSUI, DEAN C.	HI	2019	R
A	MOKOMA, EO E.	AS	2020	C
A	EBISUI, EDWIN A.	HI	2020	R
A	LUTU-SANCHEZ, CHRISTINNA	AS	2019	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2018:

1. Michael P. Duenas – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Guam)
2. Michael K. Goto – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Hawaii)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the six appointed members whose terms do not expire in 2018, two are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational fishing sector, and two are from the “other” sector. The

recreational members have experience hook-and-line fishing. Governors are encouraged to nominate one representative from both the commercial sector and recreational sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The WPFMC manages domestic fisheries in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone around islands of the Pacific Islands Region (the U.S. western Pacific), and adjacent high seas, under five fishery ecosystem plans: Pelagic, Hawaiian Archipelago, American Samoa Archipelago, Marianas Archipelago, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas. While commercial fishing for tuna, swordfish and other pelagic species are the region's largest fisheries in terms of landings and value, non-pelagic species such as bottomfish and coral reef ecosystem resources are equally important to Pacific Island communities for recreational, subsistence and cultural purposes.

H. APPENDIX – STATISTICAL FISHERIES DATA

This report provides, in this appendix, statistical information— required by Section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act—about the status of fisheries managed under each Council. It also identifies the number of Council members participating in those fisheries. The most recent data were compiled to show the volume of fisheries production and the related effort in each fishery managed under an FMP. Highly Migratory Species data can be found online¹. Unless otherwise indicated, the data are for the fisheries listed by FMP. Beginning from the leftmost column, the listed data are:

1. FMPs developed by each Council.
2. Type of fishery managed under each plan, i.e., commercial or recreational, or mixed (see below).
3. Species/species groups making up each fishery.
4. Weight of each species or species group in a fishery landed in 2016 (or as otherwise indicated) showing both the landings for commercial and recreational fishermen, if recreational information is available.
5. Number of fishermen participating in the listed fisheries, if available; otherwise, the number of U.S. vessels either permitted or estimated to be operating in the fishery.
6. Gear and processing methods used in each fishery.
7. Range and seasonality of the fishery.
8. Number of current Council members who are commercial or recreational sector participants in each fishery; or their representatives.²

LEGEND FOR TYPE FISHERIES

C - Commercial fishery: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.

c - Mainly commercial fishery: More than 60 percent (-) but less than 80 percent (-) of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.

x - Mixed fishery: 60 percent or less of the reported landings are by each group of commercial and recreational fishermen.

r - Mainly recreational fishery: More than 60 percent (-) but less than 80 percent (-) of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

R - Recreational fishery: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

¹ The Secretary has management authority over Highly Migratory Species in the EEZ off the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico coasts. Annual SAFE Reports include information by HMS fishery on permit type, landings, etc.: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/documents/safe_reports/index.html. The HMS Advisory Panel composition can be found at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/advisory_panels/hms_ap/index.html.

² Vertical sums in the attached appendices may not match the sums entered for interest sectors in Table 1. If one or more Council members actively participated in more than one fishery, the vertical sum will exceed the number entered in the interest sector column. Also, if a Council member participated in a currently closed fishery, he or she is still listed as a representative of the fishery in the table because of the expertise they bring to the Council regarding the operation of the fishery.

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2014	Vessels (permits) 2014	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014	
								Comm.	Rec.
Northeast Multi-Species	C	Commercial Atlantic cod Haddock Pollock Hakes Ocean perch (redfish) Yellowtail flounder American plaice Winter flounder Witch flounder Windowpane flounder* Atlantic halibut Ocean pout	2,006 3,999 4,021 9,367 4,573 1,776 1,347 1,985 569 14 110 2	2,377	Trawl, dredge, longline, gillnet, hook & line	FMP area/year round	Gutted	8	3
	R	Recreational Cod Pollock Winter flounder	852 198 85	651	Hook & line	FMP area/year round	Gutted, filleted		
Atlantic Sea Scallops	C	Atlantic sea scallops	15,351	783	Dredge & trawl	FMP area/year round	Hand shucking and freezing	3	0
Atlantic Salmon	R	Atlantic salmon	0	None	None	None	None	0	0
Deep-sea Red Crab	C	Deep-sea red crab	985	1,423	Traps, trawl	FMP area/year round	Whole, partially processed at sea	1	0
Atlantic Herring	C	Atlantic herring	93,147	1,976	Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl	FMP area/year round	Fresh/canned shoreside/fresh bait	3	0
Monkfish	C	Monkfish	4,190	2,272	Gillnets, trawls, dredges	FMP area/year round	Fresh	7	0
Northeast Skate Complex	C	Skates	2,038	2,147	Trawls, gillnets, dredge, longline	FMP area/year round	Fresh bait, frozen, partially processed at sea		

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's data base as of December 2015. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/commercial/fus/fus12/03_recreational2012.pdf and are based on the results of the 2012 Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2014	Vessels (permits) 2014	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014	
								Comm.	Rec.
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish	C	Commercial Atlantic mackerel	5,948	2,020	Otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	Frozen, whole	2	1
	C	Squid, <u>Loligo</u> Squid, <u>Ilex</u> Butterfish	12,049 8,767 3,135	(Combine) 1,927	Trawl; traps	FMP area/year round	At-sea & ashore, some mackerel fillets		
	R	Recreational Atlantic mackerel	793	725		FMP area/year round			
Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs	C	Atlantic surfclams	19,843	657	Dredge	FMP area/year round (ITQ mgmt.)	Shucked shoreside	1	
		Ocean quahogs	14,239	654					
Summer Flounder (fluke)	x	Commercial	4,993	828	Hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	Fillets ashore; fresh & frozen	3	3
		Recreational	3,355	788					
Scup	x	Commercial	7,239	702					
		Recreational	2,123	710					
Black Sea Bass	x	Commercial	1,112	743					
		Recreational	1,913	763					
Tilefish	C	Golden Tilefish	747	1,967	Longline, hook & line	FMP area/year round	Fresh/frozen	1	
Atlantic Bluefish	x	Commercial	2,100	2,479	Hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet	FMP area/year round	Fillets fresh/frozen	1	3
	x	Recreational	4,943	808					
Spiny Dogfish	C	Commercial	10,573	2,497	Gillnet; trawl	FMP area/year round	Fresh/frozen	5	1

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Greater Atlantic Region and are based on information in the Region's database as of December 2015. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/commercial/fus/fus12/03_recreational2012.pdf and are based on the results of the 2012 Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2016	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014	
								Comm.	Rec.
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab	194	11	traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh		
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	X	Commercial ² Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species	300 Confidential 1,376 1,652	681	Rod and reel, bandit gear, longline, handline	FMP area/ prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau grouper and Goliath grouper year-round ²	At sea, gutted	4	4
		Recreational ^{2,5} Groupers Snappers Other Species	192 1,377 1,474	1867 (for-hire)	Handline, rod and reel, bandit gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area			
Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial All	10,754	558 (penaeid) 234 (rock)	Trawls	FMP area/ year-round	Shore-side processing		
		Recreational ⁵ White	n/a ³	n/a ³	n/a ³				
Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial-Octocoral ⁴ (2016 landings)	66,175 (6,440 Fed, 59,735 State) colonies	157	Hand harvest	South FL/ year-round	Fresh		
		Recreational ⁵	n/a ⁴	n/a ⁴					
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster [Jointly managed with GMFMC]									
Coastal Migratory pelagics [Jointly managed with GMFMC]								4	4

1 Number of vessels with active permits for 2016.

2 Commercial and recreational sector for shallow water groupers closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for red porgy closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for greater amberjack closed during April. Fishing prohibited year-round in Oculina HAPC.

3 Not applicable (no recreational fishery in the EEZ).

4 Octocoral landings and number of persons harvesting octocoral provided by State of Florida. Federal permits are not required for octocoral harvest.

5 Recreational landings include Marine Recreational Information Program and Headboat survey data.

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) datasets produced by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL, and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the SEFSC ACL datasets and include MRIP and headboat landings data. NMFS Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2014.

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)	Type	Fishery/Species, Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2016	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants / Representatives in 2014	
								Comm	Rec.
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	R	Commercial - Red Drum	31	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶		
		Recreational ¹²	4,406 ⁵	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	4	4
Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	X	Commercial Grouper Red Snapper Other snapper Other species ⁷	2,995 3,014 1,012 447	852 (reef fish) 374 (red snapper) ⁸ 653 (grouper-tilefish) ⁹	Longline, handline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/year round ⁹	At-sea, gutted; shore-side processing	4	4
		Recreational ¹² Grouper Red Snapper Other snappers Other species ⁷	1,076 3,379 1,669 1,389	n/a ³ (1315 for-hire vessel permits)	Spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net	FMP area/year round ^{4,10}			
Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-All	58,039	1454	Trawl, butterfly net, skimmer, cast net	FMP area/year round; annual TX closure; seasonal FL closure	Tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
		Recreational	n/a ³	n/a ³	Trawl	FMP area/year round			
Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	C	Commercial ¹¹	2,749	248 commercial 256 tailing	Trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest	Florida/Aug-Apr	Tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
		Recreational ¹¹	677 ²	n/a ³	Dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest	FL / 2-day sport-season in July, Aug-Apr			
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	X	Commercial King mackerel Spanish mackerel	2,328 2,141	1451 2281	Gillnets, longline, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, purse net	Gulf & South Atlantic: Year round, commercial closures when quotas are reached	At-sea, gutted, Shore-side processing	4	4
		Recreational ¹² King mackerel Spanish mackerel	2,235 1,806	n/a ³ n/a ³ (1328 Gulf for-hire vessels) (1876 south Atlantic for-hire vessels)	Bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear				

1 Number of vessels with active permits for 2016.

2 Data from state of Florida.

3 Not Available (no federal permit or reporting requirements, except for-hire vessels).

4 Recreational fishery for red snapper in 2016 was closed from January 1 through May 31, then the private sector closed July 12 through December 31, and the federally permitted for-hire vessels closed July 17 through December 31.

5 State landings only.

6 Not applicable (fishery closed in federal waters).

- 7 Includes greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish, gray triggerfish, tilefishes, and hogfish.
- 8 Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) Program shareholders at the end of 2016.
- 9 Grouper-tilefish IFQ Program shareholders at the end of 2016.
- 10 Bottom fishing prohibited year-round on Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps; the Edges is closed to all fishing January through April. Recreational fishery for red grouper, black grouper, yellowfin grouper, scamp, and yellowmouth grouper is closed February 1 to March 31 beyond the 20-fathom break. Recreational fishery for gag is closed from January 1st to June 30th.
- 11 Data from 2015-2016 fishing season.
- 12 Recreational landings include Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), Headboat survey (Headboat), Louisiana survey (LA), and Texas Parks and Wildlife survey (TPWD) data.

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) datasets produced by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL, and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the SEFSC ACL datasets and include MRIP, headboat, LA, and TPWD landings data. NMFS Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2014.

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2015 ¹	Vessel permits ²	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2014	
							Comm.	Rec.
Spiny Lobster	Commercial	189 (PR) 70 (USVI)	n/a	Trap/pot, dip net gillnet, snare	Year-round	Fresh, landed whole		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	Dip net, trap, pot	Year-round			
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, other reef species)	Commercial	507 (PR) 195 (USVI)	n/a	Longline, hook and line, trap, pot,	Area closures ⁵ , seasonal closures for numerous snappers and groupers; prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau and Goliath groupers	Gutted at-sea, shore-side processing	2	2
	Recreational	118 ³ (PR) n/a ⁴ (USVI)	n/a	Dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear				
Coral Reef Resources	Commercial Stony Corals Gorgonians Live Rock Other Invertebrates	0 0 0 0 <1	n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a	Dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	Year-round	Live, fresh		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	Dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest				
Queen Conch	Commercial	138 (PR) 9 (USVI)	n/a	Hand harvest (no hooks)	Closed year round (no harvest) in EEZ except east of St. Croix (portion of Lang Bank) where it is closed seasonally each year July through September	Live, landed whole in shell, shore-side processing		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	Hand harvest (no hooks)				

¹ Landings for 2015 were provided because final 2016 landings are not available because of hurricane damage to the U.S. Caribbean.

² Not applicable (no permits required).

³ Recreational landings only for Puerto Rico and are collected by the Marine Recreational Information Program.

⁴ Not available. Recreational landings in USVI are not collected. Also, recreational landings surveys do not collect information on lobster and conch.

⁵ Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gill nets, and trammel nets is prohibited year-round at Grammanik Bank and at various mutton snapper and red hind spawning aggregation sites. Fishing for any species is prohibited year-round within Hind Bank Marine Conservation District.

Sources: Puerto Rican and USVI Commercial landings were obtained from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami. Puerto Rico commercial landings are from the Accumulated Landings System at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL.

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	2016 Landings (salmon in # of fish, others in metric tons)	2016 Permits (Vessels) & Angler Trips	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2017	
								Comm.	Rec.
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California ²	X	Commercial Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Recreational Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	137,503 11 0 58,682 24,539 0	CA Troll 1,098 OR Troll 946 WA Troll 151 159,988 Angler Trips	Troll; hook and line,	WA, OR & CA/ variable dates by area	Headed & gutted; fillets; fresh & frozen		3
Pacific Coast Groundfish ¹	X	Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Other groundfish Recreational Groundfish	258,944 10,603 4,659 5,331 875 Estimated 4,000	Limited Entry: 360 vessels registered to a LE permit Open Access: (approximately 750 vessels landed groundfish) Estimated 990,000 Boat Based Trips targeting groundfish	Trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	Headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen	2	3
Coastal Pelagic Species ³	C	Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy	522 1,830 374 38,349 13,907	Federal Limited Entry south of Point Arena - 65 State Limited Entry north of Point Arena- 42	Purse seine	CA - year round OR and WA - summer	Human consumption bait meal and oil	1	
Highly Migratory Species ⁴	X	Northern albacore Other tunas Swordfish Sharks	10,457 1,29 583 79	1,895 Federal Permits	Surface hook-and line Coastal purse seine Harpoon Drift gillnet High Seas longline	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	Fresh, frozen, canned Human consumption		2

¹ Pacific Coast groundfish fishery data was extracted directly from the PacFin data system (commercial), and RecFIN data system (recreational).

² "Review of 2016 Ocean Salmon Fisheries:" (February 2017; Pacific Fishery Management Council).

³ Estimates from PacFIN.

⁴ Landings estimates from PacFIN (November 2017); Permits from 2016 HMS SAFE.

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons) ¹	Fishermen & Crew ²	Gear	Fishing Areas and Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2015 ⁴	
								Comm.	Rec.
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	173,225 42,925 28,044 35,931 9,353 1,092 7,030	1,138 Federal Fishing permits 1,124 LLP permits	Trawl; pot; hook & line; jig	Area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	Hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	1,354,968 243,868 225,260 36,909 881 54,485 36,117	536 Federal fishing permits 506 LLP permits	Trawl; pot; hook & line; jig	Area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	Hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI	C	King Crab Red king crab Golden king crab St. Matt.Blue King Crab Tanner Crab <u>C. opilio</u> (snow) <u>C. bairdi</u>	5,582 3,073 50 Closed 21,400 11,380	495 Quota Share holders for IFQ crab 347 LLP permits	Pot	Deferred to State; generally November and winter months; LLP permits have fishery endorsements for minor crab species.	Cooked; refrigerated; frozen	3	
Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters	C	Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Sockeye salmon Chum salmon	1,317 4,148 103 15 642	1,018 permits fished	Troll ³	Deferred to State; generally West area is closed; southeast area time area limits.	Fresh; gutted & gilled; glazed; frozen; canned; smoked		1
Scallop Fishery off Alaska	C	Weathervane scallops (no directed fisheries occur for other scallop species listed in the FMP)	120	9 LLP permits	Dredges	Deferred to State; Time and area openings are adjusted inseason	Hand shucked and frozen or iced		

In addition to these five FMPs, the NPFMC also is responsible for developing regulations governing Pacific halibut fisheries in and off of Alaska under authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). These regulations, which are in addition to and not in conflict with regulations adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, primarily allocate halibut fishing privileges among U.S. fishermen. Although the NPFMC develops halibut management regulations according to principles of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, no halibut FMP exists because the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not apply to management of the Pacific halibut fisheries. In 2016, the commercial fishing season for halibut in and off Alaska runs from March 19 through November 7. The total commercial catch of halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs through November 7, 2016 was 7,986 mt, net weight, about 97 percent of the available quota. At that date, about 251 mt of Pacific halibut remained. For Pacific halibut, 2,402 persons held IFQ Quota Share as of December 2016.

¹ 2014 salmon catch data are from the State of Alaska. These data represent only the southeast AK hand and power troll fisheries that are governed by the Salmon FMP and managed as one fishery, inside and outside State waters by the State of Alaska. The catch data for the BSAI crab fisheries are from the 2016 Final Crab Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation report for Fishing Year 2015/2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), NMFS. Alaska scallop fishery catch data for the 2015/2016 season (July 1, 2015 to February 2016) are from the State of Alaska. All other catch data are from the Alaska Region, NMFS, and reflect catch reports through December 31, 2016. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts. Miscellaneous groundfish species includes squid, skates, sharks, octopus, and sculpin.

A-vii NPFMC (continued) from preceding page:

²Data represent persons or vessels permitted to harvest fish, not the number of individuals actually involved in the operation of vessels, catching and processing fish. The number of permits actually used to harvest fish is fewer than that indicated by the data. Participation in all FMP fisheries is governed by some form of limited access system. License Limitation Programs (LLP), initially effective in 2000, apply to all fisheries except crab fisheries brought under a new IFQ system in 2005, salmon (which is governed by the State of Alaska limited entry system), demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Gulf of Alaska, IFQ sablefish, and IFQ and CDQ halibut fisheries. In 2005, a new IFQ program replaced the LLP license requirement for most BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. A total of 495 distinct persons were initially issued one or more types of harvesting quota share for eight crab fisheries (managed as nine fisheries starting July 1, 2007); in the 2015/2016 crab year most IFQ crab was assigned to cooperatives; 145 distinct Hired Masters fished IFQ for 10 active permit holders (counting cooperatives, not members). Some LLP crab licenses were re-issued to authorize fishing not managed under the IFQ system. Of the approximate total 2,193 current LLP permits, most (1,852) authorized fishing for groundfish in the BSAI or GOA or both, and 347 still authorized fishing for BSAI crab species not under crab rationalization management; the remaining 9 were for scallop harvest.

Also, a total of 809 persons held QS to harvest sablefish as of December 2016, with fixed gear in the GOA and BSAI under the IFQ Program. The salmon permit data are from the State of Alaska and represent the number of individual permits fished in 2014.

³Troll gear is the gear authorized to be used in the EEZ under the salmon FMP, however, other gear types such as gill nets and purse seines are authorized in other areas of the State to harvest salmon.

⁴Columns not completed. In many cases, overlapping interests exist and expressly categorizing the specific degree of Council representation on a specific FMP cannot be conclusively determined.

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2015 ¹	Vessels (permits) ²	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2017	
								Comm.	Rec.
Hawaiian Archipelago (including Midway Atoll)	C/R	Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish	184(C) 451(R) ³	Est. 500 (C) Est. n/a (R)	Handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except: a. Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) upon reaching annual catch limit b. Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) (closed) c. Hancock Seamounts (closed until pelagic armorhead is rebuilt)	Fresh fish market	1	2
		Spiny and slipper lobster, Kona crab, deep-water shrimp	16	2 lobster 7 shrimp	Traps, hand	FEP Area/year round, except: a. NWHI (closed) b. MHI: (closed 5/1 - 8/31)	Flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	#	#	Manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except NWHI where fishery is closed.	Shaped/polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	489 (C) 806 (R) ³	0	Hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurp gun, spear	FEP Area/year round	Fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Marianas Archipelago (CNMI & Guam)	C/R	Bottomfish	3 (CNMI) <1 (Guam)	6 (CNMI) 2 (Guam)	Handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round	Fresh fish market	1	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	<1(CNMI) <1(Guam)	0 (CNMI) 0 (Guam)	Traps, hand	FEP Area/year round	Flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	Manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round	Shaped/polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	13 (CNMI) 20 (Guam)	0	Hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurp gun, spear	FEP Area/year round	Fresh fish and aquarium markets		
American Samoa	C/R	Bottomfish	12	No permits required	Handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closure within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	Fresh fish market	2	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	<1	1	Traps, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closure within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	Flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	Manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	Shaped/polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	38	0	Hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurp gun, spear	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	Fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Pacific Remote Island Areas (Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, and Wake and Palmyra Atolls)	C/R	Bottomfish	0	2	Handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	Fresh fish market	0	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	0	0	Traps, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	Flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	Manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	Shaped/polished		

		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	0	0	Hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurp gun, spear	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Pelagic	C/R	Commercial - Tunas - Swordfish - Other billfish - Mahimahi - Wahoo - Squid - Other (incl. sharks) Estimated Recreational (all species)	13,643 1,380 2,106 704 625 0 1,686 5,747(R) ³	186 (longline) 7 (troll/handline) 0 (squid) n/a	Longline troll/handline squid	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures around the Hawaii, Mariana and American Samoa Archipelagos	Fresh fish market Whole frozen for cannery	0	0

¹ Data for 2016 is not yet available. 2015 Landing information obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network databases at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/wpacfin> (accessed on November 27, 2017), and is primarily comprised of domestic commercial landings, but includes non-commercial (recreational and subsistence) landing.

² Vessel information obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Region Sustainable Fisheries Permits Program, except for Hawaii bottomfish and seamount groundfish, which is from the State of Hawaii commercial marine licenses and bottomfish vessel registration.

³ Where noted, recreational (R) fisheries landing information obtained from NMFS Office of Science and Technology at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/queries/index.html> (accessed on November 27, 2017)

Too few vessels to aggregate and disclose landings information per MSA confidentiality requirements.