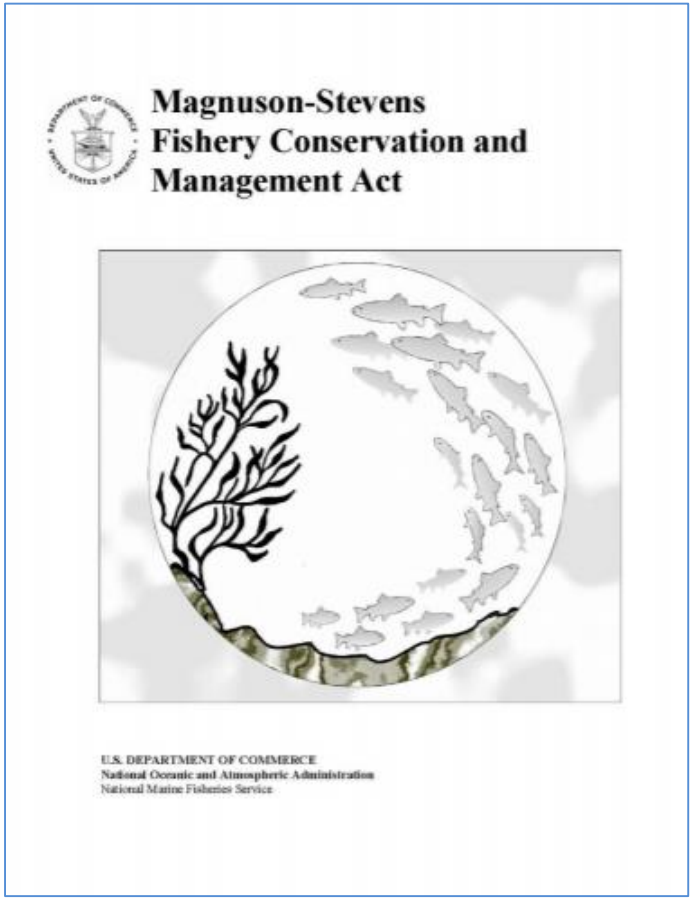
Council Process and Organization

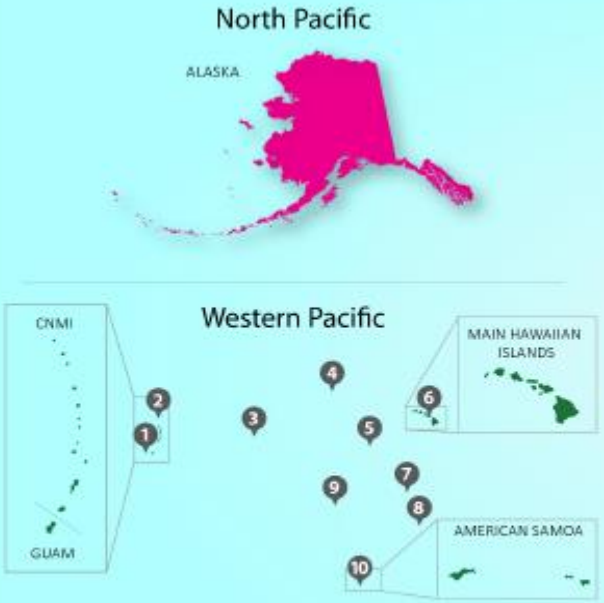
Learning Objectives

- Describe the Council responsibilities under MSA
- Identify similarities and differences among Council processes
- Understand how your Council is organized to support FMP development

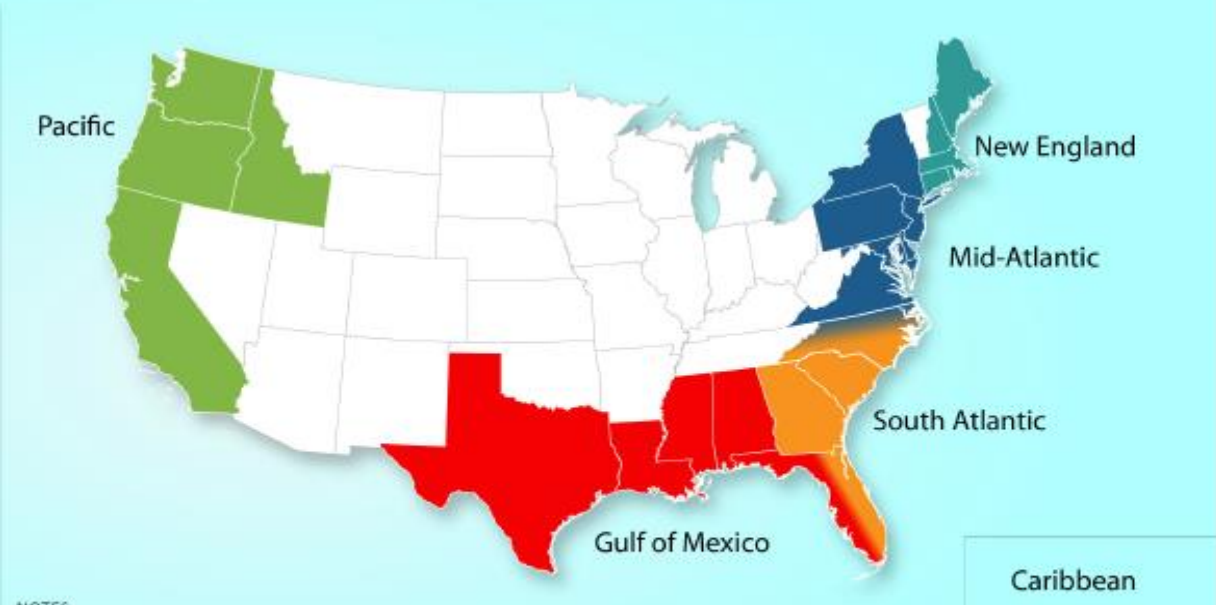


The Councils

Develop and amend fishery management plans for approval/implementation by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce



1. Guam; 2. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); 3. Wake Island; 4. Midway Atoll; 5. Johnston Island; 6. Hawaiian Islands; 7. Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef; 8. Jarvis Island; 9. Baker and Howland Islands; 10. American Samoa.



NOTES:

- **Washington** and **Oregon** have representatives on both the Pacific and North Pacific Fishery Management Councils.
- **North Carolina** has representatives on both the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Councils. The jurisdictional boundaries for managed species are generally at the North Carolina/Virginia border, with a few exceptions.
- **Florida** has representatives on the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils.

The Councils | FMPs

Example: SAFMC Plans

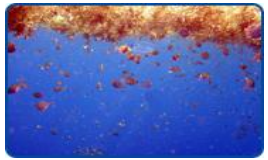
Spiny Lobster

Dolphin/Wahoo

Coastal Migratory Pelagics

Golden Crab

Sargassum



Coral

Shrimp

Snapper/Grouper

Habitat

Ecosystem-Based

US Fisheries Management

- Inland Waters
  - Department of the Interior (US F&WS)
- State waters (up to 3 mi)
  - Fishery Commissions
  - State Natural Resource Agencies
- Marine Federal waters (>3mi-200 mi)
  - Department of Commerce (NOAA Fisheries/Councils)

US Fisheries Aquaculture Management

- Fisheries Aquaculture is managed by:
  - NOAA Fisheries
  - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  - U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
  - Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)

Other Council Responsibilities

- Prepare comments on applications for foreign fishing transmitted to it
- Conduct public hearings as appropriate
- Submit to Secretary requested reports or those deemed necessary by Council
- Revise specifications with respect to OY
- Develop research priorities w/ Council's SSC

Council Membership

- Voting members
  - Federal designee – (NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator)
  - State designees - marine fishery management official
  - Appointed by Secretary of Commerce
- Non-voting members
  - USFWS Regional Director
  - USCG Regional Commander
  - Executive Director of Marine Fisheries Commissions
  - US Department of State representative

Others at the Table

- Non-voting participants vary by Council
  - Other Council's Liaison
  - NOAA General Counsel
  - Fisheries Science Center
  - NOAA Law Enforcement
  - SSC Chair

Voting Members

- NPFMC – 11 members
  - 4 officials
  - 7 appointed
- WPFMC – 13 members
  - 5 officials
  - 8 appointed
- PFMC – 14 members
  - 5 officials
  - 9 appointed
- GMFMC – 17 members
  - 6 officials
  - 11 appointed
- CFMC – 7 members
  - 3 officials
  - 4 appointed
- SAFMC – 13 members
  - 5 officials
  - 8 appointed
- MAFMC – 21 members
  - 8 officials
  - 13 appointed
- NEFMC – 18 members
  - 6 officials
  - 12 appointed

Conduits for Public Input

- Fishing Community (fishermen, processors, group reps.)
- State Fisheries Officials (represent stakeholder interests in states)
- Others (scientists, ENGOs, public/seafood consumers)

Council Structure | Members

- Council Members
  - Chair/Vice-Chair
  - Executive committee
  - Committee Structure (Species, FMP, Topic, etc.)

Council Structure | Staff and Other Groups

- Council Staff
  - Executive Director
  - Technical staff
  - Administrative staff
  - Plan Development, Action, and Monitoring Teams
- Advisory Groups
  - Advisory Panels
  - Scientific and Statistical Committee
  - Other groups?

Council Structure | Plan Teams

- Comprised of Council Staff, NOAA Fisheries Staff, sometimes others
- Different names: Plan Development Teams, Fishery Management Action Teams, Monitoring Teams
- Folks doing lots of technical work and writing – described in regional operating agreements

Scientific and Statistical Committees

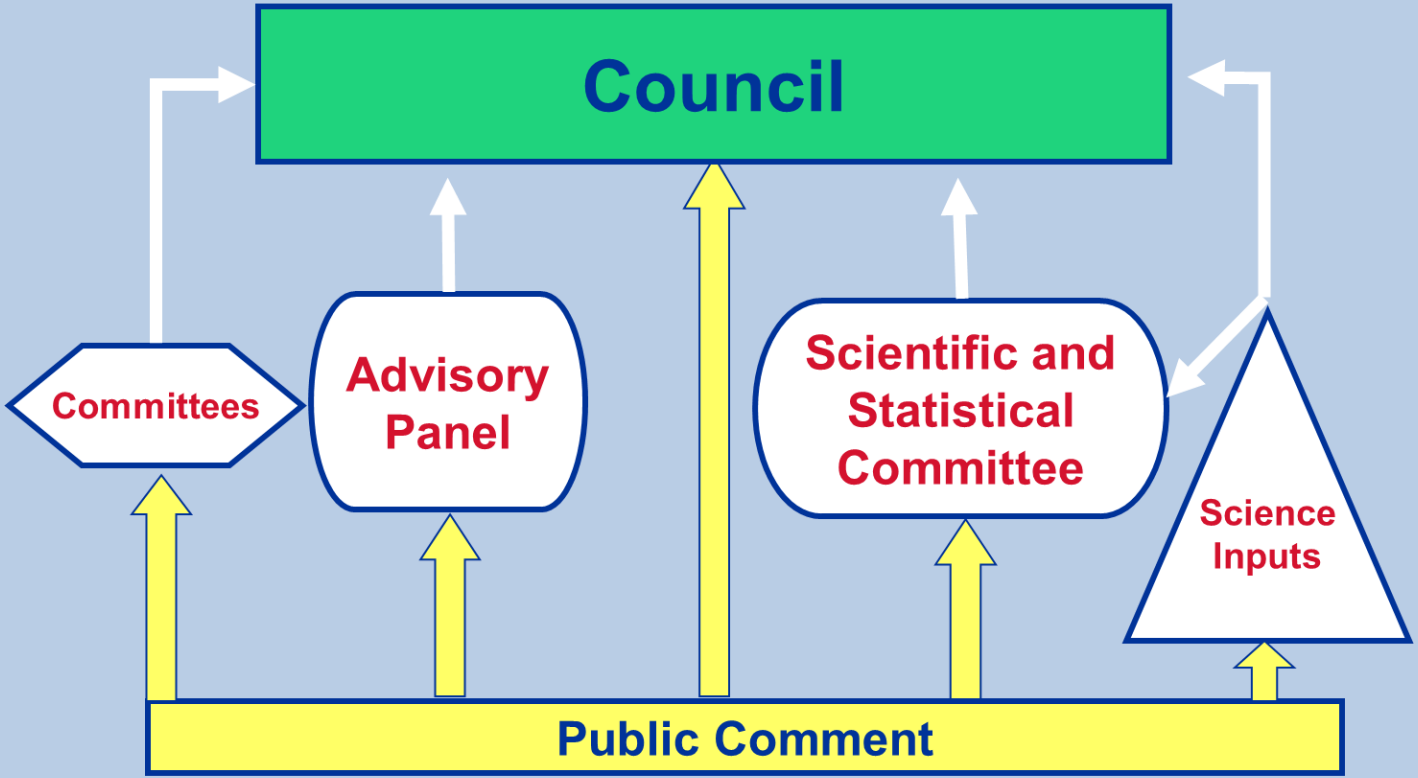
- Ongoing scientific advice,
- Acceptable biological catch (ABCs),
- Preventing overfishing,
- Maximum sustainable yield (MSY),
- Rebuilding, socioeconomic., etc.

- For stock assessments, regions have other peer review process:
  - SAW/SARC
  - SEDAR
  - STAR

Council Structure | Advisory Panels

- Industry advisory panel
- Organized very differently across Council's
- Means to facilitate stakeholder input into FMPs and other actions

Council Structure



Council Structure Handouts: Created in 2015

Public Meetings | Public Process

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)

- Councils, their Committees and Advisors are exempt from FACA

- The FACA applies whenever an agency:
  - seeks consensus advice
  - from a group that includes at least one person who is not a regular Federal employee, and
  - obtains input for its own operations or activities.

Questions and then Activity?

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