

2015 REPORT TO CONGRESS

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

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEES

AND

ON APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP
FOR REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

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

PREPARED BY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

2016



Table of Contents

A. BACKGROUND	1
<i>PART I: DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND RECUSAL REQUIREMENTS</i>	
B. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS	2
C. ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND RECUSALS	4
<i>PART II: APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP</i>	
D. FAIR AND BALANCED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP	11
E. APPORTIONMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP	12
F. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES	13
TABLE 1: CURRENT APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2013-2015).....	14
TABLE 2: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2016 GROUPED BY OBLIGATORY OR AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT	15
TABLE 3: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2016 GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES.....	16
G. SECRETARY'S 2015 APPOINTMENTS/REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	17
1. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)	17
2. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)	19
3. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)	21
4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)	23
5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)	25
6. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)	26
7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)	28
8. Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)	30
H. APPENDIX – STATISTICAL FISHERIES DATA	32

A. BACKGROUND

This report combines the reporting requirements of Section 302(b)(2)(B) and Section 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) into one comprehensive report 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 2015 to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of the MSA and 2) assesses the annual apportionment of Council membership and discusses significant fishery management issues and related actions for 2015.

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

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

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

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

Additionally, each Council is required to establish and appoint members to an SSC to provide the Councils, in their individual capacity, ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, including 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, in their individual capacity, 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.

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

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 with the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries 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) 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: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/councils/financial_disclosure/financial_disclosure.html

Guidance on reporting and filing procedures for complying with financial disclosure requirements are found at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/councils/financial_disclosure/financial_disclosure.html and at 50 CFR 600.235.

The executive director of the Council will provide copies of all Statements of Financial Interests to the NMFS Regional Administrator, the Regional Attorney who advises the Council, and the NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries. Statements of Financial Interests will be kept on file by each Council, made available on the Council internet site, be available for public inspection at

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

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

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

Voting Requirements and Financial Conflicts of Interest

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

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

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

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

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

³ 50 CFR 600.235(f)

⁴ 50 CFR 600.235(g)(1)

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

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

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

(1) Action taken by each Council on implementing the requirements of the MSA, including committees and advisory panels, and Disclosure of Financial Interest and recusal. Following is a summary of each Council's actions.

NEFMC:

The NEFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statement of Financial Interests forms for Council members appointed by the Secretary. The Council member Statements of Financial Interests forms are on file with the Council and posted on the Council's website. The Council requests annual Statement of Financial Interests forms from the SSC members and forwards all completed forms to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to be kept on file by NMFS.

MAFMC:

The MAFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statement of Financial Interests forms for Council members appointed by the Secretary. All information is posted on the Council's website. The Council requests annual Statement of Financial Interests forms from the SSC members and forwards all completed forms to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to be kept on file by NMFS.

CFMC:

The CFMC has incorporated the requirements of the MSA into its procedures. Annual Statements of Financial Interests are requested from SSC members and are available at the CFMC website. Statements of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary are also posted on the CFMC's website and are available at each Council meeting.

SAFMC:

The SAFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statement of Financial Interests forms for Council members appointed by the Secretary and SSC members. The Council member Statement of Financial Interests forms are on file with the Council and posted on the Council's website. The Council requests annual Statement of Financial Interest forms from the SSC members and forwards all completed forms to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to be kept on file by NMFS.

GMFMC:

The GMFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statement of Financial Interest forms for Council members appointed by the Secretary. The Council member Statement of Financial Interest forms are on file with the Council and on the Council's website. The Council requests annual Statement of Financial Interest forms from the SSC members and forwards all completed forms to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to be kept on file by NMFS.

PFMC:

The PFMC requested annual Statement of Financial Interests from its Council members and SSC members. Statements of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary continue to be available at the Council office, during Council meetings, and posted on the PFMC's website.

NPFMC:

The NPFMC continues to receive and make available to the public completed Statements of Financial Interests for Council members appointed by the Secretary. The Council requested annual Statements of Financial Interests from its SSC members. Completed Statements of Financial Interests for SSC members have been provided to NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, to be kept on file. The NPFMC has also posted SSC Statements of Financial Interests on its website. Statements of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary are posted on the NPFMC's website and are available at each Council meeting.

WPFMC:

The WPFMC posted Statements of Financial Interests for voting Council members appointed by the Secretary on its website and they are available for public viewing at each Council meeting. The WPFMC requested annual Statements of Financial Interests from its SSC members. Completed Statements of Financial Interests for SSC members have been provided to NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, to be kept on file.

(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 C.F.R. 600.235(d).

NEFMC:

At the April 2015 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley recused herself during voting on a motion to direct the Observer Policy Committee to review the mandatory at-sea monitoring requirement for groundfish sectors to determine whether the coverage rate is appropriate and economically feasible. Ms. Tooley is employed by a company that holds an interest in a company that processes greater than 10 percent of the total scallop landings, as well as 10 percent of herring harvest, thus constituting an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit."

At the April 2015 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley also recused herself during a vote on a series of motions related to the final decisions of the Council on the designation of essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern for species managed under Council FMPs, and on a series of motions related to the final decisions of the Council to recommend the establishment of habitat management areas, dedicated habitat research areas, and spawning

protection areas that would restrict access by certain types of fishing gear, as well as several motions to revise alternatives for future Council consideration for additional habitat management areas. Ms. Tooley is employed by a company that holds an interest in a company that processes greater than 10 percent of the total scallop landings as well as 10 percent of herring harvest, which are interests that are impacted by the Council's final decisions, thus constituting an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit."

At the June 2015 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley recused herself during a vote on a series of motions related to the final decisions of the Council to recommend the establishment of habitat management areas on Georges Bank and spawning protection areas in the Gulf of Maine that would restrict access by certain types of fishing gear, including a motion to formally adopt and submit for secretarial review the Council's Omnibus EFH Amendment 2. Ms. Tooley is employed by a company that holds an interest in a company that processes greater than 10 percent of the total scallop landings as well as 10 percent of herring harvest, which are interests that are impacted by the Council's final decisions, thus constituting an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit."

At the September 2015 Council meeting, Mary-Beth Nickell-Tooley recused herself during votes on a series of motions related to the decisions of the Council on the 2016–2018 specifications for the Atlantic herring fishery, including the setting of river herring and shad catch caps. Ms. Nickell-Tooley recused for reasons related to her employer's involvement in the herring and sea scallop fisheries.

At the September 2015 Council meeting, Ellen Goethel recused herself from voting on a motion to revise the 2016–2017 specifications for the Northern red hake fishery. Ms. Goethel's spouse may harvest more than 10 percent of the landings in this fishery, thus constituting an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit."

MAFMC:

At the February 2015 Council meeting, Laurie Nolan and Jeffrey Kaelin recused themselves during votes on several motions related to the development of the Council's Deep-Sea Coral Amendment. The first motion was to convene a workshop to include members of staff, the fishing industry, coral researchers, and others to consider potential revisions to the boundaries under consideration by the Council for the amendment. The second motion was to postpone further action on broad coral protection zones until the June Council meeting. The third motion was to add an alternative regarding transit provisions. The fourth motion was to add exemptions for the commercial tilefish and red crab fisheries. The fifth motion was to add a prohibition on anchoring in deep-sea coral zones as a framework measure. Ms. Nolan is the onshore manager for two commercial tilefish fishing vessels in New York. Mr. Kaelin is employed full-time by Lund's Fisheries in the area of government relations. Lund's Fisheries is a vertically integrated commercial fishing company with direct interest in the squid, mackerel, butterfish, and herring fisheries, among others.

At the April 2015 Council meeting, Laurie Nolan recused herself during votes on a motion to adopt an additional issue for consideration in Framework Adjustment 2 to the Tilefish FMP. Ms. Nolan is the onshore manager for two commercial tilefish fishing vessels in New York, which would constitute an "expected and substantially disproportionate benefit."

At the June 2015 Council meeting, Jeffrey Kaelin recused himself during votes on a series of motions related to the 2016–2018 specifications for and operation of the mackerel, squid, and butterfish fishery. Mr. Kaelin is employed full-time by Lund’s Fisheries in the area of government relations. Lund’s Fisheries is a vertically integrated commercial fishing company with direct interest in the squid, mackerel, butterfish, and herring fisheries, among others, which would constitute an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the June 2015 Council meeting, Laurie Nolan and Jeffrey Kaelin recused themselves during votes on series of motions related to the selection of final alternatives and the final recommendations related to the Council’s Deep-Sea Coral Amendment, involving the selection of boundaries for no-fishing zones, prohibitions on fishing gear, exemptions for certain fishing gear, and other measures related to the amendment. Mr. Kaelin and Ms. Nolan recused for the reasons described in the February 2015 entry above.

(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 C.F.R. 600.235(f)(1).

NEFMC:

Council member Dr. John Quinn requested a determination about his ability to participate as a member of a panel convened by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to review grant applications for funding from the scallop research set-aside program. The result of that determination is that, due to his employment by the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, there is a conflict of interest because his employer is a frequent applicant for grant funding from the scallop research set-aside program.

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

NEFMC:

On April 22, 2015, NOAA General Counsel for the Northeast Section made a determination that Mary-Beth Nickel-Tooley had a conflict of interest related to the Council’s final deliberations on its Omnibus Habitat Amendment. The conflict of interest was due to Ms. Tooley’s business arrangement with the O’Hara Corporation, which has greater than 10 percent interest in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery, and which could be affected by the final recommendations of the Council related to habitat protection areas in the Omnibus Habitat Amendment that may restrict access by the scallop fishery.

NPFMC:

At the February 2015 Council meeting, NOAA General Counsel for the Alaska Section made a determination that Council member Simon Kinneen was recused from voting on a final action to revise regulations applicable to vessels operating in the Community Development Quota Program fisheries. This determination was based on an analysis that, under 50 C.F.R. 600.235(c)(2), the Council member had a financial interest that could result in an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the April 2015 Council meeting, NOAA General Counsel for the Alaska Section made a determination that Council member Simon Kinneen was recused from voting on a final action to

revise regulations that govern the management of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. This determination was based on an analysis that, under 50 C.F.R. 600.235(c)(2), the Council member had a financial interest that could result in an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the June 2015 Council meeting, NOAA General Counsel for the Alaska Section made a determination that Council members Simon Kinneen and David Long were recused from voting on a final action to revise regulations that govern the management of halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries. This determination was based on an analysis that, under 50 C.F.R. 600.235(c)(2), the Council members had financial interests that could result in an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the October 2015 Council meeting, NOAA General Counsel for the Alaska Section made a determination that Council member Simon Kinneen was recused from voting on a final action that would revise regulations to modify delivery requirements in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery. This determination was based on a determination that, under 50 C.F.R. 600.235(c)(2), the Council member had a financial interest that could result in an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

(5) Documentation of any requests for review of a determination and the results of that review per 50 C.F.R. 600.235(g).

NPFMC:

Simon Kinneen requested a review of the determination that he was recused from voting on a final action to revise regulations that govern the management of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. After review, this determination was upheld by the NOAA General Counsel.

Sam Cotten (Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish & Game), Simon Kinneen, and David Long separately requested a review of the determinations that Mr. Kinneen and Mr. Long were recused from voting on a final action to revise regulations that govern the management of halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries. After review, these determinations were upheld by the NOAA General Counsel.

(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.

The Councils indicate no occurrences.

(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.

The Councils indicate no occurrences.

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

PFMC:

At a March 2015 SSC meeting, Dr. John Field voluntarily recused himself from votes related to a California Current Ecosystem Report including Integrated Ecosystem Assessments. Dr. Field contributed to the report.

At an April 2015 SSC meeting, Dr. André Punt voluntarily recused himself from votes related to Final Action on Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures. Dr. Punt chaired the update review panel. Additionally, Dr. Punt voluntarily recused himself from votes on the Ocean Modeling Forum, as he is leading the initiative.

At a June 2015 SSC meeting, Dr. André Punt voluntarily recused himself from votes related to Pacific Mackerel Assessment and Management Measures, Litigation Settlement Discussion, and Rebuilding Revision Rules. Dr. Punt chaired the Pacific mackerel panel and contributed to the Terms of Reference for the Pacific Sardine settlement distribution workshop. Dr. Kevin Piner voluntarily recused himself from votes related to setting Pacific Mackerel Assessment and Management Measures, as he contributed to the assessment. Dr. Owen Hamel recused himself from votes on the Final Stock Assessments and Catch Reports, as he either contributed to the assessments or directly supervised staff involved in preparing the assessments.

At a September 2015 SSC meeting Drs. Andrew Cooper, Martin Dorn, John Field, Owen Hamel, David Sampson, and Theresa Tsou recused themselves from issues related to the Final Stock Assessments for various marine species. All involved either chaired the assessment panels or supervised staff who completed the assessments.

At a November 2015 Council meeting Drs. André Punt and Owen Hamel voluntarily recused themselves from votes on issues related to the Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop. Dr. Punt chaired the workshop and Dr. Hamel prepared an analysis used by the workshop. Drs. Owen Hamel, Theresa Tsou, and Dave Sampson voluntarily recused themselves from votes on issues related to Final Approval of Stock Assessments. All were members of the black rockfish stock assessment team. Dr. Galen Johnson also recused himself from the Salmon Methodology Review, as he prepared one of the methods reviewed.

Action Taken by the Secretary and the Councils

(1) NMFS continues to follow the 2014 policy and procedural directives for Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosures. The purpose of these documents is to strengthen the policy guidance on the review of financial disclosures by appointed members of the Councils, as recommended by the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General. These documents clarify and outline the authorities and responsibilities of NMFS, NOAA Office of General Counsel (GC), and Regional Sections and Councils relating to Council member financial disclosures, which are within those responsibilities established in implementing regulations (See 50 CFR 600.235).

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

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

(2) The Councils continue to make Statements of Financial Interests 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. In 2015, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council identified problems they perceive relating to how NMFS interprets the Council conflict of interest regulations. NMFS has committed to provide new guidance to address these issues and to ensure the recusal process is transparent to both the Council members and the public. To that end, NMFS, in conjunction with NOAA General Counsel's office, is evaluating the regulations and implementation of the disclosure of financial interest and recusal provisions of the MSA. NMFS is also reviewing the process by which recusal determinations are prepared and issued. The agency discussed these efforts with the Fishery Management Council Coordination Committee during their February 2016 meeting.

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

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

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.⁵ 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. NMFS has addressed the requirement by reasoning that, in the ideal case, 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 is made up of appointed members with knowledge of and experience in biological, economic, or social sciences; environmental or ecological matters; consumer affairs; and associated fields.

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

⁵ The qualifications for appointment are derived from Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the MSA and are also included in regulations contained at 50 CFR 600.215.

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

E. APPORTIONMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council members are appointed from among qualified individuals nominated by the governors of the Councils' states in each Council's region and, in the case of tribal representation on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (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 of 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 expiring at-large seats (regional), the Secretary will select an appointee from the list of all qualified candidates submitted by regional state governors.

In 2015, the Secretary announced the appointment or reappointment of 31 voting obligatory and at-large Council members: 30 appointments were made as part of the annual process and one appointment was made as a result of an out-of-cycle vacancy. Table 1 on page 16 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretary-appointed Council voting members by interest sector for 2013, 2014, and 2015. In June 2015, 13 members were appointed from the commercial fishing sector, eight members were appointed from the recreational fishing sector, eight members were appointed from the "other" sector, and one tribal seat was filled.

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 collectively provide a balance on each Council, and who pursue their Council roles as stewards and trustees of living resources. To the extent practicable, the appointments also seek to rotate membership, thereby distributing participation among all sectors of the fisheries-specific actions. The distribution of representation on each Council is also adjusted, where possible, to achieve a balance of interest among sectors or to provide needed experience to address changing priorities.

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

Women and Minority Representation

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

F. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

Table 1 shows the current appointed Council members sorted numerically by fishing sector. Table 2 lists the 20 Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2016. Table 3 sorts the 30 Council members into the three general fishing sector categories. The MSA prohibits the reappointment of Council members to a fourth consecutive term. Six of the 20 members whose terms expire in 2016 have served three consecutive terms and thus will be ineligible to be renominated for a fourth.

**TABLE 1: CURRENT APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY
BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2013-2015)**

	Year	Commercial	Recreational	“Other”	Total
NEFMC	2013	7	2	3	12
	2014	6	2	4	12
	2015	7	1	4	12
MAFMC	2013	4	5	4	13
	2014	4	5	4	13
	2015	4	5	4	13
SAFMC	2013	4	3	1	8
	2014	4	4	0	8
	2015	4	4	0	8
GMFMC	2013	4	4	3	11
	2014	4	4	3	11
	2015	4	4	3	11
CFMC	2013	2	1	1	4
	2014	1	2	1	4
	2015	2	1	1	4
PFMC	2013	3	3	3	9
	2014	3	3	3	9
	2015	4	3	2	9
NPFMC	2013	5	1	1	7
	2014	5	1	1	7
	2015	6	1	0	7
WPFMC	2013	2	3	3	8
	2014	2	2	4	8
	2015	2	2	4	8
ALL COUNCIL S	2013	32	21	19	72
	2014	29	23	20	72
	2015	33	21	18	72

**TABLE 2: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2016
GROUPED BY OBLIGATORY OR AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT**

OBLIGATORY MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED	AT-LARGE MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED
<u>New England</u> Ellen D. Goethel/NH (C)	2013	1	Michael P. Sissenwine/MA (O) Francis "Frank" W. Blount, Jr./RI (R)	2013 2007	1 3*
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u> Lee G. Anderson/DE (O)	2007	3*	Stephen E. Linhard/MD (R) Jeffery H. Kaelin/NJ (C) Richard B. Robins, Jr./VA (C)	2010 2013 2007	2 1 3*
<u>South Atlantic</u> Jack H. Cox, Jr./NC (C) Christopher "Chris" C. Conklin/SC (C)	2013 2013	1 1	There are no available at-large seats on the South Atlantic Council in 2016.		
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u> Leann N. Bosarge/MS (C) Douglass W. Boyd/TX (R)	2013 2010	1 2	Roy O. Williams/FL (O)	2013	1
<u>Caribbean</u> There are no available obligatory seats on the Caribbean Council in 2016.			Louis A. Blanchard/USVI (C)	2013	1
<u>Pacific</u> Herbert A. Pollard, II/ID (R)	2010	2	Danny L. Wolford/CA (R)	2007	3*
<u>North Pacific</u> David B. Long/AK (C) Duncan S. Fields/AK (C)	2013 2007	1 3*	There are no at-large seats on the North Pacific Council.		
<u>Western Pacific</u> Claire T. Poumele/AS (O)	2013	1	Julie A.K. Leialoha/HI (O) William A. Sword/AS (R)	2010 2007	2 3*
10 Obligatory Members			10 At-Large Members		

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.

**TABLE 3: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2016
GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES**

COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	OTHER	TOTAL SEATS
<u>New England</u> Ellen D. Goethel/NH	Francis "Frank" W. Blount, Jr./RI	Michael P. Sissenwine/MA	3
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u> Jeffery H. Kaelin/NJ Richard B. Robins, Jr./VA	Stephen E. Linhard/MD	Lee G. Anderson/DE	4
<u>South Atlantic</u> Jack H. Cox, Jr./NC Christopher "Chris" C. Conklin/SC			2
<u>Gulf Council</u> Leann N. Bosarge/MS	Douglass W. Boyd/TX	Roy O. Williams/FL	3
<u>Caribbean</u> Louis A. Blanchard/USVI			1
<u>Pacific</u>	Herbert A. Pollard, II/ID Danny L. Wolford/CA		2
<u>North Pacific</u> David B. Long/AK Duncan S. Fields/AK			2
<u>Western Pacific</u>	William A. Sword/AS	Claire T. Poumele/AS Julie A.K. Leialoha/HI	3
TOTAL 9	TOTAL 6	TOTAL 5	TOTAL 20

G. SECRETARY’S 2015 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 2015 for five NEFMC members. As a result of the 2015 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is seven commercial, one recreational, and four “other,” which reflects a change from six commercial, two recreational, and four “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the NEFMC remains unchanged. The appointee and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Matthew G. McKenzie/O
 Terry A. Alexander/C
 Eric E. Reid/C
 John F. Quinn/O
 Vincent M. Balzano/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
 Reappointment
 David E. Preble/R (term limited)
 Reappointment
 Reappointment

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

2015 NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	MCKENZIE, MATTHEW G.	CT	2018	O
O	ALEXANDER, TERRY A.	ME	2018	C
O	QUINN, JOHN F.	MA	2018	O
O	GOETHEL, ELLEN D.	NH	2016	C
O	REID, ERIC E.	RI	2018	C
A	NICKELL-TOOLEY, MARY BETH	ME	2017	C
A	BALZANO, VINCENT M.	ME	2018	C
A	SISSENWINE, MICHAEL	MA	2016	O
A	ETRIE, ELIZABETH M. P.	MA	2017	O
A	PAPPALARDO, JOHN*	MA	2017	C
A	KENDALL, PETER T.	NH	2017	C
A	BLOUNT, FRANCIS W. JR.	RI	2016	R

*Note: Late in 2014, Mr. Dempsey resigned from the Council. This seat was filled in an out-of-cycle appointment by John Pappalardo/C in January 2015.

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2016:

1. Ellen Goethel – commercial sector – obligatory seat (New Hampshire)
2. Michael Sissenwine – other sector – at-large seat (Massachusetts)
3. Francis Blount, Jr. – recreational sector – at-large seat (Rhode Island)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The stocks within the NEFMC's geographical area that are managed by the Council are primarily associated with commercial fisheries. Of the nine members whose terms do not expire in 2016, six are from the commercial harvesting sector and three are from the "other" sector. Members from the commercial harvesting sector have experience in the groundfish, scallop, herring, spiny dogfish, skate, whiting, and monkfish fisheries. The recreational fishing sector members have experience in the recreational fisheries for groundfish species managed by the Council as well as other marine recreational fisheries in the Northeast.

The three upcoming vacancies are from the "other," commercial, and recreational sectors. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial sector and the recreational sector. 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 2015 for four MAFMC members. As a result of the 2015 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives was unchanged from four commercial, five recreational, and four “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the MAFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Adam C. Nowalsky/R

Peter L. deFur/O

Sara E. Winslow/O

Anthony D. Dilermia/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Christopher J. Zeman/O

Jeffery Deem/R

Preston Pate/O

Reappointment

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

2015 MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	ANDERSON, LEE G.	DE	2016	O
O	KING, HOWARD J. III	MD	2017	O
O	HEMILRIGHT, FRANCIS D.	NC	2017	C
O	NOWALSKY, ADAM C.	NJ	2018	R
O	MCMURRAY, JOHN G.	NY	2017	R
O	ELLIOTT, G. WARREN	PA	2017	R
O	DEFUR, PETER L.	VA	2018	O
A	LINHARD, STEPHEN E.	MD	2016	R
A	WINSLOW, SARA E.	NC	2018	O
A	KAELIN, JEFFREY	NJ	2016	C
A	NOLAN, LAURIE A.	NY	2017	C
A	DILERNIA, ANTHONY D.	NY	2018	R
A	ROBINS, RICHARD B. JR.	VA	2016	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2016:

1. Lee Anderson – other sector – obligatory seat (Delaware)
2. Stephen Linhard – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (Maryland)
3. Jeffery Kaelin – commercial sector – at-large seat (New Jersey)
4. Richard Robins, Jr. – commercial sector – at-large seat (Virginia)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the nine members whose terms do not expire in 2016, two are from the commercial sector, four are from the recreational sector, and three are from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial sector members’ experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen or charter boat owners.

The four upcoming vacancies include two outgoing members from the commercial sector, one from the recreational sector, and one from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial and recreational sector and 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 MAFMC is exclusively responsible for five Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Golden Tilefish; and Atlantic Bluefish. In addition, the MAFMC and the NEFMC are jointly responsible for two other FMPs (Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish). The MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the Spiny Dogfish FMP and the NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the Monkfish FMP.

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

3. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2015 for four SAFMC members. As a result of the 2015 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged from four commercial, four recreational, and zero “other”. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the SAFMC remains unchanged. The reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Benjamin C. Hartig, III/C
 Edward “Zack” Bowen/R
 Charles M. Phillips/C
 Anna B. Beckwith/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
 Reappointment
 Reappointment
 Reappointment

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

2015 SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	HARTIG, BENJAMIN C. III	FL	2018	C
O	BOWEN, EDWARD Z.	GA	2018	R
O	COX, JACK H. JR.	NC	2016	C
O	CONKLIN, CHRISTOPHER C.	SC	2016	C
A	BREWER, WILLIAM C. JR.	FL	2017	R
A	PHILLIPS, CHARLES M.	GA	2018	C
A	BECKWITH, ANNA B.	NC	2018	R
A	BROWN, MARK E.	SC	2017	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2016:

1. Jack H. Cox, Jr. – commercial sector – obligatory seat (North Carolina)
2. Christopher C. Conklin – commercial sector – obligatory seat (South Carolina)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the six members whose terms do not expire in 2015, two are from the commercial sector and four are from the recreational sector. The commercial members' experience includes harvesting, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen. The governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial and recreational sectors so that the Secretary can achieve a balance between these two interest groups. While nominees selected to help balance the commercial and recreational sectors are important, the governors are also encouraged to nominate nominees from the "other" sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

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

4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2015 for five GMFMC members. As a result of the 2015 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives remains unchanged at four commercial, four recreational, and three “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the GMFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

John R. Greene, Jr./R
 Juan M. Sanchez /C
 Campo E. Matens/R
 Edward W. Swindell, Jr./C
 Dale A. Diaz/O

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointed
 Reappointed
 Reappointed
 Harlon H. Pearce/C (term limited)
 William S. Perret/O

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

2015 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	GREENE, JOHN R. JR.	AL	2018	R
O	SANCHEZ, JUAN M.	FL	2018	C
O	MATENS, CAMPO E.	LA	2018	R
O	BOSARGE, LEANN N.	MS	2016	C
O	BOYD, DOUGLASS W.	TX	2016	R
A	WALKER, DAVID A.	AL	2017	C
A	DANA, PAMELA L.	FL	2017	R
A	WILLIAMS, ROY O.	FL	2016	O
A	SWINDELL, EDWARD W. JR.	LA	2018	C
A	DIAZ, DALE A.	MS	2018	O
A	STUNTZ, GREGORY W.	TX	2017	O

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2016:

1. Leann Bosarge – commercial sector – obligatory seat (Mississippi)
2. Douglass Boyd – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Texas)
3. Roy Williams – other sector – at-large seat (Florida)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2016, three are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and two are from the “other” sector. The commercial members’ experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen or charter boat owners.

The three Council members whose terms expire in 2016 include one outgoing member from the commercial sector, one from the recreational sector, and one from the “other” sector. The governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial and recreational sectors so that the Secretary can achieve a balance between these two interest groups. While nominees from each sector—commercial and recreational—are important, the governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the “other” sector. This would include individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The GMFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone (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 pelagics (CMP) species in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region.

5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

The term of service expired for two CFMC members in 2015. As a result of the appointment (Velásquez) and reappointment (Farchette) to those vacant positions, the composition of fishing sector representatives is changed from one commercial, two recreational, and one “other” to two commercial and two recreational. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the CFMC remains unchanged. The appointee and reappointee are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Carlos F. Farchette/O
 Carlos J. Velázquez/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointed
 Eugenio Piñero-Soler/R

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

2015 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	FARCHETTE, CARLOS F.	USVI	2018	O
O	HANKE, MARCOS R.	PR	2017	R
A	VELAZQUEZ, CARLOS J.	PR	2018	C
A	BLANCHARD, LOUIS A.	USVI	2016	C

EXPIRING TERM:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2016:

1. Louis Blanchard – commercial sector – at-large seat (U.S. Virgin Islands [USVI])

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the three members whose terms do not expire in 2016, one is from the commercial fishing sector and two are from the recreational fishing sector. The 2016 vacancy will be from the commercial fishing sector of the USVI. The governor is encouraged to recommend a nominee from the commercial fishing sector or a nominee with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION: The CFMC has prepared fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (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 2015 for five PFMC members. As a result of the 2015 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is two commercial, three recreational, and three other, which is changed from three commercial, three recreational, and two “other.” There is one tribal representative, who is counted as a member of the “other” sector. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of available at-large seats on the PFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

David M. Crabbe/C
 Dorothy M. Lowman/O
 Joseph Y. Oatman/Tribal
 William L. Brizendine/R
 Philip A. Anderson/O

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
 Reappointment
 David B. Sones/Tribal
 Reappointment
 Dale D. Myer/C

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

2015 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	CRABBE, DAVID M.	CA	2018	C
O	POLLARD, HERBERT A. II	ID	2016	R
O	LOWMAN, DOROTHY M.	OR	2018	O
O	LINCOLN, RICHARD H.	WA	2017	O
O	PFMC TRIBAL SEAT: OATMAN, JOSEPH Y.	WA	2018	T
A	BRIZENDINE, WILLIAM L. II	CA	2018	R
A	WOLFORD, DANNY L.	CA	2016	R
A	FELDNER, JEFFREY N.	OR	2017	C
A	ANDERSON, PHILIP A.	WA	2018	O

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2016:

1. Herbert Pollard – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Idaho)
2. Danny Wolford – recreational sector – at-large seat (California)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the seven members whose terms do not expire in 2016, one is from the recreational fishing sector, two are from the commercial fishing sector, and four are from the “other” sector (including the tribal member). The remaining commercial members’ experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational member is a charter boat operator.

The two upcoming vacancies in 2016 include two outgoing members from the recreational sector. One outgoing member is serving his third consecutive term, which means he is ineligible for reappointment (Mr. Wolford, Recreational). The state governors are encouraged to provide the Secretary with nominees from the other sector with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, as well as nominees from the commercial and recreational sectors as a basis for maintaining a balance of both sector interests.

Beginning at the November 2015 Pacific Council meeting, Mr. David Sones was appointed by Mr. Joseph Oatman as his alternate as the Council tribal appointee, effective until further notice. This is the first time this option has been exercised by a Pacific Council tribal representative. Mr. Sones was the previous tribal appointee, and served three consecutive terms, the last expiring August 10, 2015.

DISCUSSION:

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

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

7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2015 for three NPFMC obligatory members. As a result of the 2015 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC is six commercial, one recreational, and no “other.” There are no available at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointees/reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Howard D. Hull/C

Andrew D. Mezirow/R

Craig A. Cross/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment

Robert E. Dersham/R

Reappointment

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

2015 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Members)				
Obligatory	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	HULL, HOWARD D.	AK	2018	C
O	FIELDS, DUNCAN S.	AK	2016	C
O	LONG, DAVID B.	AK	2016	C
O	KINNEEN, SIMON	AK	2017	C
O	MEZIRROW, ANDREW D.	AK	2018	R
O	CROSS, CRAIG A.	WA	2018	C
O	DOWN, KENNETH*	WA	2017	C

*John Henderschedt resigned his seat in January 2015. Mr. Down was appointed out of cycle to fill that seat on Feb. 20, 2015.

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2016:

1. Duncan S. Fields – commercial fishing sector –obligatory seat (Alaska)
2. David B. Long – commercial fishing sector –obligatory seat (Alaska)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the five members whose terms do not expire in 2016, four are from the commercial fishing sector and one is from the recreational sector. The commercial sector members have experience in processing and harvesting. The two upcoming vacancies include two outgoing members from

the commercial sector. Although commercial fisheries are particularly important in this region, the governors are encouraged to continue to nominate persons from the recreational fishing sector and from the “other” sector. “Other” sector nominees should include persons with backgrounds in academics, fisheries management, environmental science, economics, or social science, and who have knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management. Recently, Alaska native tribal entities also have voiced strong support for greater representation on the NPFMC.

DISCUSSION:

The NPFMC has six FMPs 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 2015 for two WPFMC members. Because of the 2015 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the WPFMC is unchanged from two commercial, two recreational, and four “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the WPFMC remains unchanged. The new appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Michael P. Duenas/C

Michael K. Goto/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment

Reappointment

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

2015 WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	DUENAS, MICHAEL P.	GU	2018	C
O	POUMELE, CLAIRE T.	AS	2016	O
O	GOURLEY, JOHN E.	CNMI	2017	O
O	GOTO, MICHAEL K.	HI	2018	C
A	LEIALOHA, JULIE A.K.	HI	2016	O
A	RICE, FREDERICK M.	HI	2017	R
A	EBISUI, EDWIN A.	HI	2017	O
A	SWORD, WILLIAM A.	AS	2016	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2016:

1. Claire T. Poumele – other sector – obligatory seat (American Samoa)
2. Julie A.K. Leialoha – other sector – at-large seat (Hawaii)
3. William A. Sword – recreational sector – at-large seat (American Samoa)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the five appointed members whose terms do not expire in 2016, one is from the recreational fishing sector, two are from the commercial sector, and two are from the “other” sector. The recreational members have experience hook-and-line fishing. To achieve sector balance on the WPFMC, the governors are encouraged to nominate one representative from each of the commercial, recreational, and “other” sectors. If representatives were added in this way, the Council would achieve a balance of three commercial, two recreational, and three “other” representatives.

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.

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. Highly Migratory Species data can be found online.¹ This appendix provides statistical data required by Section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the MSA. 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 2014 (or as otherwise indicated) showing both the landings for commercial and recreational fishermen, if recreational information is available.
5. Number of fishermen participating in the listed fisheries, if available; otherwise, the number of U.S. vessels either permitted or estimated to be operating in the fishery.
6. Gear and processing methods used in each fishery.
7. Range and seasonality of the fishery.
8. Number of current Council members who are commercial or recreational sector participants in each fishery; or their representatives.²

LEGEND FOR TYPE FISHERIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

² Vertical sums in the attached appendices may not match the sums entered for interest sectors in Table 1 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, he or she is still listed as a representative of the fishery in the table because of the expertise they bring to the Council regarding the operation of the fishery.

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)

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

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

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

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

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

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2014	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014	
								Comm.	Rec.
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab	256	11	traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh		
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	X	Commercial ² Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species Recreational ^{2,5} Groupers Snappers Other Species	377 Confidential 1,087 1,935 193 1,798 4,359	716 1,727 (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 ² FMP area	at sea, gutted	4	4
Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial All Recreational ⁵ White	7,463 n/a ³	579 (penaeid) 233 (rock) n/a ³	trawls n/a ³	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 ⁴ (2014 landings) Recreational ⁵	34,365 (7,670 Fed, 26,695 State) colonies n/a ⁴	52 n/a ⁴	hand harvest	south FL/ year-round	Fresh		
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster [Jointly managed with GMFMC]									
Coastal Migratory pelagics [Jointly managed with GMFMC]								4	4

1 Number of vessels with active permits for 2014.

2 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 prohibited year-round in Oculina HAPC.

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

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

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

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

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

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)	Type	Fishery/Species, Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2014	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014	
								Com m	Rec.
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	R	Commercial - Red Drum	30	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶		
		Recreational ¹²	1,994 ⁵	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	4	4
Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	X	Commercial Grouper Red Snapper Other snapper Other species ⁷	3,312 2,594 1,323 509	882 (reef fish) 378 (red snapper) ⁸ 628 (grouper-tilefish) ⁹	longline, handline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/ year round ⁹	at-sea, gutted; shore-side processing	4	4
		Recreational ¹² Grouper Red Snapper Other snappers Other species ⁷	1,290 1,476 1,607 783	n/a ³ (1,345 for-hire vessel permits)	spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net	FMP area/ year round ^{4,10}			
Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-All	56,946	1,501	trawl, butterfly net, skimmer, cast net	FMP area/ year round; annual TX closure; seasonal FL closure	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
		Recreational	n/a ³	n/a ³	trawl	FMP area/ year round			
Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	C	Commercial ¹¹	2,882	276 commercial 299 tailing	trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest	Florida/ Aug-Apr	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	
		Recreational ¹¹	727 ²	n/a ³	dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest	FL / 2-day sport-season in July, Aug-Apr			
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	X	Commercial King mackerel Spanish mackerel	2,462 1,427	1,478 2,156	gillnets, longline, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, purse net	Gulf & South Atlantic: Year round, commercial closures when quotas are reached	At-sea, gutted, Shore-side processing	4	4
		Recreational ¹² King mackerel Spanish mackerel	2,086 1,558	n/a ³ n/a ³ (1,362 Gulf for-hire vessels) (1,721 south Atlantic for-hire vessels)	bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear				

- 1 Number of vessels with active permits for 2014.
- 2 Data from state of Florida.
- 3 Not Available (no federal permit or reporting requirements, except for-hire vessels).
- 4 Recreational fishery for red snapper in 2014 was closed from January 1 through May 31 and also June 11 through December 31.
- 5 State landings only.
- 6 Not applicable (fishery closed in federal waters).
- 7 Includes greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish, gray triggerfish, tilefishes, and hogfish.
- 8 Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) Program shareholders at the end of 2014.
- 9 Grouper-tilefish IFQ Program shareholders at the end of 2014.

- 10 Bottom fishing prohibited year-round on Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps; the Edges is closed to all fishing January through April. Recreational fishery for red grouper, black grouper, yellowfin grouper, scamp, and yellowmouth grouper is closed February 1 to March 31 beyond the 20-fathom break. Recreational fishery for gag is closed from January 1st to June 30th.
- 11 Data from 2013-2014 fishing season.
- 12 Recreational landings include Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), Headboat survey (Headboat), Louisiana survey (LA), and Texas Parks and Wildlife survey (TPWD) data.

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

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2014	Vessel permits ¹	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2014	
							Comm.	Rec.
Spiny Lobster	Commercial	171 (PR) 59 (USVI)	n/a	trap/pot, dip net gillnet, snare	year-round	fresh, landed whole		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	dip net, trap, pot	year-round			
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, other reef species)	Commercial	727 (PR) 197 (USVI)	n/a	longline, hook and line, trap, pot,	area closures ⁴ , 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	141 ² (PR) n/a ³ (USVI)	n/a	dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear				
Coral Reef Resources	Commercial Stony Corals Gorgonians Live Rock Other Invertebrates	0 0 0 0 <1	n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	year-round	live, fresh		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest				
Queen Conch	Commercial	135 (PR) 11 (USVI)	n/a	hand harvest (no hooka)	closed year round (no harvest) in EEZ except east of St. Croix (portion of Lang Bank) where it is closed seasonally each year July through September	live, landed whole in shell, shore-side processing		
	Recreational	n/a ³	n/a	hand harvest (no hooka)				

¹ Not applicable (no permits required).

² Recreational landings only for Puerto Rico and are collected by the Marine Recreational Information Program.

³ Not available. Recreational landings in USVI are not collected. Also, recreational landings surveys do not collect information on lobster and conch.

⁴ Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gill nets, and trammel nets is prohibited year-round at Grammanik Bank and at various mutton snapper and red hind spawning aggregation sites. Fishing for any species is prohibited year-round within Hind Bank Marine Conservation District.

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

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	2014 Landings (salmon in # of fish, others in metric tons)	2014 Permits (Vessels) & Angler Trips	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2015	
								Comm.	Rec.
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California ²	X	Commercial Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Recreational Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	478,222 82,313 0 116,614 223,078 0	CA Troll 1,151 OR Troll 960 WA Troll 156 361,355 Angler Trips	Troll; hook and line,	WA, OR & CA/ variable dates by area	headed & gutted; fillets; fresh & frozen	3	3
Pacific Coast Groundfish ¹	X	Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish Other groundfish Recreational Groundfish	263,180 10,603 4,659 1,193 2,397	Limited Entry: 307 vessels registered to a LE permit Open Access: (approximately 750 vessels landed groundfish) 990,000 Boat Based Trips targeting groundfish	trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen	3	3
Coastal Pelagic Species ³	C	Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy	23,341 10,603 1,827 103,329 10,590	Federal Limited Entry south of Point Arena - 64 State Limited Entry north of Point Arena - 42	purse seine	CA - year round OR and WA - summer	human consumption bait meal and oil	1	
Highly Migratory Species ⁴	X	Northern albacore Other tunas Swordfish Sharks	12,625 1,622 543 64	1,793	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		4

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

² "Review of 2008 Ocean Salmon Fisheries:" (February 2009; Pacific Fishery Management Council).

³ Estimates from PacFIN.

⁴ Landings estimates from PacFIN (December 2014); Permits from 2014 HMS SAFE.

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons) ¹	Fishermen & Crew ²	Gear	Fishing Areas and Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2015 ⁴	
								Comm.	Rec.
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	163,021 54,407 26,548 28,831 10,264 1,225 8,388	1,099 Federal Fishing permits 1,118 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	1,322,373 223,431 218,481 39,624 640 53,270 34,462	527 Federal fishing permits 493 LLP permits	trawl; pot; hook & line; jig	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI	C	King Crab Red king crab Golden king crab St. Matt.Blue King Crab Tanner Crab <u>C. opilio</u> (snow) <u>C. bairdi</u>	6,446 3,080 closed 34,300 9,160	506 Quota Share holders for IFQ crab 347 LLP permits	Pot	Deferred to State; generally November and winter months; LLP permits have fishery endorsements for minor crab species.	cooked; refrigerated; frozen	3	
Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters	C	Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Sockeye salmon Chum salmon	1,929 6,498 140 17 838	1,106 permits fished	Troll ³	Deferred to State; generally West area is closed; southeast area time area limits.	fresh; gutted & gilled; glazed; frozen; canned; smoked		1
Scallop Fishery off Alaska	C	Weathervane scallops (no directed fisheries occur for other scallop species listed in the FMP)	131	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 MSA, no halibut FMP exists because the MSA does not apply to management of the Pacific halibut fisheries. In 2015, the commercial fishing season for halibut in and off Alaska runs from March 14 through November 7. The total commercial catch of halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs through November 7, 2015 was 7,154 mt, net weight, about 97 percent of the available quota. At that date, about 233 mt of Pacific halibut remained. For Pacific halibut, 2,431 persons held IFQ Quota Share as of December 2015.

¹ 2014 salmon catch data are from the State of Alaska. These data represent only the southeast AK hand and power troll fisheries that are governed by the Salmon FMP and managed as one fishery, inside and outside State waters by the State of Alaska. The catch data for the BSAI crab fisheries are from the 2015 Final Crab Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation report for Fishing Year 2014/2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015), NMFS. Alaska scallop fishery catch data for the 2014/2015 season (July 1, 2014 to February 2015) are from the State of Alaska. All other catch data are from the Alaska Region, NMFS, and reflect catch reports through December 4, 2015. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts. Miscellaneous groundfish species includes squid, skates, sharks, octopus, and sculpin.

A-vii NPFMC (continued) from preceding page:

²Data represent persons or vessels permitted to harvest fish, not the number of individuals actually involved in the operation of vessels, catching and processing fish. The number of permits actually used to harvest fish is fewer than that indicated by the data. Participation in all FMP fisheries is governed by some form of limited access system. License Limitation Programs (LLP), initially effective in 2000, apply to all fisheries except crab fisheries brought under a new IFQ system in 2005, salmon (which is governed by the State of Alaska limited entry system), demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Gulf of Alaska, IFQ sablefish, and IFQ and CDQ halibut fisheries. In 2005, a new IFQ program replaced the LLP license requirement for most BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. A total of 490 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 2014/2015 crab year most IFQ crab was assigned to cooperatives; 142 distinct Hired Masters fished IFQ for 10 active permit holders (counting cooperatives, not members). Some LLP crab licenses were re-issued to authorize fishing not managed under the IFQ system. Of the approximate total 2,193 current LLP permits, most (1,846) 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. A number of permits were “interim” and will be revoked following final adjudication of claims.

Also, a total of 819 persons held QS to harvest sablefish as of December 2015, with fixed gear in the GOA and BSAI under the IFQ Program. The salmon permit data are from the State of Alaska and represent the number of individual permits fished in 2014.

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

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

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2013 ¹	Vessels (permits) ²	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2014	
								Comm.	Rec.
Hawaiian Archipelago (including Midway Atoll)	C/R	Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish	224(C) 322(R) ³	Est. 600 (C) Est. 300 (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	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, Kona crab, deep-water shrimp	42	2 lobster 7 shrimp	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except: a. NWHI (closed) b. MHI: (closed 5/1 – 8/31)	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	1	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	485 (C) 741 (R) ³	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurp gun, spear	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Marianas Archipelago (CNMI & Guam)	C/R	Bottomfish	9 (CNMI) 2 (Guam)	6 (CNMI) 2 (Guam)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish market	1	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	No data(CNMI) <1(Guam)	0 (CNMI) 0 (Guam)	traps hand	FEP Area/year round	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round	shaped/ polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	19 (CNMI) 22 (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	9	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
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	1	2	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	37	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurp gun, spear	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Pacific Remote Island Areas (Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, and Wake and Palmyra Atolls)	C/R	Bottomfish	0	2	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish market	0	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	0	0	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	shaped/ polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	0	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurp gun, spear	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Pelagic	C/R	Commercial - Tunas - Swordfish - Other (incl. sharks) - Blue marlin - Mahimahi - Other billfish - Wahoo - Squid	11,810 1,464 1,882 685 863 786 607 2	185 (longline) 7 (troll/handline) 0 (squid)	longline troll/handline squid	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures around the Hawaii, Mariana and American Samoa Archipelagos	fresh fish market whole frozen for cannery	0	1
		Estimated Recreational (all species)	4,914(R) ³	n/a					

¹ Landing information obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network databases at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/wpacfin> (accessed on November 17, 2015), and is primarily comprised of domestic commercial landings, but includes non-commercial (recreational and subsistence) landing.

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

³ Where noted, recreational (R) fisheries landing information obtained from NMFS Office of Science and Technology at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/queries/index.html> (accessed on December 4, 2015)