



2023 REPORT TO CONGRESS

ON THE REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS AND SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS' FINANCIAL INTEREST DISCLOSURE AND RECUSAL REQUIREMENTS

AND

ON THE REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS MEMBERSHIP APPORTIONMENT

*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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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report combines the reporting requirements of Section 302(j)(9) and Section 302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) into a single comprehensive report on the activities of the Regional Fishery Management Councils and their Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs). This report: (1) assesses the actions taken by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and the Councils in 2023 to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the MSA and (2) assesses the annual apportionment of Council membership.

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

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

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

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

II. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS

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

Section 302(j)(2) of the MSA requires “affected individuals”¹ (defined in Section 302(j)(1) of the MSA) to disclose any financial interest held by the individual, the spouse, minor child, or business 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) for 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, 1 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), must file a Statement of Financial Interests with the Executive Director of the Council within 45 days of taking office, 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 regardless of whether any information has changed.

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 posted on the Council website, 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 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).

¹ The term “affected individual” means an individual who is nominated for appointment or is appointed a voting member of a Council. “Affected individual” is also defined in NOAA regulations at 50 CFR 600.235.

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 5 years after the expiration of that individual's term on the SSC. Councils may also keep a copy on file for their own purposes.

Voting Requirements and Financial Conflicts of Interest

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

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

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

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

² "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.

³ 50 CFR 600.235(f)

⁴ 50 CFR 600.235(g)(1)

Though considered an affected individual, a member of an SSC is not subject to the voting restrictions under the MSA. It is expected that SSC members maintain a high standard of

conduct consistent with Department of Commerce ethics rules and Council procedures. Questions regarding conflict-of-interest requirements for SSC members should be addressed to the NOAA Office of General Council (NOAA GC) regional attorney who advises the Council in question.

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

A.1 ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY AND THE COUNCILS

On September 11, 2020, NOAA Fisheries published a final rule (85 FR 56177) on Regional Fishery Management Council Members' Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals in the *Federal Register*. This rule outlined changes to the regulations to better address disclosure of financial interests by, and voting recusal of, Council members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The rule provides guidance in three specific areas: (1) to ensure consistency and transparency in the calculation of a Council member's financial interests; (2) to determine whether a close causal link exists between a Council decision and a benefit to a Council member's financial interest; and (3) to establish regional procedures for preparing and issuing recusal determinations. The final rule on Regional Fishery Management Council Members' Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals is available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/final-rule-clarify-guidance-council-members-financial-disclosures-and-voting-recusals>.

NOAA Fisheries completed updates to the relevant policy and procedural directives to align with the final rule on Regional Fishery Management Council Members' Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals. 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 GC, Regional NOAA GC Sections, and Councils relating to Council member financial disclosures, which are within those responsibilities established in implementing regulations (see 50 CFR 600.235). The current NOAA Fisheries policy directive (01-116) on Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosure and procedural directive (01-116-01) on Procedures for Review of Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosures can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/fisheries-management-policy-directives>.

In response to requests for greater transparency and predictability, NOAA Fisheries, in conjunction with the Councils, will publish and make available to the public Regional Recusal Determination Procedure Handbooks, which will explain the process and procedure typically followed in preparing and issuing recusal determinations in each Region.

The Statement of Financial Interests form was approved by the Office of Management and Budget for extension through August 2026. NOAA Fisheries updated the Statement of Financial Interests form with the new extension date and published a revised version of this form with an additional question for consistency at:

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

As required annually, each Council Executive Director requested annual Statement of Financial Interests forms from voting Council members appointed by the Secretary and all SSC members, and forwarded all completed forms to the NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator to meet the requirements of 50 CFR 600.235. 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. 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. NOAA Fisheries and the Councils also continue to ensure Statements of Financial Interests are completed by SSC members and provided to NOAA Fisheries to be kept on file.

Both NOAA Fisheries and the Councils want to ensure that members are well aware of their responsibilities for financial disclosure and recusal, and the benefits of those disclosures allowing them to participate in Council activities. NOAA GC regularly communicates the existing policies and procedures to 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.

A.2 REGIONAL INFORMATION ON MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF 302(J)(9)

(1) Documentation of any time a voting Council member recuses themselves from a vote, the reason given, and any other relevant circumstances, per 50 CFR 600.235(d):

WPFMC: Per advice from NOAA General Counsel, John Gourley recused himself from participating and voting on the action specifying annual catch limits (ACLs) for the bottomfish fishery in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at the 195th meeting in June 2023.

(2) 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):

None reported in 2023.

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

NPFMC: For each of the Council's five meetings during 2023, the Alaska Section of NOAA GC prepared a recusal analysis. For the February 2023 Council meeting, the Alaska Section determined that three Council actions constituted "Council decision[s]" as that term is defined at 50 C.F.R. § 600.235(a), but determined that none of the appointed Council members were required to be recused from voting on each of those three actions under 50 C.F.R. § 600.235.

Details can be found here:

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=50cab003-a8da-46b4-b85c-04740122574a.pdf&fileName=B3%20Memo%20for%20Potential%20Recusal.pdf>.

For the April 2023 Council meeting, the Alaska Section determined that three Council actions constituted "Council decision[s]" as that term is defined at 50 C.F.R. § 600.235(a), but determined that none of the appointed Council members were required to be recused from voting on each of those three actions under 50 C.F.R. § 600.235. Details can be found here:

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=a8501a3e-2923-4d6d-b5de-b4af1ab19863.pdf&fileName=B3%20Recusal%20Determinations.pdf>.

For the June 2023 Council meeting, none of the Council actions constituted a "Council decision" as that term is defined at 50 C.F.R. § 600.235(a).

For the October 2023 Council meeting, none of the Council actions constituted a "Council decision" as that term is defined at 50 C.F.R. § 600.235(a).

For the December 2023 Council meeting, the Alaska Section determined that four Council actions constituted "Council decision[s]" as that term is defined at 50 C.F.R. § 600.235(a), but determined that none of the appointed Council members were required to be recused from voting on each of those four actions under 50 C.F.R. § 600.235. Details can be found here:

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=aa839109-9aac-4af3-9ff6-91efcba02b2e.pdf&fileName=B3%20Recusal%20Determinations%20-%20December%202023.pdf>.

WPFMC: Per advice from NOAA General Counsel, John Gourley recused himself from participating and voting on the action specifying annual catch limits (ACLs) for the bottomfish fishery in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) at the 195th meeting in June 2023. NOAA GC made the determination that Council Member Gourley was recused from participating and voting on the action specifying ACLs for the bottomfish fishery in the CNMI at the June 2023 meeting due to him owning a company, Micronesia Environmental Services (MES), which was contracted with NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center to collect data on harvested CNMI bottomfish. This contract would provide MES confidential fisheries data and the collection of bottomfish catch information directly from CNMI fishermen. Because the Council's recommendation could have a direct and predictable effect on MES's activities under this contract, it was determined that Council Member Gourley had a disqualifying conflict of interest under 18 U.S.C. § 208 and 50 CFR § 600.225(b)(9)(ii). He was recused from participating in this action (through "decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise"). NOAA GC conferred with the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel's Ethics and Law Program, which concurred with this determination.

(4) 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 2023.

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

None reported in 2023.

(6) 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 2023.

(7) 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 2023.

(8) Any similar instances to the above regarding SSC members:

NPFMC: For February 2023, the NPFMC's SSC noted there were no financial conflicts of interest between any SSC members and items on the February agenda, but a number of SSC members acknowledged associations with specific agenda items under SSC review. Details can be found here: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=ef57a3cc-e1d8-41c7-a80c-ebabd98e140c.pdf&fileName=SSC%20Report%20Feb%202023%20FINAL.pdf>.

For April 2023, the NPFMC's SSC noted there were no financial conflicts of interest between any SSC members and items on the April agenda, but a number of SSC members acknowledged associations with specific agenda items under SSC review. Details can be found here: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=e6636501-5e91-4b52-9f3e-27db1f599803.pdf&fileName=SSC%20Report%20April%202023.pdf>.

For June 2023, the NPFMC's SSC noted there were no financial conflicts of interest between any SSC members and items on the June agenda, but a number of SSC members acknowledged associations with specific agenda items under SSC review. Details can be found here: https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=5737304b-3eb1-4287-9427-672be5f82766.pdf&fileName=SSC%20Report%20June%202023_FINAL.pdf.

For October 2023, the NPFMC's SSC noted there were no financial conflicts of interest between any SSC members and items on the October agenda, but a number of SSC members acknowledged associations with specific agenda items under SSC review. Details can be found here: https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=053f3933-f141-43e3-be12-ef6d975f2da8.pdf&fileName=SSC%20Report%20Oct%202023_FINAL.pdf.

For December 2023, the NPFMC's SSC noted there were no financial conflicts of interest between any SSC members and items on the December agenda, but a number of SSC members acknowledged associations with specific agenda items under SSC review. Details can be found here (draft): https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=a3a46f9e-b8cf-4827-96cd-c1c26da25e06.pdf&fileName=SSC%20Report%20Dec%202023_DRAFT.pdf.

PFMC: There were 13 instances of Pacific Fishery Management Council SSC members recusal in 2023. In each case, the SSC member either contributed to an analysis or methodology being reviewed or supervised contributors. The recusals were not related to financial interest.

III. MEMBERSHIP APPORTIONMENT

B. 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 are 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. 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. 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.

For the purposes of this report, three general fishing interest sectors are discussed: the commercial fishing sector, the recreational fishing sector, and the “other” sector. The “other” sector consists of appointed members with knowledge of and experience in biological, economic, or social sciences; environmental or ecological matters; consumer affairs; and associated fields. Nominees are often categorized as participating in one of the three general fishing interest sectors by the nominating state governors. Members of federally recognized fishing tribes may fall into any of the three sector categories. The designated tribal representative seat on the Pacific Council is currently occupied by a member of the “other” sector. Often nominees have experience in a variety of fishing sectors and it becomes challenging to choose a primary sector. If governors do not specify a nominee’s primary interest sector, NOAA Fisheries will specify the sector, using best judgment and based on: (1) supporting background information provided by the nominating governor; (2) application information provided by the nominee, reflecting the nominee’s demonstrated principal participation; and (3) other supplemental information provided.

C. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPORTIONMENT

Council members are appointed from among qualified individuals nominated by the governors in each Council’s jurisdiction and, in the case of tribal representation on the Pacific Fishery Management Council, 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 at least three 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 or territory. In filling at-large seats (regional), the Secretary will select an appointee from the list of all qualified candidates submitted by regional state and territorial governors.

In 2023, the Secretary announced the appointment or reappointment of 22 voting obligatory and at-large Council members. Table D1 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretary-appointed Council voting members by sector for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Because of the limited number of Council seats, not all sectors and localities can be represented on each Council at once. 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 Council 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.

Advancing racial equity and supporting underserved communities within the work of the federal government are high priorities as outlined in Executive Order 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*. Further, federal agencies are directed to “make achieving environmental justice part of their missions” under Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*. NOAA Fisheries greatly values diversity, inclusion, and equity in our business practices and our broad organizational culture, which includes the Councils as key management partners. Appointed Council members play an important role in advancing racial equity, supporting underserved communities as defined in Executive Order 13985, and achieving environmental justice in fisheries management. Input from a broad spectrum of viewpoints also contributes to strong decision-making at the Councils. As such, Council members should be representative of the diverse public they serve and able to incorporate diverse perspectives. Governors and tribal leaders are encouraged to nominate individuals whose backgrounds, perspectives, and skills would contribute to achieving greater diversity in Council membership and best represent the diverse fishing communities the Councils serve. This includes considering qualified women, people of color, tribal members, subsistence users, and individuals representative of historically underserved communities, who are currently underrepresented members on the Councils. NOAA Fisheries does not collect information on race and ethnicity of Council members, and therefore cannot report on these data. Women currently make up 23.6 percent (17 of 72) members appointed by the Secretary to serve on the Councils.

D. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

Table D1 provides a 3-year breakdown of Council members by fishing sector. Table D2 lists the Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2024, by obligatory or at-large appointment. Table D3 sorts the Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2024, into the three general fishing sector categories. The MSA prohibits the reappointment of Council members to a fourth consecutive term. Of the 30 members whose terms expire in 2024, seven have served three consecutive terms and thus will be ineligible for reappointment.

**TABLE D1: CURRENT APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY
BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2021-2023)**

Council	Year	Commercial	Recreational	Other	Total
NEFMC	2021	5	3	4	12
	2022	6	3	3	12
	2023	6	3	3	12
MAFMC	2021	5	5	3	13
	2022	5	5	3	13
	2023	5	5	3	13
SAFMC	2021	4	3	1	8
	2022	3	4	1	8
	2023	3	4	1	8
CFMC	2021	2	2	0	4
	2022	2	2	0	4
	2023	2	2	0	4
GMFMC	2021	3	4	4	11
	2022	2	5	4	11
	2023	2	5	4	11
PFMC	2021	3	3	3	9
	2022	3	3	3	9
	2023	3	3	3	9
NPFMC	2021	6	1	0	7
	2022	6	1	0	7
	2023	6	1	0	7
WPFMC	2021	2	4	2	8
	2022	1	4	3	8
	2023	1	5	2	8
ALL COUNCILS	2021	30	25	17	72
	2022	28	27	17	72
	2023	28	28	16	72

“Other” sector includes those individuals knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of fisheries resources in the jurisdiction of the Council. The PFMC tribal representative is counted as a member of the “other” sector in this summary table.

TABLE D2: COUNCIL MEMBER TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2024 GROUPED BY OBLIGATORY OR AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT

OBLIGATORY SEATS					AT-LARGE SEATS				
Member	Sector	State	Consec Term#	Appt Date	Member	Sector	State	Consec Term#	Appt Date
NEFMC									
Mark Alexander	OTH	CT	1	2021	Kristin Brawn	COM	ME	1	2021
Geoffrey Smith	OTH	ME	1	2021					
Michael Pierdinock	REC	MA	1	2021					
Eric Reid*	COM	RI	3	2015					
MAFMC									
Adam Nowalsky*	REC	NJ	3	2015	Sara Winslow*	OTH	NC	3	2015
Skip Feller	REC	VA	1	2021	Thomas Schlichter	REC	NY	1	2021
SAFMC									
Laurilee Thompson	COM	FL	1	2021	Arnold Woodward	OTH	GA	2	2018
Judy Helmeý	REC	GA	1	2021	Thomas Roller	REC	NC	1	2021
CFMC									
Carlos Farchette	REC	USVI	1	^2019	Vanessa Ramirez	COM	PR	2	2018
GMFMC									
Susan Boggs	REC	AL	2	2018	Billy Brouard	COM	LA	1	2021
Robert Gill	COM	FL	1	2021	Dale Diaz*	OTH	MS	3	2015
Jonathan Dugas	REC	LA	2	2018					
PFMC									
Corey Ridings	OTH	CA	1	2021	Robert Dooley	COM	CA	2	2018
Christa Svensson	COM	OR	2	2018	Philip Anderson*	OTH	WA	3	2015
Joseph Oatman*	OTH	Tribal	3	2015					
NPFMC									
John Jensen	COM	AK	2	2018	There are no at-large seats on the NPFMC.				
Andrew Mezirow*	REC	AK	3	2015					
Anne Vanderhoeven	COM	WA	1	2021					
WPFMC									
Manuel Duenas II	REC	GU	1	2021	There are no at-large seats expiring in 2024.				
Matthew Ramsey	OTH	HI	1	2021					
20 Obligatory Members					10 At-Large Members				
COM = Commercial Sector REC = Recreational Sector OTH = Other Sector					* - Per MSA, members completing their third consecutive term are ineligible for reappointment.				
^ - Indicates an out-of-cycle initial appointment date and does not count toward term limits.									

TABLE D3: COUNCIL MEMBER TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2024, GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES

Council	Commercial		Recreational		Other		Total
NEFMC	Eric Reid Kristin Brawn	RI ME	Michael Pierdinock	MA	Mark Alexander Geoffrey Smith	CT ME	5
MAFMC	NONE		Adam Nowalsky Skip Feller Thomas Schlichter	NJ VA NY	Sara Winslow	NC	4
SAFMC	Laurilee Thompson	FL	Judy Helmey Thomas Roller	GA NC	Arnold Woodward	GA	4
CFMC	Vanessa Ramirez	PR	Carlos Farchette	USVI	NONE		2
GMFMC	Robert Gill Billy Brousard	FL LA	Susan Boggs Jonathan Dugas	AL LA	Dale Diaz	MS	5
PFMC	Christa Svensson Robert Dooley	OR CA	NONE		Corey Ridings Joseph Oatman Philip Anderson	CA Tribal WA	5
NPFMC	John Jensen Anne Vanderhoeven	AK WA	Andrew Mezirow	AK	NONE		3
WPFMC	NONE		Manuel Duenas II	GU	Matthew Ramsey	HI	2
Total	10		11		9		30

E. SECRETARY’S 2023 APPOINTMENTS AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section updates Council appointment rosters; specifies apportionment totals for Council members; discusses fishery management plans (FMPs), current issues, and challenges being addressed by each Council; and makes Secretarial recommendations for future nomination and appointment considerations, including balance of representation from commercial (COM), recreational (REC), and “other” (OTH) sectors. Secretarial recommendations are included in letters sent to the constituent state governors requesting nominees for outgoing Council members’ obligatory (O) and at-large (A) appointments, consistent with regulations at 50 CFR 600.215. The governors are required to submit their nominees by March 15 of each year.

E1. NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Seats)				
At-Large Seats Held By: Massachusetts (3), Maine (2), New Hampshire, Rhode Island				
Council structure following 2023 appointments:				
INCOMING			OUTGOING	
Alan Tracy (OTH)		→	Reappointment	
Daniel Salerno (COM)		→	Reappointment	
Jackie Odell (COM)		→	Elizabeth Etrie (COM)	
John Pappalardo (COM)		→	Reappointment	
CURRENT MEMBERS	STATE	SECTOR	TERM	TERM ENDS
OBLIGATORY SEATS (O)				
Mark Alexander	CT	OTH	1st	2024
Geoffrey Smith	ME	OTH	1st	2024
Michael Pierdinock	MA	REC	1st	2024
Peter Whalen	NH	REC	1st	2025
Eric Reid	RI	COM	3rd	2024
AT-LARGE SEATS (A)				
Alan Tracy	ME	OTH	2nd	2026
Kristin Brawn	ME	COM	1st	2024
Eric Hansen	MA	COM	1st	2025
Jackie Odell	MA	COM	1st	2026
John Pappalardo	MA	COM	3rd	2026
Daniel Salerno	NH	COM	2nd	2026
Richard Bellavance	RI	REC	3rd	2025
TERMS EXPIRING ON AUGUST 10, 2024				
Eric Reid – O – RI – COM		Kristen Brawn – A – ME – COM		
Mark Alexander – O – CT – OTH				
Geoffrey Smith – O – ME – OTH				
Michael Pierdinock – O – MA – REC				
CURRENT SECTOR BALANCES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
6	3		3	
REMAINING SECTOR BALANCE AFTER VACANCIES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
4	2		1	

E1. NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
NON-EXPIRING MEMBER EXPERIENCE
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 for-hire fisheries for groundfish species managed by the Council as well as other marine recreational fisheries in the Northeast. The “other” sector members have experience in marine science research, law, and maritime history.
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SECTOR BALANCE:
Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from all three sectors, including private recreational, to maintain balance on the Council.
REGIONAL SUMMARY:
<p>The NEFMC is responsible for six FMPs: Northeast Multispecies; Atlantic Sea Scallop; Atlantic Herring; Deep-Sea Red Crab; Northeast Skate Complex; and Atlantic Salmon. In addition, the NEFMC and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council 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.</p> <p>The stocks within the NEFMC’s geographical area that are managed by the Council are primarily associated with commercial fisheries. While species managed by the NEFMC are primarily commercial, the multispecies (groundfish) 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. Among other pressing issues, and in collaboration with the other East Coast Councils (MAFMC and SAFMC) as well as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the NEFMC has completed their work on a years-long process of climate change scenario planning. As a result of this work, the NEFMC will now be participating in two new groups, the East Coast Climate Coordination Group and the Climate Innovation Group.</p>

E2. MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Seats)				
At-Large Seats Held By: New York (2), New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina				
Council structure following 2023 appointments:				
INCOMING			OUTGOING	
Danny Farnham (COM)		→	Reappointment	
Earl Gwin (COM)		→	Reappointment	
Robert Ruhle (COM)		→	Francis Hemilright (COM)	
Michelle Duval (OTH)		→	Reappointment	
CURRENT MEMBERS	STATE	SECTOR	TERM	TERM ENDS
OBLIGATORY SEATS (O)				
Paul Townsend	DE	COM	3rd	2025
Earl Gwin	MD	COM	3rd	2026
Robert Ruhle	NC	COM	1st	2026
Adam Nowalsky	NJ	REC	3rd	2024
Paul Risi	NY	REC	2nd	2026
Michelle Duval	PA	OTH	2nd	2026
Skip Feller	VA	REC	1st	2024
AT-LARGE SEATS (A)				
Scott Lenox	MD	REC	2nd	2025
Sara Winslow	NC	OTH	3rd	2024
Peter Hughes	NJ	COM	3rd	2025
Danny Farnham	NY	COM	2nd	2026
Thomas Schlichter	NY	REC	1st	2024
Kenneth Neill	VA	OTH	1st	2025
TERMS EXPIRING ON AUGUST 10, 2024				
Adam Nowalsky – O – NJ – REC		Sara Winslow – A – NC – OTH		
Skip Feller – O – VA – REC		Thomas Schlichter – A – NY – REC		
CURRENT SECTOR BALANCES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
5	5		3	
REMAINING SECTOR BALANCE AFTER VACANCIES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
5	2		2	
NON-EXPIRING MEMBER EXPERIENCE				
The commercial sector members' experiences include harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are private anglers or charter boat owners. The "other" sector members have experience in consulting, state government management, and research.				
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SECTOR BALANCE:				
Governors are encouraged to nominate a diverse pool of individuals from the recreational or other sector to maintain balance on the Council, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.				
REGIONAL SUMMARY:				
The MAFMC is exclusively responsible for five FMPs: Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Tilefish; and 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). Among other pressing issues, and in collaboration with the other East Coast Councils (NEFMC and SAFMC) as well as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the MAFMC has completed their work on a years-long process of climate change scenario planning. As a result of this work, the MAFMC will now be participating in two new groups, the East Coast Climate Coordination Group and the Climate Innovation Group.				

E3. SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Seats)				
At-Large Seats Held By: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida				
Council structure following 2023 appointments:				
INCOMING			OUTGOING	
Kerry Marhefka (COM)		→	Reappointment	
Robert Spottswood, Jr. (REC)		→	William Brewer, Jr. (REC)	
CURRENT MEMBERS	STATE	SECTOR	TERM	TERM ENDS
OBLIGATORY SEATS (O)				
Laurilee Thompson	FL	COM	1st	2024
Judy Helmey	GA	REC	1st	2024
Robert Griner	NC	COM	3rd	2025
Gary Borland	SC	REC	1st	2025
AT-LARGE SEATS (A)				
Robert Spottswood, Jr.	FL	REC	1st	2026
Arnold Woodward	GA	OTH	2nd	2024
Thomas Roller	NC	REC	1st	2024
Kerry Marhefka	SC	COM	2nd	2026
TERMS EXPIRING ON AUGUST 10, 2024				
Laurilee Thompson – O – FL – COM		Arnold Woodward – A – GA – OTH		
Judy Helmey – O – GA – REC		Thomas Roller – A – NC – REC		
CURRENT SECTOR BALANCES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
3	4		1	
REMAINING SECTOR BALANCE AFTER VACANCIES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
2	2		0	
NON-EXPIRING MEMBER EXPERIENCE				
The commercial members' experience includes harvesting, while the recreational members have experience in law, private recreational fishing, and for-hire fishing.				
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SECTOR BALANCE:				
Governors are encouraged to nominate nominees from the "other" sector, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.				
REGIONAL SUMMARY:				
The SAFMC has prepared FMPs and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic EEZ: shrimp (penaeid and rock); coral, coral reef, and live/hard bottom habitats; golden crab; dolphin/wahoo; pelagic Sargassum habitat; and the snapper-grouper species complex. The SAFMC and the GMFMC have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagic species in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Most fisheries managed by the SAFMC are targeted by both the commercial and recreational sectors.				

E4. GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Seats)				
At-Large Seats Held By: Florida (2), Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, And Texas				
Council structure following 2023 appointments:				
INCOMING			OUTGOING	
Kesley Banks (OTH)		→	Gregory Stunz (OTH)	
Edward Walker (REC)		→	Phillip Dyskow (REC)	
Anthony Overton (OTH)		→	Robert Shipp (OTH)	
CURRENT MEMBERS	STATE	SECTOR	TERM	TERM ENDS
OBLIGATORY SEATS (O)				
Susan Boggs	AL	REC	2nd	2024
Robert Gill	FL	COM	1st	2024
Jonathan Dugas	LA	REC	2nd	2024
Michael McDermott	MS	REC	1st	2025
Troy Williamson	TX	REC	2nd	2025
AT-LARGE SEATS (A)				
Anthony Overton	AL	OTH	1st	2026
Edward Walker	FL	REC	1st	2026
Thomas Frazer	FL	OTH	3rd	2025
Billy Brouard	LA	COM	1st	2024
Dale Diaz	MS	OTH	3rd	2024
Kesley Banks	TX	OTH	1st	2026
TERMS EXPIRING ON AUGUST 10, 2024				
Susan Boggs – O – AL – REC		Billy Brouard – A – LA – COM		
Robert Gill – O – FL – COM		Dale Diaz – A – MS – OTH		
Jonathan Dugas – O – LA – REC				
CURRENT SECTOR BALANCES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
2	5		4	
REMAINING SECTOR BALANCE AFTER VACANCIES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
0	3		3	
NON-EXPIRING MEMBER EXPERIENCE				
The commercial members’ experience includes seafood dealer wholesale and commercial harvest of blue crabs, while two of the recreational members are private anglers, and the other is involved in the charter sector. The “other” sector members have experience in marine fisheries research as well as management of state fishery resources.				
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SECTOR BALANCE:				
Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, but with particular emphasis on the commercial sector, to ensure balance on the Council.				
REGIONAL SUMMARY:				
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, and red drum. 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. Many fisheries managed by the GMFMC are targeted by both the commercial and recreational sectors. Within the recreational sector, there are strong private angler and for-hire components. Two reef fish species are considered overfished and undergoing overfishing—greater amberjack and gag. The GMFMC approved a rebuilding plan for greater amberjack and NOAA Fisheries is currently developing a rulemaking to put this plan in effect. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries has developed an emergency rule to reduce overfishing until the rebuilding plan is put in place. For gag, the GMFMC is developing a plan amendment with the goal of approving it so regulations to end overfishing and rebuild the stock can be implemented by January 2024. An interim rule is currently in effect to reduce overfishing in 2023. The GMFMC is also working on a generic amendment to update EFH in the Gulf for all managed stocks as well as working with the SAFMC to implement electronic logbook reporting for the commercial sector.				

E5. CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Seats)				
At-Large Seats Held By: Puerto Rico And The U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI)				
Council structure following 2023 appointments:				
INCOMING			OUTGOING	
Roberto Sabater (REC)		→	Marcos Hanke (REC)	
CURRENT MEMBERS	STATE	SECTOR	TERM	TERM ENDS
OBLIGATORY SEATS (O)				
Carlos Farchette	USVI	REC	1st	2024
Roberto Sabater	PR	REC	1st	2026
AT-LARGE SEATS (A)				
Vanessa Ramirez	PR	COM	2nd	2024
James Kreglo	USVI	COM	1st	2025
TERMS EXPIRING ON AUGUST 10, 2024:				
Carlos Farchette – O – USVI – REC		Vanessa Ramirez – A – PR – COM		
CURRENT SECTOR BALANCES:				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
2	2		0	
REMAINING SECTOR BALANCE AFTER VACANCIES:				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
1	1		0	
NON-EXPIRING MEMBER EXPERIENCE:				
The commercial member’s experience includes seafood harvesting, administration of fish houses and management of commercial fishermen’s organizations, while the recreational members’ experience includes participation in the charter industry, private angling, and law enforcement.				
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SECTOR BALANCE:				
Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, particularly the commercial sector, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats and ecosystem approaches to management, and an active participant in local fisheries management, to ensure balance on the Council.				
REGIONAL SUMMARY:				
Recently, the Council has replaced four U.S. Caribbean-wide species-based FMPs with three new island-based FMPs. By developing island-based FMPs, NOAA Fisheries and the CFMC expect to better account for the existing differences among the U.S. Caribbean islands with respect to culture, markets, fishing gear used, seafood preferences, and ecological impacts. The Council is also currently developing a draft Fishery Ecosystem Plan that would provide a framework for Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) and would serve as a source document to guide future management actions pursued under each of the island-based FMPs, as needed. The CFMC has approved two amendments to the island-based FMPs to update catch levels for spiny lobster for the three islands, the first amendment has been implemented and the second amendment is in rulemaking. The CFMC has also approved an amendment, which has been implemented by NOAA Fisheries, that modifies the use of buoy gear in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ. Other CFMC priorities include evaluating the performance of seasonally closed areas and species closures currently in place, and supporting research focused on the socio-economy of the U.S. Caribbean fishermen. The CFMC is also in the early process of considering the development of federal permits for the U.S. Caribbean EEZ.				

E6. PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Seats)				
At-Large Seats Held By: California (2), Oregon, and Washington				
Council structure following 2023 appointments:				
INCOMING			OUTGOING	
Butch Smith (REC)		→	Reappointment	
Bradley Pettinger (COM)		→	Reappointment	
CURRENT MEMBERS	STATE	SECTOR	TERM	TERM ENDS
OBLIGATORY SEATS (O)				
Corey Ridings	CA	OTH	1st	2024
Peter Hassemer	ID	REC	2nd	2025
Christa Svensson	OR	COM	2nd	2024
Butch Smith	WA	REC	2nd	2026
Joseph Oatman	TRIBAL	OTH	3rd	2024
AT-LARGE SEATS (A)				
Robert Dooley	CA	COM	2nd	2024
Marc Gorelnik	CA	REC	3rd	2025
Bradley Pettinger	OR	COM	3rd	2026
Philip Anderson	WA	OTH	3rd	2024
TERMS EXPIRING ON AUGUST 10, 2024				
Corey Ridings – O – CA – OTH		Robert Dooley – A – CA – COM		
Christa Svensson – O – OR – COM		Philip Anderson – A – WA – OTH		
Joseph Oatman – O – TRIBAL – OTH				
CURRENT SECTOR BALANCES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
3	3		3	
REMAINING SECTOR BALANCE AFTER VACANCIES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
1	3		0	
NON-EXPIRING MEMBER EXPERIENCE				
The commercial members' experience includes harvesting, particularly the groundfish bottom trawl sector, and knowledge of the seafood industry. There is currently no real HMS (highly migratory species) expertise on the Council. The recreational representatives include a charter vessel owner and private anglers. The "other" sector members' experience includes government and conservation non-profit work on ecosystem-based management.				
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SECTOR BALANCE:				
States: Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from any of the three sectors, but with particular emphasis on the “other” and “commercial” sectors to ensure balance on the Council.				
Tribal: Representation shall be rotated among the tribes with federally recognized fishing rights from the states of California, Oregon, Washington, or Idaho, with nominees who are knowledgeable and experienced regarding the fishery resources under the authority of the Pacific Council.				
REGIONAL SUMMARY:				
The PFMC has prepared FMPs for: Pacific Coast groundfish, Pacific 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.				

E7. NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Seats)				
At-Large Seats: None				
Council structure following 2023 appointments:				
INCOMING			OUTGOING	
Kenny Down (COM)		→	Reappointment	
Rudy Tsukada (COM)		→	Simon Kinneen (COM)	
CURRENT MEMBERS	STATE	SECTOR	TERM	TERM ENDS
OBLIGATORY SEATS (O)				
John Jensen	AK	COM	2	2024
Angela Drobnica	AK	COM	1	2025
Nicole Kimball	AK	COM	2	2025
Rudy Tsukada	AK	COM	1	2026
Andrew Mezirow	AK	REC	3	2024
Anne Vanderhoeven	WA	COM	1	2024
Kenneth Down	WA	COM	3	2026
TERMS EXPIRING ON AUGUST 10, 2024				
John Jensen – O – AK – COM				
Andrew Mezirow – O – AK – REC				
Anne Vanderhoeven – O – WA – COM				
CURRENT SECTOR BALANCES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
6	1		0	
REMAINING SECTOR BALANCE AFTER VACANCIES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
4	0		0	
NON-EXPIRING MEMBER EXPERIENCE				
Members have a broad range of experience in ecosystem approaches to management, engagement in advocating for fishery-dependent communities, and a broad range of small- and large-scale commercial fishing expertise. The commercial sector members have experience in processing and harvesting, including groundfish and crab fisheries.				
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SECTOR BALANCE:				
Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the “recreational” and “other” sectors, including individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, to ensure balance on the Council. Nominees generally should not be state employees, because each Council already includes a non-appointed seat for the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each affected state. Alaska Native tribal entities also have voiced strong support for representation on the NPFMC. The Secretary wrote to Governor Dunleavy in October 2023 to encourage him to nominate one or more qualified Alaska Natives in 2024.				
REGIONAL SUMMARY:				
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. Current priorities for the Council include efforts to improve outreach and communication, bycatch management, and building management systems that are more resilient to climate change.				

F8. WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Seats)				
At-Large Seats: Hawaii (2), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Guam				
Council structure following 2023 appointments:				
INCOMING			OUTGOING	
Pedro Itibus (REC)		→	Fredrick Rice (REC)	
Gerald Weaver (REC)		→	John Gourley (OTH)	
Roger Dang (COM)		→	Reappointment	
CURRENT MEMBERS	STATE	SECTOR	TERM	TERM ENDS
OBLIGATORY SEATS (O)				
Manuel Duenas II	GU	REC	1st	2024
William Sword	AS	REC	1st	2025
Gerald Weaver	CNMI	REC	1st	2026
Matthew Ramsey	HI	OTH	1st	2024
AT-LARGE SEATS (A)				
Judith Guthertz	GU	REC	1st	2025
Roger Dang	HI	COM	2nd	2026
Pedro Itibus	CNMI	REC	1st	2026
Shaelene Kamakaala	HI	OTH	1st	2025
TERMS EXPIRING ON AUGUST 10, 2024				
Manuel Duenas II – O – GU – REC				
Matthew Ramsey – O – HI – OTH				
CURRENT SECTOR BALANCES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
1	5		2	
REMAINING SECTOR BALANCE AFTER VACANCIES				
COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL		OTHER	
1	4		1	
NON-EXPIRING MEMBER EXPERIENCE				
The commercial member's experience is in pelagic longline fisheries harvesting, seafood processing, and seafood supply. The recreational members represent nearshore and small boat fisheries. The "other" sector members have experience with conservation non-profit work and in environmental consulting.				
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SECTOR BALANCE:				
Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the commercial sector in order to ensure balance on the Council.				
REGIONAL SUMMARY:				
The WPFMC manages domestic fisheries in 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, Mariana Archipelago, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas. Commercial fishing for tuna, swordfish, and other pelagic species are the region's largest fisheries in terms of landings and value. The non-pelagic species such as bottomfish and coral reef ecosystem resources are important to Pacific Island communities, which are considered underserved communities, for non-commercial, recreational, subsistence, and cultural purposes. The smaller-scale, island-associated fisheries such as bottomfish are data-poor, and improving data collection and monitoring are high-priority issues for these fisheries to support science-based decision-making and achieve equity and environmental justice. Most of the region's fisheries do not have a clear distinction for commercial and recreational sectors. Many fishermen participate in a fishery for home consumption but may sell some catch for cost recovery, while also sharing part of the catch with family or community members.				
One ongoing concern for this Council is the challenge faced by pelagic fisheries that operate in domestic waters and on the high seas, where they compete with foreign fleets subject to less rigorous environmental regulations. Accordingly, improving competitiveness for U.S. longline fisheries under this Council's jurisdiction through higher catch limits and maintaining access to fishing grounds is a high priority. Continued improvements to conservation measures in both domestic and international pelagic fisheries to reduce impacts to protected species also remain a high priority for this region.				

APPENDIX A. – 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 2020 (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.¹

LEGEND FOR TYPE FISHERIES

- C - Commercial fishery: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.
- c - Mainly commercial fishery: More than 60 percent but less than 80 percent of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.
- x - Mixed fishery: 60 percent or less of the reported landings are by each group of commercial and recreational fishermen.
- r - Mainly recreational fishery: More than 60 percent but less than 80 percent of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.
- R - Recreational fishery: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

¹ 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)									
FMP	Type	Fishery/Species	2022 Landings (metric tons)	2022 Vessels (permits)	Allowable Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants in 2022	
								Comm	Rec
Northeast Multi-Species [NAFO landings have been removed]	C	Commercial		2,087	trawl, dredge, longline, gillnet, hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted	7	2
		Atlantic cod	421509						
		Haddock	6,410						
		Pollock	2,968						
		Hakes	5,982						
		Ocean perch (redfish)	5,648						
		Yellowtail flounder	292						
		American plaice	629						
		Winter flounder	450						
		Witch flounder	811						
		Windowpane flounder	6						
		Atlantic halibut	32						
	Ocean pout	0							
	Atlantic Sea Scallops	R	Recreational		818	hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted, filleted	2
Cod			174339						
Pollock			234						
Winter flounder			51						
Atlantic Sea Scallops	C	Atlantic sea scallops	14,44719,653	695761	dredge & trawl	FMP area/year round	hand shucking and freezing	2	0
Atlantic Salmon	R	Atlantic salmon	NA	None	None	None	None	0	0
Deep-sea Red Crab	C	Deep-sea red crab	1,565	1,357	Traps, trawl	FMP area/year round	whole, partially processed at sea	0	0
Atlantic Herring	C	Atlantic herring	5,087	1,810	Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/canned shoreside/ fresh bait	2	0
Monkfish	C	Monkfish	3,687	2,073	gillnets, trawls, dredges	FMP area/year round	fresh	7	0
Northeast Skate Complex	C	Skates	6,353	1,966	Trawls, gillnets, dredge, longline	FMP area/year round	fresh bait, frozen, partially processed at sea	7	0

Commercial & recreational fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's databases as of November 2023.

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

FMP	Type	Fishery/Species	2022 Landings (metric tons)	2022 Vessels (permits)	Allowable Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants in 2022	
								Comm	Rec
Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish	C	Commercial		1,7221,887	otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	frozen, whole	1	2
		Atlantic mackerel	1,8945,538						
		Squid, Longfin	10,556	Combined 1,801	Trawl, trap	FMP area/year round	at-sea & ashore, some mackerel filets	1	2
		Squid, Illex	30,714						
		Butterfish	1,547						
Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs	R	Recreational		813828	Dredge	FMP area/year round (ITQ mgmt.)	shucked shoreside	1	0
		Atlantic mackerel	1,3461,932						
	C	Atlantic surfclams	16,279	648	Dredge	FMP area/year round (ITQ mgmt.)	shucked shoreside	1	0
	Ocean quahogs	12,522	647						
Summer Flounder (fluke)	x	Commercial	4,751	735	hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	filets ashore; fresh & frozen	3	5
	Recreational	3,092	953						
Scup	x	Commercial	5,935	614					
		Recreational	7,540	820					
Black Sea Bass	x	Commercial	2,141	672					
		Recreational	5,461	947					
Tilefish	C	Golden Tilefish	669	(combine) 1,835	longline, hook & line	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	3	1
		Blueline Tilefish	52						
Atlantic Bluefish	x	Commercial	985	2,223	hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets fresh/frozen	3	5
		Recreational	3,987	947					
Spiny Dogfish	C	Commercial	4,673	2,248	gillnet; trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	5	1

Commercial & recreational fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's databases as of November 2023.

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)

FMP	Type	Fishery/Species	2022 Landings (metric tons)	2022 Vessels Permits Federal or Florida (FL)	Allowable Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants in 2022	
								Comm	Rec
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab	69	11	traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh		
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	X	Commercial ²		651	rod and reel, bandit gear, longline, handline	FMP area/ prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau grouper and Goliath grouper year-round 2	at sea, gutted	3	4
		Groupers	199						
		Wreckfish	Confidential						
		Snappers	840						
		Other species	612	2,183 (for-hire)	handline, rod and reel, bandit gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area	n/a ³		
		Recreational ^{2,5}							
		Groupers	68						
		Snappers	920						
Other Species	733								
Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial	7,121	538 (penaeid) 243 (rock ⁶)	trawls	FMP area/ year-round	shore-side processing		
		Recreational ⁵	n/a ³	n/a ³	n/a ³		n/a ³		
Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial-Octocoral ⁴	^{30,067} 2,454 Fed & 27,613 State	18	hand harvest	south FL/ year-round	Fresh		
		Recreational ⁴	n/a ⁴	n/a ⁴	n/a ⁴	n/a ⁴	n/a ³		
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster [Jointly managed with GMFMC]									
Coastal Migratory Pelagics [Jointly managed with GMFMC]								3	4

- Number of vessels with active permits for 2022.
- Commercial and recreational sector for shallow water groupers closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for red pogy closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for greater amberjack closed during April. Fishing is prohibited year-round in Oculina HAPC.
- Not applicable (No recreational fishery in the EEZ).
- Octocoral landings in number of units and number of persons harvesting octocoral provided by the State of Florida. Federal permits are not required for octocoral harvest, and there is no recreational harvest.
- Recreational landings include Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and Headboat survey data.
- Permit count is for both the rock shrimp permit and the rock shrimp Carolinas zone permit summed.

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 2022

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

FMP	Type	Species	2022 Landings (Metric Tons)	2021 Vessels Permits Federal Or Florida (FI)	Allowable Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants In 2022		
								Comm	Rec	
Red Drum Fishery Of The Gulf Of Mexico	R	Commercial	24	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	2	5	
		Recreational ^{6,12}	2,932 ⁵	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶					
Reef Fish Fishery Of The Gulf Of Mexico	X	Commercial		615 (grouper-tilefish) ⁹	longline, handline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/ year round ⁹	At-sea, gutted, shore-side processing	2	5	
		Grouper	1,746							842 (reef fish)
		Red Snapper	3,104							340 (red snapper) ⁸
		Other snapper	655							
		Recreational ¹²		1310 (for-hire)	spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net	FMP area/year round ^{4,10}				
		Grouper	729							
		Red Snapper ⁴	2,968							
		Other snappers	1,469							
		Other species ⁷	417							
Shrimp Fishery Of The Gulf Of Mexico	C	Commercial	49,205	1,418	trawl, butterfly net, skimmer, cast net, trawl	FMP area/ year round; annual TX closure; seasonal FL closure	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1		
		Recreational ⁶	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶		FMP area/ year round				
Spiny Lobster Fishery Of The Gulf Of Mexico & South Atlantic [Shared W/ SAFMC]	C	Commercial ¹¹	2,395	210 commercial 229 tailing	trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest	Florida/ Aug-Apr	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1		
		Recreational ^{2,11}	712 ²	n/a ³	dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest	FL / 2-day sport- season in July, Aug-Apr				
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources Of The Gulf Of Mexico & South Atlantic [Shared W/SAFMC]	X	Commercial		1,452	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	
		King mackerel	1,877							2,338
		Recreational ^{11,12}		(1,321 Gulf for-hire) (2,255 south Atlantic for-hire)	bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear					
		King mackerel	817							
		Spanish mackerel	1,029							

1. Number of vessels with active permits for 2022.
2. Data from the state of Florida.
3. Not Available (no federal permit or reporting requirements, except for-hire vessels).
4. Recreational fishery for red snapper in 2022 had state specific seasons for the private sector and had a(add open season date) season for the federally permitted for-hire vessels.
5. State landings only.
6. Not applicable (fishery closed in federal waters) or landings not recorded in recreational landing survey.
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 2020.
9. Grouper-tilefish IFQ Program shareholders at the end of 2022.
10. Bottom fishing is prohibited year-round on Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps; the Edges is closed to all fishing January through April. Recreational fishery for red grouper, black grouper, yellowfin grouper, scamp, and yellowmouth grouper is closed February 1 to March 31 beyond the 20-fathom break. Recreational fishery for gag is closed from January 1st to June 30th.
11. Data from 2021-2022 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)

FMP	Type	Species	2022 Landings (Metric Tons)	2022 Vessels Permits	Allowable Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants In 2022	
								Comm	Rec
Spiny Lobster	x	Commercial	63 (USVI) ¹	n/a	trap/pot, dip net gillnet, snare	year-round	fresh, landed whole		
		Recreational	n/a ^{3,4}		dip net, trap, pot		n/a		
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, other reef species)	x	Commercial	148 (USVI) ¹	n/a	longline, hook and line, trap, pot,	area closures ⁵ , seasonal closures for numerous snappers and groupers; prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau and Goliath groupers	gutted at-sea, shore-side processing	2	2
		Recreational	n/a ^{3,4}		dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear		n/a		
Coral Reef	x	Commercial		n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	year-round	live, fresh		
		Stony Corals	0						
		Gorgonians	0						
		Live Rock	0						
		Other Invertebrates	<1						
		Recreational							
All corals	n/a ^{3,4}	n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	n/a					
Queen Conch	x	Commercial	14 (USVI) ¹	n/a	hand harvest (no hooks)	closed year round (no harvest) in EEZ except east of St. Croix (portion of Lang Bank) where it is closed seasonally each year July through September	live, landed whole in shell, shore-side processing		
		Recreational	n/a ^{3,4}	n/a	hand harvest (no hooks)		n/a		

- 2021 landings are completed and available at this time however these landings are only for the United States Virgin Islands. Therefore no Puerto Rico commercial and recreational landings are available at this time. Additionally, In 2022, the National Marine Fisheries Service implemented new species groups under the Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan, St. Croix Fishery Management Plan, and St. Thomas/St. John Fishery Management Plan (collectively the Island-based FMPs).
- Not applicable (no permits required).
- Recreational landings are only available for Puerto Rico and are collected by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). However, MRIP stopped in 2017 and was not run in Puerto Rico in 2021. Therefore, there are no data on recreational landings in Puerto Rico in 2021.
- Not available. Recreational landings in USVI are not collected. Also, recreational landings surveys do not collect information on lobster, conch, and coral.
- 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)

FMP	Type	Species	2022 Landings (salmon in # of fish, others in metric tons)	2022 Vessel Permits & Angler Trips	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants in 2022	
								Comm	Rec
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California ²	X	Commercial			Troll; hook and line,	WA, OR & CA variable dates by area	headed & gutted; fillets; fresh & frozen		
		Chinook salmon	302304	CA Troll 1,006					
		Coho salmon	51,241	OR Troll 853					
		Pink salmon	0	WA Troll 152					
		Recreational							
		Chinook salmon	118,812	259,930 Angler Trips					
		Coho salmon	140,228						
Pink salmon	0								
Pacific Coast Groundfish ³	X	Commercial			trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen		
		Pacific whiting	290533	Limited Entry Permits on 283 vessels Open Access: approximately 600 vessels landed					
		Flatfish	8359						
		Rockfish	19837						
		Sablefish	5802						
		Other groundfish	1654						
		Recreational							
Groundfish	Estimated 2966	Estimated 827,647 Boat Based Trips targeting groundfish							
Coastal Pelagic Species ³	C	Pacific sardine	1,782	Federal Limited Entry south of Point Arena - 65	purse seine	CA – year round OR and WA -summer	human consumption bait meal and oil		
		Pacific mackerel	1,074						
		Jack mackerel	1620						
		Market squid	66549	State Limited					
		Northern Anchovy	1548	Entry north of Point Arena 44 (26 OR, 16 WA)					
Highly Migratory Species ³	C	Northern albacore	7115	1,580 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		
		Other tunas	788						
		Swordfish	90						
		Sharks	55						

1. X = Both commercial and recreational, C = Commercial only
2. Data extracted from the Review of 2022 Ocean Salmon Fisheries (February 2023; Pacific Fishery Management Council)
3. Data extracted from the PacFin (commercial) and RecFIN data systems (recreational)

A-vii. NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)

FMP	Type	Species	2022 Landings (Metric Tons) 1	2022 Vessel Permits 2	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants in 2022	
								Comm	Rec
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock	132,699	871 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	
		Pacific cod	25,925						
		Flatfish	14,404						
		Rockfish	36,890						
		Sablefish	20,390						
		Atka mackerel	880						
Misc. species	6,316								
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)	C	Pollock	1,108,735	474 Federal fishing permits 506 LLP permits	trawl; pot; hook & line; jig	area/time closures adjusted in season. LLP permits have gear and area endorsements.	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
		Pacific cod	160,662						
		Flatfish	218,399						
		Rockfish	44,727						
		Sablefish	7,744						
		Atka mackerel	58,107						
Misc. species	29,614								
Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI	C	King Crab	2,180	452 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	
		Red king crab	234						
		Golden king crab	2,610						
		St. Matt.Blue King Crab	Closed						
		C. opilio (snow) - Tanner	50						
C. bairdi - Tanner	2,620								
Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters	C	Chinook salmon	971	790 permits fished	Troll3	Deferred to State; generally West area is closed; southeast area time area limits.	fresh; gutted & gilled; glazed; frozen; canned; smoked		1
		Coho salmon	2,022						
		Pink salmon	144						
		Sockeye salmon	4						
Chum salmon	3,423								
Scallop Fishery off Alaska	C	Weathervane scallops (no directed fisheries occur for other scallop species listed in the FMP)	(149)	9 LLP permits	Dredges	Deferred to State; Time and area openings are adjusted in season	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 2022, the commercial fishing season for halibut in and off Alaska ran from March 6 through December 7. The total commercial catch of halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs through December 7, 2022 was 7,971 mt, net weight, about 87 percent of the available quota. At that date, about 1,236 mt of Pacific halibut remained. For Pacific halibut, 2,247 persons held IFQ Quota Share as of December 2022.

- 2022 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 2023 Final Crab Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation report for Fishing Year 2022/2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023), NMFS. Alaska scallop fishery catch data for the 2022/2023 season (July 1, 2022 to February 2023) are from the State of Alaska. All other catch data are from the Alaska Region, NMFS, and reflect catch reports through December 31, 2022. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts. Miscellaneous groundfish species include skates, sharks, and octopus.
- Data represents persons or vessels permitted to harvest fish, not the number of individuals actually involved in the operation of vessels, catching and processing fish. 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 2022/2023 crab year all IFQ crab was assigned to cooperatives; 69 distinct Hired Masters fished IFQ for 8 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 812 persons held QS to harvest sablefish as of December 2022, 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 2021.
- 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.

A-viii. WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)

FMP	Type	Species	2022 Landings (Metric Tons) ¹	2022 Vessel Permits ²	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants in 2022	
								Comm	Rec
Hawaiian Archipelago (including Midway Atoll)	x	Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Management Unit Species (MUS)	121(C) 236(R) ⁴	Est. 1263(C and R)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except: a. Main Hawaiian Islands upon reaching annual catch limit b. Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (closed) c. Hancock Seamounts (closed)	fresh fish market		0
		Crustacean MUS Kona crab	1.1	19 Kona Crab	loop net	FEP Area/year round, except: a. NWHI (closed) b. MHI: (closed 5/1 – 8/31)	flash frozen and live market		
		deep-water shrimp	6.3	3 shrimp (Crustacean Area 2 Permit)	trap				
		Precious coral MUS	n.d.	n.d.	manned submersible, remote vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except NWHI where fishery is closed.	shaped / polished		
Marianas Archipelago (CNMI & Guam)	x	Bottomfish MUS	21.6 (CNMI)	10(CNMI)	handline, rod and reel, hand	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish market	1	1
			15.2 (Guam)	0 (Guam)					
American Samoa	x	Bottomfish MUS	1.2	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	1
Pacific Remote Island Areas (Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, and Wake and Palmyra Atolls)	x	Bottomfish MUS	0	0	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish market		
		Crustacean MUS (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 coral MUS (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	shaped/ polished		
Pelagic	C	Commercial			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	1	0
		Tunas (albacore, bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack, bluefin)	11,881.86	191 (longline active)					
		Swordfish	931.53						
		Other billfish	1057.04						
		Mahi mahi	415.23						
		Wahoo	343.45						
		Squid	0	0 (squid)					
	Other (incl. sharks and other tunas)	523.77							
	R	Recreational							
Estimated Recreational (all species)	5,934.9	n/a							

1. 2022 FEP landings obtained from the 2022 WPFMC Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports (available at <http://www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports/>)
2. Vessel information obtained from WPFMC 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.
3. Where noted, recreational (R) fisheries landing information obtained from NMFS Office of Science and Technology at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/queries/index.html> (accessed on November 22, 2022)
4. Recreational bottomfish landings obtained from PIFSC Fisheries Research and Monitoring Division