



## **2019 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**

*Developed pursuant to Section 302(b)(2)(B) and Section 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.*

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## A. Executive Summary

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 2019 to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the MSA and (2) assesses the annual apportionment of Council membership.

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.”

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. As described in Part I, Section C, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) published a proposed rule on November 16, 2018 (83 FR 57705) that proposes changes to the regulations to better address disclosure of financial interests by, and voting recusal of, Council members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. In 2019, NOAA Fisheries received four comment letters on this proposed rule. The final rule will likely be released in 2020.

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 and other applicable law.

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 NOAA Fisheries 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. Non-voting members include representation from the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of State, and the Marine Fisheries Commissions.

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”<sup>1</sup> (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 can be found on that same webpage and at 50 CFR 600.235.

The executive director of the Council provides copies of all Statements of Financial Interests to the NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator, the regional attorney who advises the Council, and the NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries. Statements of Financial Interests are made available on the Council internet site, made available for public inspection at the Council offices during reasonable hours, and kept on file by each Council and by the NOAA Fisheries Regional

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

Office for use in reviewing determinations of whether a Council decision would have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest under Section 302(j)(7).

In accordance with Section 302(g)(1) of the MSA, an individual who is appointed to an SSC 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 five 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,<sup>2</sup> the designated official shall make a determination for the record as to whether a Council decision would have a "significant and predictable effect"<sup>3</sup> on a financial interest. Within 10 days,<sup>4</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup>Designated 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.

<sup>3</sup> 50 CFR 600.235(f)

<sup>4</sup> 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**

### **C.1 Action Taken by the Secretary and the Councils**

(1) NOAA Fisheries continues to follow current 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 NOAA Fisheries, 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). 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, NOAA Fisheries also provided a brief clarification of the process by which NOAA Fisheries, NOAA GC, and the Councils identify Council members' conflicts of interest within the procedural directive.

NOAA Fisheries policy and procedural directives can be found at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/fisheries-management-policy-directives>. The "Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosure" policy directive is number 01-116. A pdf. of this policy directive can be downloaded directly from the following link: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/64669099>. A pdf. of the associated procedural directive can be can be downloaded directly from the following link: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/64669100>.

(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) NOAA Fisheries published a proposed rule on November 16, 2018 (83 FR 57705) entitled Regional Fishery Management Council Membership; Financial Disclosure and Recusal that proposed changes to the regulations to address disclosure of financial interests by, and voting recusal of, Council members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under the MSA. The regulatory changes are intended to reinforce guidance and to (1) ensure consistency and transparency in the calculation of a Council member's financial interests; (2) determine whether a close causal link exists between a Council decision and a benefit to a Council member's financial interest; and (3) establish regional procedures for preparing and issuing recusal determinations. The public comment period ended for this proposed rule on March 6, 2019. NOAA Fisheries received four comment letters on the proposed rule. The comments received on the proposed rule can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NMFS-2018-0092>. The final rule is currently under review and expected to publish in 2020.

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

(5) NOAA Fisheries continues to ensure that all Statements of Financial Interests completed by voting Council members appointed by the Secretary are posted on Council websites, and that copies are forwarded to appropriate NOAA Fisheries offices and NOAA GC. Both NOAA Fisheries 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 NOAA Fisheries 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) NOAA Fisheries updated the Statement of Financial Interests form and published a revised version of this form at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/financial-disclosure-statements>. The revised form corrects some technical issues.

## **C.2 Regional Information on Meeting the Requirements of 302(j)(9)**

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries requested that each NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator and Council coordinate to provide the following information on efforts to meet the requirements of 302(j)(9):

(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 change, to be kept on file by NOAA Fisheries. For 2019, 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. Statement of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary in 2019 were provided to NOAA Fisheries 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: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/fisheries-management-policy-directives>. A pdf. of this policy directive can be downloaded directly from the following link: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/64669099>.

All Council and SSC members are up-to-date with their 2020 Financial Disclosures and the forms are on file with the appropriate agencies.

(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).

*GMFMC*: Dr. Greg Stunz voluntarily recused himself during the October 2019 Council Meeting discussion and evaluation of research award contracts as he was a party to one of the submissions. Verbatim minutes of the Council Meeting are published on the Council Website at <http://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/GMFMC-Full-Council-October-2019.pdf>.

The related committee minutes can be found here <http://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/GMFMC-Admin-Budget-October-2019.pdf>.

(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).

*NEFMC*: Rick Bellavance requested a determination regarding the need for a recusal, based upon his potential employment by a contractor assisting with the development of electronic vessel trip reporting. Mr. Bellavance would likely be employed as a sub-contractor to provide training to fishermen on electronic vessel trip reporting, if the action currently under consideration by the Council were to be approved. In consultation with an attorney in the Ethics Law and Programs Division within the Department of Commerce, Office of General Counsel, it was determined that Mr. Bellavance is required to recuse himself from discussions related to electronic vessel trip reports because it involves a particular matter primarily of individual concern. Mr. Bellavance was not in the room for the relevant discussion, and as such no statement or record of recusal was made.

(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).

None reported in 2019

(5) Documentation that the designated official received reliable and probative information during a Council meeting relevant to a determination concerning recusal, per 50 CFR 600.235(f)(3).

None reported in 2019

(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 2019

(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 per 50 CFR 600.235(b).

None reported in 2019

(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 2019

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

*NEFMC:* At the August 21, 2019, SSC meeting, Dr. Chris Legault voluntarily recused himself from taking a position on the SSC's overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder because he was involved in the scientific work that was reviewed by the SSC.

(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 NOAA Fisheries, per 50 CFR 600.235(b)(5).

In 2019, 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 NOAA Fisheries 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, NPFMC, and WPFMC 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 Councils could consider them prior to making appointments.

## ***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.<sup>5</sup>

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.

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

Nominees may be categorized as participating in more than one of the three general fishing interest sectors. In these cases, NOAA Fisheries' determination about a nominee's primary interest sector is the result of NOAA Fisheries' interpretation of: (1) supporting background information provided by the 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 states in each Council's jurisdiction 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 2019, the Secretary announced the appointment or reappointment of 22 voting obligatory and at-large Council members. Table 1 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretary-appointed Council voting members by sector for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

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 marine resources. To the extent practicable, the appointments also seek to rotate membership, thereby distributing participation among all sectors affected by 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

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

## F. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

Table 1 provides a 3-year breakdown of Council members by fishing sector.

Table 2 lists the 22 Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2020.

Table 3 sorts the 22 Council members into the three general fishing sector categories.

The MSA prohibits the reappointment of Council members to a fourth consecutive term. Of the 22 members whose terms expire in 2020, five have served three consecutive terms and thus will be ineligible for reappointment.

**TABLE 1: CURRENT APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2017-2019)**

	Year	Commercial	Recreational	“Other”	Total
NEFMC	2017	7	2	3	12
	2018	7	2	3	12
	2019	7	2	3	12
MAFMC	2017	5	5	3	13
	2018	5	4	4	13
	2019	5	5	3	13
SAFMC	2017	4	4	0	8
	2018	3	4	1	8
	2019	3	4	1	8
GMFMC	2017	3	4	4	11
	2018	3	4	4	11
	2019	3	4	4	11
CFMC	2017	2	2	0	4
	2018	3	1	0	4
	2019	2	2	0	4
PFMC	2017	2	3	4	9
	2018	3	4	2	9
	2019	3	4	2	9
NPFMC	2017	6	1	0	7
	2018	6	1	0	7
	2019	6	1	0	7
WPFMC	2017	4	2	2	8
	2018	3	3	2	8
	2019	4	2	2	8
ALL COUNCILS	2017	33	23	16	72
	2018	33	23	16	72
	2019	33	25	14	72

**TABLE 2: RFMC MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2020  
GROUPED BY OBLIGATORY OR AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT**

<b>OBLIGATORY MEMBERS</b>	<b>APPT. DATE</b>	<b>CONSEC. TERMS SERVED</b>	<b>AT-LARGE MEMBERS</b>	<b>APPT. DATE</b>	<b>CONSEC. TERMS SERVED</b>
<b><u>New England</u></b> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the New England Council in 2020.			E. Stockwell/ME (C) E. Etrie/MA (C) J. Pappalardo/MA (C) ** P. Kendall/NH (C)	2017 2014 2015 2011	1 2 1 3*
<b><u>Mid-Atlantic</u></b> MD: E. Gwin/C NC: F. Hemilright/C ** NY: S. Heins/R PA: G.W. Elliott/R	2017 2012 2017 2011	1 2 1 3*	L. Nolan/NY(C)	2011	3*
<b><u>South Atlantic</u></b> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the South Atlantic Council in 2020.			W. Brewer/FL (R) J. Whitaker/SC (R) **	2014 2018	2 1
<b><u>Gulf of Mexico</u></b> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the Gulf of Mexico Council in 2020.			R. Shipp/AL (O) P. Dyskow/FL (R) G. Stunz/TX (O)	2017 2017 2014	1 1 2
<b><u>Caribbean</u></b> PR: M. Hanke/R	2014	2	There are no expiring at large seats on the Caribbean Council in 2020.		
<b><u>Pacific</u></b> WA: R. Lincoln/O	2011	3*	B. Pettinger /OR (C)	2017	1
<b><u>North Pacific</u></b> AK: S. Kinneen/C WA: K. Down/C **	2014 2015	2 1	There are no available at-large seats on the North Pacific Council.		
<b><u>Western Pacific</u></b> CNMI: J. Gourley/O	2014	2	M. Goto/HI (C)** F. M. Rice/HI (R)**	2018 2018	1 1
<b>9 Obligatory Members</b>			<b>13 At-Large Members</b>		

C = Commercial Sector

R = Recreational Sector

O = Other Sector

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

\*\*Out-of-cycle appointments – These Council members were first appointed to serve out the term of a former member. According to the MSA an out-of-cycle appointment does not count in the total of consecutive terms served.

**TABLE 3: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2020,  
GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES**

Council	COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	OTHER	TOTAL SEATS
<u>New England</u>	E. Stockwell/ME E. Etrie/MA J. Pappalardo/MA P. Kendall/NH			4
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	L. Nolan/NY E. Gwin/MD F. Hemilright/NC	S. Heins/NY G.W. Elliott/PA		5
<u>South Atlantic</u>		W. Brewer/FL J. Whitaker/SC		2
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u>		P. Dyskow/FL	G. Stunz/TX R. Shipp/AL	3
<u>Caribbean</u>		M. Hanke/PR		1
<u>Pacific</u>	B. Pettinger /OR		R. Lincoln/WA	2
<u>North Pacific</u>	S. Kinneen/AK K. Down/WA			2
<u>Western Pacific</u>	M. Goto/HI	F. M. Rice/HI	J. Gourley/CNMI	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	11	7	4	22

## G. SECRETARY'S 2019 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 2019 for three NEFMC members. As a result of the appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives was unchanged from seven commercial, two recreational, and three "other." The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the NEFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

#### **New Member/Fishing Sector**

Mark H. Godfroy/R  
Michael P. Sissenwine/O  
Richard J. Bellavance Jr./R

#### **Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector**

Reappointment  
Reappointment  
Reappointment

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

2019 NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	MCKENZIE, MATTHEW G.	CT	2021	O
O	ALEXANDER, TERRY A.	ME	2021	C
O	QUINN, JOHN F.	MA	2021	O
O	GODFROY, MARK H.	NH	2022	R
O	REID, ERIC E.	RI	2021	C
A	STOCKWELL, ERNEST F.	ME	2020	C
A	BALZANO, VINCENT M.	ME	2021	C
A	SISSINWINE, MICHAEL	MA	2022	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	2022	R

## **EXPIRING TERMS**

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2020:

1. Ernest F. Stockwell – commercial sector – at-large seat (Maine)
2. Elizabeth Etrie – commercial sector – at-large seat (Massachusetts)
3. John Pappalardo – commercial sector – at-large seat (Massachusetts)
4. Peter T. Kendall – commercial sector – at-large seat (New Hampshire)

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The stocks within the NEFMC's geographical area that are managed by the Council are primarily associated with commercial fisheries. Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2020, three are from the commercial sector, three are from the "other" sector, and two are from the recreational 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 four seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2020, are all from the commercial sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial sector and the recreational sector in order to maintain balance on the Council. Also, governors are encouraged to nominate individuals 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 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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (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 2019 for four MAFMC members. As a result of the appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is changed from five commercial, four recreational, and four “other” to five commercial, five recreational, and three “other”. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the MAFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

#### New Member/Fishing Sector

Paul W. Townsend/C  
 Scott Lenox/R  
 Kate M. Wilke/O  
 Peter B. Hughes/C

#### Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment  
 Harold W. Slacum/O  
 Roger Mann/O  
 Reappointment

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

2019 MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	TOWNSEND, PAUL W.	DE	2022	C
O	GWIN, EARL	MD	2020	C
O	HEMILRIGHT, FRANCIS D.	NC	2020	C
O	NOWALSKY, ADAM C.	NJ	2021	R
O	HEINS, STEPHEN	NY	2020	R
O	ELLIOTT, G. WARREN	PA	2020	R
O	DEFUR, PETER L.	VA	2021	O
A	LENOX, SCOTT	MD	2022	R
A	WINSLOW, SARA E.	NC	2021	O
A	HUGHES, PETER B.	NJ	2022	C
A	NOLAN, LAURIE A.	NY	2020	C
A	DILERNIA, ANTHONY D.	NY	2021	R
A	WILKE, KATE M.	VA	2022	O

### EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2020:

1. Earl Gwin – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Maryland)
2. Francis D. Hemilright – commercial sector – obligatory seat (North Carolina)
3. Stephen Heins – recreational sector – obligatory seat (New York)
4. G. Warren Elliott – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Pennsylvania)
5. Laurie Nolan – commercial sector – at-large seat (New York)

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2020, two are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and three are 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 five seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2020, include three outgoing members from the commercial sector and two from the recreational sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial and recreational sector in order to maintain balance on the Council, including people 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 Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; 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 2019 for two SAFMC members. As a result of the appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives was unchanged from three commercial, four recreational, and one “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

Robert T. Griner/C  
Chris C. Conklin/C

#### Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment  
Reappointment

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

2019 SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	SAPP, ART L.	FL	2021	C
O	CHRISTIANSEN, KYLE D.	GA	2021	R
O	GRINER, ROBERT T.	NC	2022	C
O	CONKLIN, CHRISTOPHER C.	SC	2022	C
A	BREWER, WILLIAM C. JR.	FL	2020	R
A	WOODWARD, ARNOLD G.	GA	2021	O
A	BECKWITH, ANNA B.	NC	2021	R
A	WHITAKER, JOSEPH D.*	SC	2020	R

\*Mark E. Brown retired in July 2018. An out-of-cycle appointment was conducted and Joseph Whitaker was appointed.

#### EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2020:

1. Joseph D. Whitaker – recreational sector – at-large seat (South Carolina)
2. William Chester Brewer – recreational sector – at-large seat (Florida)

#### REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the six members whose terms do not expire in 2020, three are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational sector, and one is from the “other” sector. The commercial

members' experience includes harvesting, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen.

The two seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2020, include two outgoing members from the recreational sector. The governors are encouraged to nominate nominees from either of the three sectors to maintain balance between these 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 fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone (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 2019 for three GMFMC members. As a result of the appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged from three commercial, four recreational, and four “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

Troy Williamson III/R

Leann Bosarge/C

Thomas Frazer/O

##### Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Douglass Boyd/R

Reappointment

Reappointment

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

2019 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	BOGGS, SUSAN E.	AL	2021	R
O	SANCHEZ, JUAN M.	FL	2021	C
O	DUGAS, JONATHAN J.	LA	2021	R
O	BOSARGE, LEANN N.	MS	2022	C
O	WILLIAMSON, TROY	TX	2022	R
A	SHIPP, ROBERT	AL	2020	O
A	DYSKOW, PHILLIP	FL	2020	R
A	FRAZER, THOMAS K.	FL	2022	O
A	SWINDELL, EDWARD W. JR.	LA	2021	C
A	DIAZ, DALE A.	MS	2021	O
A	STUNZ, GREGORY W.	TX	2020	O

##### EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2020:

1. Robert Shipp – other sector – at-large seat (Alabama)
2. Phillip Dyskow – recreational sector – at-large seat (Florida)
3. Gregory Stuntz – other sector – at-large seat (Texas)

##### REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2020, three are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and one is from the “other” sector. The commercial

members' experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen or for-hire vessel owners.

Of the three seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2020, two are from the recreational sector and one is from the “other” sector. The governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from either of the three sectors to maintain a balance between these interest groups. While nominees from each sector—commercial and recreational—are important, the governors are also 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 EEZ: 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 pelagic species in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region.

## 5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

### BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Terms expired in 2019 for one CFMC member. One out-of-cycle appointment was also conducted. As a result of the appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives changed from three commercial, one recreational, and zero “other” to two commercial, two recreational, and zero “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the CFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

#### New Member/Fishing Sector

Carlos F. Farchette/R  
Louis “Tony” Blanchard/C

#### Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Edward P. Schuster, Sr./C  
Reappointed

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

2019 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	FARCHETTE, CARLOS F.*	USVI	2021	R
O	HANKE, MARCOS R.	PR	2020	R
A	RAMIREZ PEREZ, VANESSA	PR	2021	C
A	BLANCHARD, LOUIS A.	USVI	2022	C

\*Edward Schuster retired soon after appointment. Carlos Farchette was appointed to his vacant seat and will serve the remainder of Mr. Schuster’s term.

### EXPIRING TERM

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2020:

1. Marcos Hanke – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Puerto Rico)

### REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the three members whose terms do not expire in 2020, two are from the commercial fishing sector and one is from the recreational fishing sector.

The seat that will become vacant on August 10, 2020, is from the recreational sector. The governor was encouraged to recommend a nominee from the recreational or “other” fishing sector to maintain balance on the Council 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 EEZ: 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 2019 for two PFMC members. As a result of the appointments of new members to fill these seats, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged at three commercial (C), four recreational (R), and two “other” (O). The tribal representative is counted as a member of the “other” sector for the purposes of this report. 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

Peter F. Hassemer/R  
Marc M. Gorelnik/R

#### Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Herbert A. Pollard, II/R  
Reappointed

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

2019 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	DOOLEY, ROBERT E.	CA	2021	C
O	HASSEMER, PETER F.	ID	2022	R
O	SVENSSON, CHRISTA M.	OR	2021	C
O	LINCOLN, RICHARD H.	WA	2020	O
O	PFMC TRIBAL SEAT: OATMAN, JOSEPH Y.	ID	2021	T
A	ZIMM, LOUIS H.	CA	2021	R
A	GORELNIK, MARC M.	CA	2022	R
A	PETTINGER, BRADLEY	OR	2020	C
A	ANDERSON, PHILIP M.	WA	2021	R

### EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2020:

1. Richard Lincoln – other sector – obligatory seat (Washington)
2. Bradley Pettinger – commercial sector – at-large seat (Oregon)

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Of the seven members whose terms do not expire in 2020, two are from the commercial fishing sector, four are from the recreational fishing sector, and one is from the “other” sector (including the tribal representative). 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 two seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2020, include one seat from the commercial and one seat from the “other” sector. The state governors are encouraged to nominate from any of the three sectors, but with particular emphasis on the commercial and “other” sectors in order to maintain balance on the Council. 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 PFMC has prepared fisheries management plans (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 fishermen in Area 2A under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act.

## 7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

### BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Terms expired in 2019 for two NPFMC obligatory members. As a result of the appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC is unchanged from six commercial, one recreational, and zero “other.” There are no available at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointees are as follows:

#### New Member/Fishing Sector

Cora J. Campbell/C

Nicole S. Kimball/C

#### Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Michael “Buck” Laukitis/C

Theresa Petersen/C

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

2019 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Members)				
Obligatory	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	JENSEN, JOHN E.	AK	2021	C
O	CAMPBELL, CORA	AK	2022	C
O	KIMBALL, NICOLE	AK	2022	C
O	KINNEEN, SIMON	AK	2020	C
O	MEZIROW, ANDREW D.	AK	2021	R
O	CROSS, CRAIG A.	WA	2021	C
O	DOWN, KENNETH	WA	2020	C

### EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2020:

1. Simon Kinneen – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Alaska)
2. Kenneth Down – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Washington)

### REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the five members whose terms do not expire in 2020, four are from the commercial fishing sector and one is from the recreational fishing sector. The commercial sector members have experience in processing and harvesting.

The two seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2020, include members from the commercial sector. Although commercial fisheries are particularly important in this region, the governors are encouraged to continue to nominate people from the recreational fishing sector and from the “other” sector. “Other” sector nominees should include people 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. Alaska native tribal entities also have voiced strong support for greater representation on the NPFMC.

## **DISCUSSION**

The NPFMC has six FMPs for: Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska, Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI), Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ 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 2019 for three WPFMC members. As a result of the appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the WPFMC is four commercial, two recreational, and two “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the WPFMC changed when a nominee from Hawaii was appointed to a seat previously held by American Samoa. The new appointees are as follows:

#### New Member/Fishing Sector

Archie T. Soliai/O  
Howard T. Dunham/C  
Monique K. Genereux/R

#### Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment  
Dean C. Sensui/R  
Christina Lutu Sanchez/C

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

2019 WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	DUENAS, MICHAEL P.	GU	2021	C
O	SOLIAI, ARCHIE T.	AS	2022	O
O	GOURLEY, JOHN E.	CNMI	2020	O
O	WATAMURA, EDWIN N.	HI	2021	C
A	GENEREUX, MONIQUE K.	GU	2022	R
A	GOTO, MICHAEL K.	HI	2020	C
A	RICE, FREDERICK M.	HI	2020	R
A	DUNHAM, HOWARD T.	AS	2022	C

### EXPIRING TERMS

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2020:

1. John Gourley – other sector – obligatory seat (CNMI)
2. Michael Goto – commercial sector – at-large seat (Hawaii)
3. Frederick M. Rice – recreational sector – at-large seat (Hawaii)

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Of the five appointed members whose terms do not expire in 2020, two are from the commercial sector, two are from the recreational fishing sector, and one is from the “other” sector.

The three seats that will become vacant on August 10, 2020, include one seat from the recreational sector, one seat from the commercial sector, and one seat from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from any of the three sectors in order to maintain balance on the Council. Members from the “other” sector include 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. EEZ around islands of the Pacific Islands Region (the U.S. western Pacific), and adjacent high seas, under five fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs): 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. Electronic reporting and monitoring are areas of great interest to increase efficiency in catch reporting. Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch. Also of concern are measures protecting marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

## H. APPENDIX – STATISTICAL FISHERIES DATA

This report provides, in this appendix, the following statistical information 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. This appendix provides statistical data required by Section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. 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.<sup>1</sup>

### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Vertical sums in the attached appendices may not match the sums entered for interest sectors in Table 1 on page 6. 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, they are 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) 2017	Vessels (permits) 2017	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2017	
								Comm.	Rec.
Northeast Multi-Species [NAFO landings have been removed]	C	Commercial Atlantic cod Haddock Pollock Hakes Ocean perch (redfish) Yellowtail flounder American plaice Winter flounder Witch flounder Windowpane flounder* Atlantic halibut Ocean pout	718 4,811 2,876 7,226 5,159 397 1,145 1,069 446 13 52 0	2,316	trawl, dredge, longline, gillnet, hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted	6	2
	R	Recreational Cod Pollock Winter flounder	1,020 808 193	679	hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted, filleted		
Atlantic Sea Scallops	C	Atlantic sea scallops	23,474	776	dredge & trawl	FMP area/year round	hand shucking and freezing	2	0
Atlantic Salmon	R	Atlantic salmon	0	None	None	None	none	0	0
Deep-sea Red Crab	C	Deep-sea red crab	1,367	1,391	Traps, trawl	FMP area/year round	whole, partially processed at sea	0	0
Atlantic Herring	C	Atlantic herring	49,063	1,898	Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/canned shoreside/fresh bait	2	0
Monkfish	C	Monkfish	5,125	2,140	gillnets, trawls, dredges	FMP area/year round	fresh	6	0
Northeast Skate Complex	C	Skates	9,011	2,049	Trawls, gillnets, dredge, longline	FMP area/year round	fresh bait, frozen, partially processed at sea	6	0

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's data base as of March 2020. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/fisheries-united-states-2017> and are based on the results of the 2017 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) 2017	Vessels (permits) 2017	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2017	
								Comm.	Rec.
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish	C	Commercial Atlantic mackerel	6,992	1942	otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	frozen, whole	2	1
	C	Squid, Longfin Squid, <u>Ilex</u> Butterfish	8,107 22,516 3,681	(Combine) 1,836	trawl; traps	FMP area/year round	at-sea & ashore, some mackerel fillets		
	R	Recreational Atlantic mackerel	3,611	748		FMP area/year round			
Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs	C	Atlantic surfclams	17,696	651	Dredge	FMP area/year round (ITQ mgmt.)	shucked shoreside	1	0
		Ocean quahogs	14,274	648					
Summer Flounder (fluke)	x	Commercial	2,663	767	hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets ashore; fresh & frozen	3	1
		Recreational	4,634	820					
Scup	x	Commercial	7,018	634					
		Recreational	6,146	752					
Black Sea Bass	x	Commercial	1,821	679					
		Recreational	6,094	814					
Tilefish	C	Golden Tilefish	653	(combine) 1,899	longline, hook & line	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	3	1
	C	Blueline Tilefish	23						
Atlantic Bluefish	x	Commercial	1,752	2,380	hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets fresh/frozen	1	3
	x	Recreational	14,802	841					
Spiny Dogfish	C	Commercial	8,670	2,378	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 March 2020. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/fisheries-united-states-2017> and are based on the results of the 2017 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) 2018	Vessels (permits: <sup>1</sup> Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2018	
								Comm.	Rec.
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab	156	11	traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh		
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	X	Commercial <sup>2</sup> Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species  Recreational <sup>2,5</sup> Groupers Snappers Other Species	289 Confidential 1,199 1,353  175 1,599 1,091	659    2,126 (for-hire)	rod and reel, bandit gear, longline, handline  handline, rod and reel, bandit gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/ prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau grouper and Goliath grouper year-round <sup>2</sup>  FMP area	at sea, gutted	3	4
Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial All  Recreational <sup>5</sup>	8,025  n/a <sup>3</sup>	335 (penaeid) 139 (rock)  n/a <sup>3</sup>	trawls  n/a <sup>3</sup>	FMP area/ year-round	shore-side processing		
Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial-Octocoral <sup>4</sup> (2017 landings)  Recreational <sup>5</sup>	29,287 (5,145 Fed, 24,142 State) colonies  n/a <sup>4</sup>	149  n/a <sup>4</sup>	hand harvest	south FL/ year-round	Fresh		
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster [Jointly managed with GMFMC]									
Coastal Migratory Pelagics [Jointly managed with GMFMC]								3	4

- 1 Number of vessels with active permits for 2018.
- 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 (MRIP) 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. NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2018.

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) 2018	Vessels (permits: <sup>1</sup> Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants / Representatives in 2018	
								Comm	Rec
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	R	Commercial - Red Drum	35	n/a <sup>6</sup>	n/a <sup>6</sup>	EEZ Closed n/a <sup>6</sup>	n/a <sup>6</sup>	2	5
		Recreational <sup>6,12</sup>	5,617 <sup>5</sup>	n/a <sup>6</sup>	n/a <sup>6</sup>	EEZ Closed n/a <sup>6</sup>	n/a <sup>6</sup>		
Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	X	Commercial Grouper Red Snapper Other snapper Other species <sup>7</sup>	1,746 3,113 1,039 359	907 (reef fish) 341 (red snapper) <sup>8</sup> 616 (grouper-tilefish) <sup>9</sup>  1,279 (for-hire)	longline, handline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/year round <sup>9</sup>	at-sea, gutted; shore-side processing	2	5
		Recreational <sup>12</sup> Grouper Red Snapper <sup>4</sup> Other snappers Other species <sup>7</sup>	923 3,324 1,778 1,022		spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net	FMP area/year round <sup>4,10</sup>			
Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-All	61,484	1,426	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 <sup>6</sup>	n/a <sup>3</sup>	n/a <sup>3</sup>	trawl	FMP area/year round			
Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	C	Commercial <sup>11</sup>	1,642	228 commercial 245 tailing	trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest	Florida/ Aug-Apr	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
		Recreational <sup>2,11</sup>	n/a <sup>2</sup>	n/a <sup>3</sup>		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	2,625 2,232	1491 2397	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	2	5
		Recreational <sup>12</sup> King mackerel Spanish mackerel	2,191 1,334	n/a <sup>3</sup> n/a <sup>3</sup> (1,323 Gulf for-hire vessels) (2,176 south Atlantic for-hire vessels)	bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear				

- 1 Number of vessels with active permits for 2018.
- 2 Data from state of Florida. The survey of recreational lobster landings was not conducted in 2018 because of hurricane activity.
- 3 Not Available (no federal permit or reporting requirements, except for-hire vessels).
- 4 Recreational fishery for red snapper in 2018 had state specific seasons for the private sector and had a June 1 through July 22 season for the federally permitted for-hire vessels.
- 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 2018.
- 9 Grouper-tilefish IFQ Program shareholders at the end of 2018.

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 11 Data from 2016-2017 fishing season.
- 12 Recreational landings include MRIP, Headboat survey, Louisiana survey (LA), and Texas Parks and Wildlife survey (TPWD) data.

**Sources:** Commercial landings information was obtained from the ACL datasets produced by the 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.

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Vessel permits <sup>2</sup>	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2018	
							Comm.	Rec.
Spiny Lobster	Commercial	85 (PR) 54 (USVI)	n/a	trap/pot, dip net gillnet, snare	year-round	fresh, landed whole		
	Recreational	n/a <sup>3,4</sup>	n/a	dip net, trap, pot	year-round			
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, other reef species)	Commercial	246 (PR) 173 (USVI)	n/a	longline, hook and line, trap, pot,	area closures <sup>5</sup> , 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	62 <sup>1,3</sup> (PR) n/a <sup>3,4</sup> (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 <sup>3,4</sup>	n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest				
Queen Conch	Commercial	89 (PR) 18 (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 <sup>3,4</sup>	n/a	hand harvest (no hooks)				

<sup>1</sup> Only 2017 landings are completed and available at this time. Landings for 2017 are likely lower because recovery continues from hurricane damage to the U.S. Caribbean.

<sup>2</sup> Not applicable (no permits required).

<sup>3</sup> Recreational landings are only available for Puerto Rico and are collected by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). MRIP stopped in 2017 and was not run in Puerto Rico in 2018. Therefore, there are no data on recreational landings in Puerto Rico in 2018, and 2017 landings were provided.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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 SEFSC, Miami. Puerto Rico commercial landings are from the Accumulated Landings System at the SEFSC, Miami, FL.

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC) FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)	Type <sup>1</sup>	Species/Species Group	2018 Landings (salmon in # of fish, others in metric tons)	2018 Permits (Vessels) & Angler Trips	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California <sup>2</sup>	X	<i>Commercial</i> Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon  <i>Recreational</i> Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	151,290 13,186 0  101,946 60,575 0	CA Troll 1,057 OR Troll 946 WA Troll 155  208,223 Angler Trips	Troll; hook and line,	WA, OR & CA/ variable dates by area	headed & gutted; fillets; fresh & frozen
Pacific Coast Groundfish <sup>3</sup>	X	<i>Commercial</i> Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Other groundfish  <i>Recreational</i> Groundfish	312,601 10,442 18,168 4,882 2,992  Estimated 3,092	396 Limited Entry Permits on 297 vessels Open Access:  (approximately 921 vessels landed groundfish)  Estimated 841,195 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
Coastal Pelagic Species <sup>3</sup>	C	<i>Commercial</i> Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy	339 2,636 348 36,374 17,491	Federal Limited Entry south of Point Arena - 65 State Limited Entry north of Point Arena- 44 (26 OR, 16 WA)	purse seine	CA - year round OR and WA - summer	human consumption bait meal and oil
Highly Migratory Species <sup>3</sup>	C	<i>Commercial</i> Northern albacore Other tunas Swordfish Sharks	6,931 2,565 225 68	1,739 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

<sup>1</sup> X = Both commercial and recreational, C = Commercial only

<sup>2</sup> Data extracted from the [Review of 2018 Ocean Salmon Fisheries](#) (February 2019; Pacific Fishery Management Council)

<sup>3</sup> Data extracted from the PacFin (commercial) and RecFIN data systems (recreational)

-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons) <sup>1</sup>	Fishermen & Crew <sup>2</sup>	Gear	Fishing Areas and Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2018 <sup>4</sup>	
								Comm.	Rec.
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	158,070 15,218 25,765 34,237 13,017 1,438 7,949	1,007 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	1,381,196 220,295 212,152 41,982 2,254 70,393 38,453	513 Federal fishing permits  505 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 C. opilio (snow) C. bairdi	 2,818 3,360 1 Closed 15,400 1,900	468 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	574 2,976 100 11 2,044	905 permits fished	Troll <sup>3</sup>	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)	108	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 2018, the commercial fishing season for halibut in and off Alaska ran from March 24 through November 7. The total commercial catch of halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs through November 7, 2018 was 7,577 mt, net weight, about 95 percent of the available quota. At that date, about 381 mt of Pacific halibut remained. For Pacific halibut, 2,330 persons held IFQ Quota Share as of December 2018.

<sup>1</sup> 2018 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 2019 Final Crab Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation report for Fishing Year 2018/2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019), NMFS. Alaska scallop fishery catch data for the 2018/2019 season (July 1, 2018 to February 2019) are from the State of Alaska. All other catch data are from the Alaska Region, NMFS, and reflect catch reports through December 31, 2018. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts. Miscellaneous groundfish species includes squid, skates, sharks, octopus, and sculpin.

<sup>2</sup> Data 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 2018/2019 crab year most IFQ crab was assigned to cooperatives; 125 distinct Hired Masters fished IFQ for 9 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 2,199 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 796 persons held QS to harvest sablefish as of December 2018, 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 2018.

A-vii NPFMC (continued) from preceding page:

<sup>3</sup> Troll 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.

<sup>4</sup> Columns 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) 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Vessels (permits) <sup>2</sup>	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2017	
								Comm.	Rec.
Hawaiian Archipelago (including Midway Atoll)	C/R	Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish	209 (C) 571 (R) <sup>3</sup>	Est. 1,179 (C and 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	1
		Spiny and slipper lobster, Kona crab, deep-water shrimp	4	1 lobster 6 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	367 (C) 38 (R) <sup>3</sup>	1	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	21 (CNMI) 11 (Guam)	20 (CNMI) 1 (Guam)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish market	1	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep- water shrimp	0 (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	4 (CNMI) 31 (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	22	No permits required	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closure within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	fresh fish market	0	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep- water shrimp	<1	0	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	5	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	C/R	Bottomfish	0	1	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		

Palmyra Atolls)		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 (albacore, bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack, bluefin) - Swordfish - Other billfish - Mahimahi - Wahoo - Squid - Other (incl. sharks and other tunas)  Estimated Recreational (all species)	14,430 1,629 1,637 508 521 0 1,702 2,904 (R) <sup>3</sup>	160 (longline active) 3 (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	2	1

<sup>1</sup> 2017 landings obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network databases at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/wpacfin> (accessed on November 30, 2018), and is primarily comprised of domestic commercial landings, but includes non-commercial (recreational and subsistence) landings. 2017 Pelagic FEP landings obtained from the WPFMC Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for Pacific Pelagic Fisheries, 2017 (available at <http://www.wpcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Pelagic-FEP-SAFE-Report-2017-Final-Revision-1.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Vessel information obtained from WPFMC 2017 SAFE Reports (available at <http://www.wpcouncil.org/fishery-plans-policies-reports/fishery-reports-2/>) using data obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Region Sustainable Fisheries Permits Program data, except for Hawaii bottomfish and seamount groundfish, which is from the State of Hawaii bottomfish vessel registration.

<sup>3</sup> 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 30, 2018)

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