

2016 REPORT TO CONGRESS

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

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEES

AND

ON APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP
FOR REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

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

PREPARED BY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE



2017



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A. BACKGROUND

This report combines the reporting requirements of Section 302(b)(2)(B) and Section 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) into 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 2016 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.

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 actions taken to achieve, 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 designated by the governor; the regional administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the geographic area concerned (or the regional administrator’s designee); and members required to be appointed by the Secretary in accordance with Sections 302(b)(2) and (5) of the MSA. In addition, non-voting members represent the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of State, and the Marine Fisheries Commissions.

Additionally, each Council is required to establish and appoint members to an SSC to provide the Councils ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, 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 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. 50 C.F.R. 600.325(i).

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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)

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.

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, including committees and advisory panels, on implementing the MSA disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements. Following is a summary of each Council's actions, as provided by the Councils.

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 Regional Administrator and 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 Regional Administrator and 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:

Response:

At the April 2016 meeting, Council Member Mary Beth Tooley recused herself from a vote relating to at-sea monitoring requirements for the groundfish fishery because Ms. Tooley is employed by a company that holds an interest in a company that processes greater than 10% of the total scallop landings as well as 10% of herring harvest which constitute a possible conflict of interest under the guidelines.

At the November 2016 meeting, Council Member Mary Beth Tooley recused herself from several votes related to scallop specifications (harvest limit, days-at-sea allocations, etc.) because Ms. Tooley is employed by a company that holds an interest in a company that processes greater than 10% of the fishery which she felt would constitute an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the November 2016 meeting, Council Member Mary Beth Tooley recused herself from scallop and herring related votes during the groundfish discussion because Ms. Tooley is employed by a company that holds an interest in a company that processes greater than 10% of the fishery which she felt would constitute an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

MAFMC:

At the April 2016 meeting, Council Member Laurie Nolan recused herself from four votes on the Golden Tilefish Fishery Management Plan Framework Adjustment 2 final deliberations. The motions involved management measures for non-directed and recreational tilefish fishing, as well as to submit the document to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation. Ms. Nolan recused herself because she is the onshore manager for two commercial tilefish fishing vessels in New York, which she felt would constitute an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.”

At the August 2016 meeting, Council Member Jeff Kaelin recused himself from 16 of the votes on the Unmanaged Forage Fish Omnibus Amendment. Mr. Kaelin also recused himself from the vote on submitting the Amendment to the Secretary for review and implementation. 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, including some of the mackerel and other small, forage species which would be limited under the Forage Amendment. Lund’s Fisheries’s interests in these fisheries would constitute an “expected and substantially disproportionate benefit.” The motions included harvest caps, incidental possession limits, permitted requirements, and status of the fishery as a “managed” species.

(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 Ellen Goethel requested recusal advice from NOAA General Counsel regarding At-Sea Monitoring and Observer requirement issues, as her husband, David Goethel, had sued the agency on those topics. A determination from NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Section, concluded that she need not recuse herself.

NPFMC:

Council Member Andrew Mezirow asked the Alaska Section of NOAA GC to determine whether he was required to be recused from voting on a Council decision on the NPFMC’s December 2016 agenda. The Alaska Section of NOAA GC prepared a determination and concluded that Mr. Mezirow was not required to be recused from voting under 50 CFR 600.235.

(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).

None reported in 2016

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

None reported for 2016

(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 2016 SSC meeting, Dr. Galen Johnson voluntarily recused himself from votes related to a Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment (FRAM) Co-manager Update. Dr. Johnson contributed to the report.

At a March 2016 SSC meeting, Dr. Pete Lawson voluntarily recused himself from votes related to Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2016 Salmon. Dr. Lawson worked on the test fishery proposal.

At a March 2016 SSC meeting, Dr. Dan Holland and Dr. John Field voluntarily recused themselves from votes related to a California Current Ecosystem Report Including Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA). Dr. Holland and Dr. Field contributed to the report.

At June 2016 SSC meeting, Dr. Dan Holland voluntarily recused himself from votes related to a Preliminary Plan for West Coast Trawl Catch Share Program Review. Dr. Holland contributed to the quota share analysis.

At a September 2016 SSC meeting, Dr. Galen Johnson and Dr. Will Satterthwaite recused themselves from votes related to the Salmon Methodology Review. They contributed to the analysis.

At a September 2016 SSC meeting Dr. Dan Holland voluntarily recused himself from votes related to a Fishery Ecosystem Plan Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative. Dr. Holland supervised the primary analyst for the community vulnerability indices.

At a September 2016 SSC meeting Dr. Owen Hamel voluntarily recused himself from votes related to a Mid-biennium Annual Catch Limit Adjustment and Rebuilding Harvest Rate Adjustment Policies. Dr. Hamel did the Pacific ocean perch rebuilding projections. At a November 2016 SSC meeting, Dr. Cameron Speir and Dr. Will Satterthwaite recused themselves from votes related to the Salmon Methodology Review. They contributed to the analysis.

At a November 2016 SSC meeting, Dr. John Field recused himself from votes related to the Northern Anchovy Stock Assessment and Management Measures. Dr. Field was in charge of the juvenile rockfish survey which was used in the anchovy analysis.

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). NMFS is coordinating with the Council Coordination Committee and NOAA General Counsel to update and clarify those procedures.

The directives establish a vetting process to review the completeness and accuracy of information in nominees' and members' disclosure forms. Separately from the process for submission and review of financial disclosures described above, NMFS also provided a brief clarification of the process by which NMFS, NOAA GC, and the Councils identify Council members' conflicts of interest within the procedural directive. The policy directive can be found here: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/01/01-116.pdf>. The procedural directive can be found here: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/01/116/01-116-01.pdf>.

(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 reviewing the process by which recusal determinations are prepared and issued and are clarifying guidance provided to the Councils and the public on how the financial disclosure regulations are implemented. The agency discussed these efforts with the Fishery Management Council Coordination Committee during their June 2016 meeting and will provide updates on progress at the February 2017 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. 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. 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 2016, the Secretary announced the appointment or reappointment of 31 voting obligatory and at-large Council members: 19 appointments were made as part of the annual process. One seat was announced outside of the annual process due to a delay by the State of Maryland. Table 1 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretary-appointed Council voting members by interest sector for 2014, 2015, and 2016. In June 2016, the representations of the new appointees announced were 9 commercial representatives, 6 recreational representatives, and 4 representatives for the "other" sector. The one out of cycle seat, announced in August 2016 was an "other" seat.

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, 2017. 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 (2014-2016)**

| | Year | Commercial | Recreational | “Other” | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| NEFMC | 2014 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 12 |
| | 2015 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 12 |
| | 2016 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 12 |
| MAFMC | 2014 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 13 |
| | 2015 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 13 |
| | 2016 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 13 |
| SAFMC | 2014 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| | 2015 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| | 2016 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| GMFMC | 2014 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| | 2015 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| | 2016 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| CFMC | 2014 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| | 2015 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| | 2016 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| PFMC | 2014 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| | 2015 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| | 2016 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| NPFMC | 2014 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| | 2015 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| | 2016 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| WPFMC | 2014 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| | 2015 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| | 2016 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| ALL COUNCILS | 2014 | 29 | 23 | 20 | 72 |
| | 2015 | 33 | 21 | 18 | 72 |
| | 2016 | 33 | 22 | 17 | 72 |

**TABLE 2: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2017
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> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the New England Council in 2017. | | | | M. Nickell-Tooley/ME (C) E. Etrie/MA (O) J. Pappalardo/MA (C) P. Kendall/NH (C) | 2008 2014 2015 2011 | 3* 1 1 2 |
| <u>Mid-Atlantic</u> MD: H. King III/O NC: F. Hemilright/C NY: J. McMurray/R PA: G.W. Elliott/R | | | | L. Nolan/NY(C) | 2011 | 2 |
| <u>South Atlantic</u> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the South Atlantic Council in 2017. | | | | W. Brewer/FL (R) M. Brown/SC (R) | 2014 2014 | 1 1 |
| <u>Gulf of Mexico</u> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the Gulf of Mexico Council in 2017. | | | | D. Walker/AL (C) P. Dana/FL (R) G. Stunz/TX (O) | 2014 2011 2014 | 1 2 1 |
| <u>Caribbean</u> PR: M. Hanke/R | | | | There are no expiring at large seats on the Caribbean Council in 2017. | | |
| <u>Pacific</u> WA: R. Lincoln/O | | | | J. Feldner/OR (C) | 2011 | 2 |
| <u>North Pacific</u> AK: S. Kinneen/C WA: K. Down/C | | | | There are no available at-large seats on the North Pacific Council. | | |
| <u>Western Pacific</u> CNMI: J. Gourley/O | | | | E. Ebisui Jr./HI (O) F. Rice/HI (R) | 2012 2011 | 2 2 |
| 9 Obligatory Members | | | | 13 At-Large Members | | |

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

C = Commercial Sector

R = Recreational Sector

O = Other Sector

**TABLE 3: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2017
GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES**

| COMMERCIAL | RECREATIONAL | OTHER | TOTAL SEATS |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>New England</u> M. Nickell-Tooley/ME J. Pappalardo/MA P. Kendall/NH | | E. Etrie/MA | 4 |
| <u>Mid-Atlantic</u> F. Hemilright/NC | J. McMurray/NY G.W. Elliott/PA | H. King III/MD | 5 |
| <u>South Atlantic</u> | W. Brewer/FL M. Brown/SC | | 2 |
| <u>Gulf Council</u> D. Walker/AL | P. Dana/FL | G. Stunz/TX | 3 |
| <u>Caribbean</u> | M. Hanke/PR | | 1 |
| <u>Pacific</u> J. Feldner/OR | | R. Lincoln/WA | 2 |
| <u>North Pacific</u> S. Kinneen/AK K. Down/WA | | | 2 |
| <u>Western Pacific</u> | F. Rice/HI | J. Gourley/CNMI E. Ebisui Jr./HI | 3 |
| TOTAL 8 | TOTAL 7 | TOTAL 6 | TOTAL 21 |

G. SECRETARY'S 2016 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 2016 for three NEFMC members. As a result of the 2016 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is six commercial, two recreational, and four “other,” which reflects a change from seven commercial, one 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

Mark H. Godfroy/R

Mike P. Sissenwine/O

Richard J. Bellavance, Jr./R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Ellen D. Goethel/C

Reappointment

Frank Blount, Jr./R

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

| 2016 NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Members) | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| Obligatory/ At-large | Appointed Members | State | Appt. Ends | Interest Sector |
| O | MCKENZIE, MATTHEW G. | CT | 2018 | O |
| O | ALEXANDER, TERRY A. | ME | 2018 | C |
| O | QUINN, JOHN F. | MA | 2018 | O |
| O | GODFROY, MARK H. | NH | 2019 | R |
| O | REID, ERIC E. | RI | 2018 | C |
| A | NICKELL-TOOLEY, MARY BETH | ME | 2017 | C |
| A | BALZANO, VINCENT M. | ME | 2018 | C |
| A | SISSSENWINE, MICHAEL | MA | 2019 | O |
| A | ETRIE, ELIZABETH M. P. | MA | 2017 | O |
| A | PAPPALARDO, JOHN | MA | 2017 | C |
| A | KENDALL, PETER T. | NH | 2017 | C |
| A | BELLAVANCE, RICHARD J. JR. | RI | 2019 | R |

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2017:

1. Mary Beth Nickel-Tooley – commercial sector – at-large seat (Maine)
2. Elizabeth Etrie – other sector – at-large seat (Massachusetts)
3. John Pappalardo – commercial sector – at-large seat (Massachusetts)
4. Peter T. Kendall – commercial sector – at-large seat (New Hampshire)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The stocks within the NEFMC's geographical area that are managed by the Council are primarily associated with commercial fisheries. Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2017, two are from the recreational harvesting sector, three 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 four upcoming vacancies are from the "other" and commercial 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 2016 for four MAFMC members. As a result of the 2016 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

Paul “Wes” Townsend/C

Peter B. Hughes/C

Harold “Ward” Slacum/R

Roger L. Mann/O

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Lee G. Anderson/O

Jeffery H. Kaelin/C

Stephen E. Linhard/R

Richard B. Robins, Jr./C

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

| 2016 MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Members) | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| Obligatory/ At-large | Appointed Members | State | Appt. Ends | Interest Sector |
| O | TOWNSEND, PAUL W. | DE | 2019 | C |
| O | 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 | SLACUM, HAROLD W. | MD | 2019 | R |
| A | WINSLOW, SARA E. | NC | 2018 | O |
| A | HUGHES, PETER B. | NJ | 2019 | C |
| A | NOLAN, LAURIE A. | NY | 2017 | C |
| A | DILERNIA, ANTHONY D. | NY | 2018 | R |
| A | MANN, ROGER L. | VA | 2019 | O |

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2017:

1. Howard King III – other sector – obligatory seat (Maryland)
2. Francis Hemilright – commercial fishing sector – obligatory seat (North Carolina)
3. John G. McMurray – recreational sector – obligatory seat (New York)
4. Warren G. Elliott – recreational sector – obligatory seat (Pennsylvania)
5. Laurie A. Nolan – commercial sector – at-large seat (New York)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2017, two are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and three are from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial sector members’ experiences include harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen or charter boat owners.

The five upcoming vacancies include two outgoing members from the commercial sector, two 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 2016 for two SAFMC members. As a result of the 2016 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

Robert T. Griner/C

Christopher C. Conklin/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Jack H. Cox, Jr./C

Reappointment

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

| 2016 SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members) | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| Obligatory/ At-large | Appointed Members | State | Appt. Ends | Interest Sector |
| O | HARTIG, BENJAMIN C. III | FL | 2018 | C |
| O | BOWEN, EDWARD Z. | GA | 2018 | R |
| O | GRINER, ROBERT T. | NC | 2019 | C |
| O | CONKLIN, CHRISTOPHER C. | SC | 2019 | C |
| A | BREWER, WILLIAM C. JR. | FL | 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, 2017:

1. William “Chester” Brewer Jr. – recreational sector – at-large seat (Florida)
2. Mark E. Brown – recreational sector – at-large seat (South Carolina)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the six members whose terms do not expire in 2017, four are from the commercial sector and two are from the recreational sector. The commercial members experience includes harvesting, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen. The two upcoming vacancies are both outgoing members from the recreational 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 selected to help balance the commercial and recreational sectors are important, the governors are also 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 SAFMC has prepared fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone: shrimp (penaeid and rock); coral, coral reef, and live/hard bottom habitats; golden crab; dolphin/wahoo; *Sargassum*; and the snapper-grouper species complex. The SAFMC and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagic species in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2016 for three GMFMC members. As a result of the 2016 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

Leann N. Bosarge/C
Douglass W. Boyd /R
Thomas K. Frazer/O

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointed
Reappointed
Roy O. Williams/O

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

| 2016 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Members) | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| Obligatory/ At-large | Appointed Members | State | Appt. Ends | Interest Sector |
| O | GREENE, JOHN R. JR. | AL | 2018 | R |
| O | SANCHEZ, JUAN M. | FL | 2018 | C |
| O | MATENS, CAMPO E. | LA | 2018 | R |
| O | BOSARGE, LEANN N. | MS | 2019 | C |
| O | BOYD, DOUGLASS W. | TX | 2019 | R |
| A | WALKER, DAVID A. | AL | 2017 | C |
| A | DANA, PAMELA L. | FL | 2017 | R |
| A | FRAZER, THOMAS K. | FL | 2019 | 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, 2017:

1. David Walker – commercial sector – at-large seat (Alabama)
2. Pamela Dana – recreational sector – at-large seat (Florida)
3. Gregory Stuntz – other sector – at-large seat (Texas)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2017, 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 2017 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: reef fish, shrimp, coral and coral reefs, red drum, and aquaculture. The GMFMC and the SAFMC have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagics species in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region.

5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

The term of service expired for one CFMC member in 2016. As a result of the reappointment to the vacant position, the composition of fishing sector representatives unchanged from two commercial and two recreational. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the CFMC remains unchanged. The reappointee is as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Louis A. Blanchard/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointed

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

| 2016 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Members) | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| Obligatory/ At-large | Appointed Members | State | Appt. Ends | Interest Sector |
| O | FARCHETTE, CARLOS F. | USVI | 2018 | R |
| O | HANKE, MARCOS R. | PR | 2017 | R |
| A | VELAZQUEZ, CARLOS J. | PR | 2018 | C |
| A | BLANCHARD, LOUIS A. | USVI | 2019 | C |

EXPIRING TERM:

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2017:

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

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the three members whose terms do not expire in 2017, one is from the recreational fishing sector and two are from the commercial fishing sector. The 2017 vacancy will be from the recreational fishing sector of Puerto Rico. The governor is encouraged to recommend a nominee from the recreational 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 and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone: queen conch, spiny lobster, reef fish, and corals and reef associated plants and invertebrates.

6. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2016 for two PFMC members. As a result of the 2016 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged from two commercial, three recreational, and three “other.” There is one tribal representative, who is counted as a member of the “other” sector. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of available at-large seats on the PFMC remains unchanged. The appointee and reappointee are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Herbert A. Pollard, II/R

Marc M. Gorelnik/R

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment

Danny L. Wolford/R

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

| 2016 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Members) | | | | |
|--|--|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| Obligatory/ At-large | Appointed Members | State | Appt. Ends | Interest Sector |
| O | CRABBE, DAVID M. | CA | 2018 | C |
| O | POLLARD, HERBERT A. II | ID | 2019 | R |
| O | LOWMAN, DOROTHY M. | OR | 2018 | O |
| O | LINCOLN, RICHARD H. | WA | 2017 | O |
| O | PFMC TRIBAL SEAT: OATMAN, JOSEPH Y. | WA | 2018 | T |
| A | BRIZENDINE, WILLIAM L. II | CA | 2018 | R |
| A | GORELNIK, MARC M. | CA | 2019 | 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, 2017:

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

2017 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the seven members whose terms do not expire in 2017, three are from the recreational fishing sector, one is from the commercial fishing sector and three are from the “other” sector (including the tribal member). The remaining commercial member’s experience includes harvesting and knowledge of the seafood industry, while the recreational representatives include a charter boat operator, a member of board of directors for a recreational fishing association, and a recreational angler.

The two upcoming vacancies in 2017 include one outgoing member from the commercial sector and one outgoing member from the “other” sector. Both outgoing members are serving their second consecutive term, which means both are eligible for reappointment. The state governors are encouraged to provide the Secretary with nominees from the other sector with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, as well as nominees from the commercial and recreational sectors as a basis for maintaining a balance of 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 Fishery Management Plans for: Pacific Coast groundfish, West Coast salmon, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species. The PFMC has also adopted a Fishery Ecosystem Plan and an Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix to help integrate ecosystem considerations into its fishery management decisions.

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

7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2016 for two NPFMC obligatory members. As a result of the 2016 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC is unchanged from six commercial, one recreational, and no “other.” There are no available at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointees/reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Theresa A. Peterson/C
Michael “Buck” Laukitis/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

David B. Long/C
Duncan S. Fields/C

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

| 2016 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Members) | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| Obligatory | Appointed Members | State | Appt. Ends | Interest Sector |
| O | HULL, HOWARD D. | AK | 2018 | C |
| O | LAUKITIS, MICHAEL | AK | 2019 | C |
| O | PETERSON, THERESA A. | AK | 2019 | C |
| O | KINNEEN, SIMON | AK | 2017 | C |
| O | MEZIROW, ANDREW D. | AK | 2018 | R |
| O | CROSS, CRAIG A. | WA | 2018 | C |
| O | DOWN, KENNETH | WA | 2017 | C |

EXPIRING TERMS:

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

1. Simon Kinneen – commercial fishing sector –obligatory seat (Alaska)
2. Kenneth “Kenny” Down – commercial fishing sector –obligatory seat (Alaska)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the five members whose terms do not expire in 2017, 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 2016 for three WPFMC members. Because of the 2016 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the WPFMC is changed from two commercial, two recreational, and four “other” to three commercial, two recreational and three “other”. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the WPFMC remains unchanged. The new appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Archie T. Soliai/O

Dean C. Sensui/R

Christinna S. Lutu-Sanchez/C

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Claire T. Poumele/O

Julie A.K. Leialoha/O

William A. Sword/R

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

| 2016 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 | SOLIAI, ARCHIE T. | AS | 2019 | O |
| O | GOURLEY, JOHN E. | CNMI | 2017 | O |
| O | GOTO, MICHAEL K. | HI | 2018 | C |
| A | SENSUI, DEAN C. | HI | 2019 | R |
| A | RICE, FREDERICK M. | HI | 2017 | O |
| A | EBISUI, EDWIN A. | HI | 2017 | R |
| A | LUTU-SANCHEZ, CHRISTINNA | AS | 2019 | C |

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2017:

1. John Gourley – other sector – obligatory seat (CNMI)
2. Frederick Rice – recreational sector – at-large seat (Hawaii)
3. Edwin Ebisui – recreational sector – at-large seat (Hawaii)

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 Magnuson-Stevens Act. Unless otherwise indicated, the data are for the fisheries listed by FMP. Beginning from the leftmost column, the listed data are:

1. FMPs developed by each Council.
2. Type of fishery managed under each plan, i.e., commercial or recreational, or mixed (see below).
3. Species/species groups making up each fishery.
4. Weight of each species or species group in a fishery landed in 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) 2015 | Vessels (permits) 2015 | Gear | Fishing Areas/ Seasons | Processing | Participants/ Representatives in 2015 | |
|--|------|---|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|------|
| | | | | | | | | 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 | 2,019 5,386.2 3,207.8 8,051.1 5,184 731.8 1,318.4 1,825.4 527.3 23 62.2 0.1 | 1,797 | trawl, dredge, longline, gillnet, hook & line | FMP area/year round | gutted | 7 | 1 |
| | R | Recreational Cod Pollock Winter flounder Haddock | 166.6 364 53 252.2 | 616 | hook & line | FMP area/year round | gutted, filleted | | |
| Atlantic Sea Scallops | C | Atlantic sea scallops | 15,478.4 | 917 | 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 | 1,637 | 1,310 | Traps, trawl | FMP area/year round | whole, partially processed at sea | 1 | 0 |
| Atlantic Herring | C | Atlantic herring | 80,766 | 1,762 | Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl | FMP area/year round | fresh/canned shoreside/fresh bait | 3 | 0 |
| Monkfish | C | Monkfish | 8,813 | 2,009 | gillnets, trawls, dredges | FMP area/year round | fresh | 7 | 0 |
| Northeast Skate Complex | C | Skates | 13,834.7 | 1,912 | Trawls, gillnets, dredge, longline | FMP area/year round | fresh bait, frozen, partially processed at sea | | |

Commercial fisheries landings statistics and vessel were provided by the Greater Atlantic Region and are based on information in the Region's data base as of December 2016. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/recreational-fisheries/data-and-documentation/run-a-data-querypdf> and are based on the results of the 2015 and 2016 Marine Recreational Information Program.

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) 2015 | Gear | Fishing Areas/ Seasons | Processing | Participants/ Representatives in 2015 | |
|--|------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------|
| | | | | | | | | Comm. | Rec. |
| Atlantic Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish | C | Commercial Atlantic mackerel | 5,614.5 | 284 | otter trawl, trap, gillnet | FMP area/year round | frozen, whole | 2 | 1 |
| | C | Squid, <u>Longfin</u> Squid, <u>Illex</u> Butterfish | 11,856.7 2,418.3 2,110.5 | (Combine) 1,675 | trawl; traps | FMP area/year round | at-sea & ashore, some mackerel fillets | | |
| | R | Recreational Atlantic mackerel | 1,157.6 | 368 | | FMP area/year round | | | |
| Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs | C | Atlantic surfclams | 18,164.4 | 618 | Dredge | FMP area/year round (ITQ mgmt.) | shucked shoreside | 1 | |
| | | Ocean quahogs | 13,632.3 | 636 | | | | | |
| Summer Flounder (fluke) | x | Commercial | 4,803.5 | 741 | hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet | FMP area/year round | fillets ashore; fresh & frozen | 3 | 3 |
| | | Recreational | 2,209 | 753 | | | | | |
| Scup | x | Commercial | 7,688.4 | 601 | | | | | |
| | | Recreational | 2,209.6 | 680 | | | | | |
| Black Sea Bass | x | Commercial | 1,061.4 | 641 | | | | | |
| | | Recreational | 1,632.9 | 719 | | | | | |
| Tilefish | C | Golden Tilefish | 610.5 | 1,959 | longline, hook & line | FMP area/year round | fresh/frozen | 1 | |
| Atlantic Bluefish | x | Commercial | 1,710 | 2,216 | hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet | FMP area/year round | fillets fresh/frozen | 1 | 3 |
| | x | Recreational | 6,227.8 | 768 | | | | | |
| Spiny Dogfish | C | Commercial | 9,281.1 | 2,216 | gillnet; trawl | FMP area/year round | fresh/frozen | 5 | 1 |

Commercial fisheries landings statistics and permit information were provided by the Greater Atlantic Region and are based on information in the Region's database as of December 2016. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/recreational-fisheries/data-and-documentation/run-a-data-querypdf> and are based on the results of the 2015 and 2016 Marine Recreational Information Program.

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)

| A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC) | Type | Species/Species Group | Landings (metric tons) 2015 | Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL)) | Gear | Fishing Areas/ Seasons | Processing | Participants/ Representatives in 2015 | |
|--|------|---|--|---|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|
| | | | | | | | | Comm. | Rec. |
| Golden Crab | C | Golden Crab ² | 140 | 11 | traps | FMP area/ year-round | Fresh | | |
| Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic | X | Commercial ^{2,3} Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species Recreational ^{3,6} Groupers Snappers Other Species | 347 Confidential 1,258 875 153 1,137 1,366 | 692 1,779 (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 ³ FMP area | at sea, gutted | 4 | 4 |
| Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region | C | Commercial All Recreational ⁶ White | 8,934 n/a ⁴ | 582 (penaeid) 229(rock) n/a ⁴ | trawls n/a ⁴ | 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 ⁵ Recreational | n/a ⁴ n/a ⁴ | n/a ⁵ n/a ⁴ | hand harvest | south FL/ year-round | Fresh | | |
| Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo | | Commercial ² Recreational ⁶ | 524 | 2,660 1,943 | | | | | |
| 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 2015.

2 Final commercial landings for 2015 are not available at this time. Instead, in-season monitoring landings for 2015 have been provided.

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

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

5 Octocorals are not subject to federal management off Florida. Florida has extended its regulations into the EEZ. The annual catch limit for octocorals off Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina is 0. Federal permits are not required for octocoral harvest.

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

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the annual catch limit datasets produced by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 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 2015.

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) 2015 | Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL)) | Gear | Fishing Areas/ Seasons | Processing | Participants / Representatives in 2015 | |
|---|------|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|------|
| | | | | | | | | Comm | Rec. |
| Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico | R | Commercial - Red Drum Recreational ^{4,6,13} | 36 6,875 | n/a ⁷ n/a ⁷ | n/a ⁷ n/a ⁷ | EEZ Closed n/a ⁷ EEZ Closed n/a ⁷ | n/a ⁷ n/a ⁷ | 4 | 4 |
| Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico | X | Commercial ² Grouper Red Snapper Other snapper Other species ⁸ Recreational ^{11,13} Grouper Red Snapper Other snappers Other species ⁸ | 2,964 2,935 987 555 1,292 2,706 1,523 933 | 868 (reef fish) 386 (red snapper) ⁹ 645 (grouper-tilefish) ¹⁰ n/a ⁴ (1,328 for-hire vessel permits) | longline, handline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, spear, powerhead spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net | FMP area/ year round ¹⁰ FMP area/ year round ^{5,11} | at-sea, gutted; shore-side processing | 4 | 4 |
| Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico | C | Commercial-All Recreational | 55,056 n/a ⁴ | 1,471 n/a ⁴ | trawl, butterfly net, skimmer, cast net trawl | FMP area/ year round; annual TX closure; seasonal FL closure FMP area/ year round | tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing | 1 | |
| Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC] | C | Commercial ¹² Recreational ^{3,12} | 2,466 735 | 259 commercial 269 tailing n/a ⁴ | trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest | Florida/ Aug-Apr FL / 2-day sport-season in July, Aug-Apr | tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing | 1 | |
| Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC] | X | Commercial ^{2,12} King mackerel Spanish mackerel Recreational ^{12,13} King mackerel Spanish mackerel | 1,382 412 2,052 1,525 | 1,460 2,231 n/a ⁴ n/a ⁴ (1,341 Gulf for-hire vessels) (1,771 south Atlantic for-hire vessels) | gillnets, longline, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, purse net bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear | Gulf & South Atlantic: Year round, commercial closures when quotas are reached | At-sea, gutted, Shore-side processing | 4 | 4 |

¹ Number of vessels with active permits for 2015.

² Final commercial landings for 2015 are not available at this time. Instead, in-season monitoring landings for 2015 have been provided.

³ Data from state of Florida.

⁴ Not Available (no federal permit or reporting requirements, except for-hire vessels).

⁵ Recreational fishery for red snapper in 2015 was closed from January 1 through May 31.

- 6 State landings only.
- 7 Not applicable (fishery closed in federal waters).
- 8 Includes greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish, gray triggerfish, tilefishes, and hogfish.
- 9 Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) Program shareholders at the end of 2015.
- 10 Grouper-tilefish IFQ Program shareholders at the end of 2015.
- 11 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.
- 12 Data from 2014-2015 fishing season.
- 13 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, Louisiana, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Division landings data. NMFS Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2015.

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)

| A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC) | Species/Species Group | Landings (metric tons) 2015 | Vessel permits ¹ | Gear | Fishing Areas/Seasons | Processing | Participants/ Representatives in 2015 | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|------|
| | | | | | | | Comm. | Rec. |
| Spiny Lobster | Commercial | 126 (PR) ² 70 (USVI) | n/a | trap/pot, dip net gillnet, snare | year-round | fresh, landed whole | | |
| | Recreational | n/a ⁴ | n/a | dip net, trap, pot | year-round | | | |
| Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, other reef species) | Commercial | 714 (PR) ² 195 (USVI) | n/a | longline, hook and line, trap, pot, | area closures ⁵ , seasonal closures for numerous snappers and groupers; | gutted at-sea, shore-side processing | 2 | 2 |
| | Recreational | 115 ³ (PR) n/a ⁴ (USVI) | n/a | dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear | prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau and Goliath groupers | | | |
| 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 ⁴ | n/a | dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest | | | | |
| Queen Conch | Commercial | 91 (PR) ² 11 (USVI) | n/a | hand harvest (no hooks) | closed year round (no harvest) in EEZ except east of St. Croix (portion of Lang Bank) where it is closed seasonally each year July through September | live, landed whole in shell, shore-side processing | | |
| | Recreational | n/a ⁴ | n/a | hand harvest (no hooks) | | | | |

¹ Not applicable (no permits required).

² Puerto Rico commercial landings for 2015 are available but the commercial landings have not been adjusted with expansion factors to address non-reporting. The commercial landings expansion factors for 2015 are not available at this time.

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

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

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

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

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)

| A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC) | Type | Species/Species Group | 2015 Landings (salmon in # of fish, others in metric tons) | 2015 Permits (Vessels) & Angler Trips | Gear | Fishing Areas/ Seasons | Processing | Participants/ Representatives in 2016 | |
|--|------|--|---|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|------|
| | | | | | | | | 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 | 328,460 9,042 19082,313 86,314 103,060 8,631 | CA Troll 1,130 OR Troll 965 WA Troll 153 244,973 Angler Trips | Troll; hook and line, | WA, OR & CA/ variable dates by area | headed & gutted; fillets; fresh & frozen | 1 | 2 |
| Pacific Coast Groundfish ¹ | X | Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish All groundfish Recreational Groundfish | 153,985 11,474 5,697 179,464 Estimated 4,000 | Limited Entry: 320 vessels registered to 397 active LE permits Open Access: (approximately 750 vessels landed groundfish) Estimated 990,000 Boat Based Trips targeting groundfish | trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets | CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round | headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen | 1 | 1 |
| Coastal Pelagic Species ³ | C | Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy | 3,833 3,618 1,434 36,806 17,255 | Federal Limited Entry south of Point Arena - 65 State Limited Entry north of Point Arena— | 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 | 1,701 federal permits | Surface hook-and line Coastal purse seine Harpoon Drift gillnet High Seas longline | CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round | Fresh, frozen, canned Human consumption | 1 | 2 |

¹ Pacific Coast groundfish fishery data was extracted directly from the PacFin data system (commercial), Recreational catch estimated from table 15 of "Estimated Discard and Catch of Groundfish Species in the 2015 West Coast West Coast Groundfish Fisheries" NMFS NWFSC

² "Review of 2015 Ocean Salmon Fisheries:" (February 2016; Pacific Fishery Management Council).

³ Estimates from PacFIN and California Fish and Wildlife

⁴ Landings estimates from PacFIN (November 2016); Permits from NMFS WCR

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)

| Fishery | Type | Species/Species Group | Tonnage (metric tons) ¹ | Fishermen & Crew ² | Gear | Fishing Areas and Seasons | Processing | Participants/Representatives in 2015 ⁴ | |
|--|------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| | | | | | | | | Comm. | Rec. |
| Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) | C | Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species | 173,181 61,389 27,576 33,834 9,334 1,022 8,865 | 1,138 Federal Fishing permits 1,124 LLP permits | trawl; pot; hook & line; jig | area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements | hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil | 4 | |
| Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) | C | Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species | 1,354,017 247,298 224,844 36,956 876 54,320 33,757 | 537 Federal fishing permits 506 LLP permits | trawl; pot; hook & line; jig | area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements | hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil | 4 | |
| Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI | C | King Crab Red king crab Golden king crab St. Matt.Blue King Crab Tanner Crab <u>C. opilio</u> (snow) <u>C. bairdi</u> | 5,340 3,080 50 24,100 11,380 | 495 Quota Share holders for IFQ crab 347 LLP permits | Pot | Deferred to State; generally November and winter months; LLP permits have fishery endorsements for minor crab species. | cooked; refrigerated; frozen | 3 | |
| Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters | C | Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Sockeye salmon Chum salmon | 1,444 3,350 473 13 1,578 | 1,060 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 | Weatherwane scallops (no directed fisheries occur for other scallop species listed in the FMP) | 120 | 9 LLP permits | Dredges | Deferred to State; Time and area openings are adjusted inseason | hand shucked and frozen or iced | | |

In addition to these five FMPs, the NPFMC also is responsible for developing regulations governing Pacific halibut fisheries in and off of Alaska under authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). These regulations, which are in addition to and not in conflict with regulations adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, primarily allocate halibut fishing privileges among U.S. fishermen. Although the NPFMC develops halibut management regulations according to principles of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, no halibut FMP exists because the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not apply to management of the Pacific halibut fisheries. In 2016, the commercial fishing season for halibut in and off Alaska runs from March 19 through November 7. The total commercial catch of halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs through November 7, 2016 was 7,599 mt, net weight, about 98 percent of the available quota. At that date, about 181 mt of Pacific halibut remained. For Pacific halibut, 2,408 persons held IFQ Quota Share as of November 30, 2016..

¹ 2015 salmon catch data are from the State of Alaska. These data represent only the southeast AK hand and power troll fisheries that are governed by the Salmon FMP and managed as one fishery, inside and outside State waters by the State of Alaska. The catch data for the BSAI crab fisheries are from the 2016 Final Crab Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation report for Fishing Year 2015/2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), NMFS. Alaska scallop fishery catch data for the 2015/2016 season (July 1,

A-vii NPFMC (continued) from preceding page:

2015 to February 2016) are from the State of Alaska. All other catch data are from the Alaska Region, NMFS, and reflect catch reports through November 29, 2016. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts. Miscellaneous groundfish species includes squid, skates, sharks, octopus, and sculpin.

² Data represent persons or vessels permitted to harvest fish, not the number of individuals actually involved in the operation of vessels, catching and processing fish. The number of permits actually used to harvest fish is fewer than that indicated by the data. Participation in all FMP fisheries is governed by some form of limited access system. License Limitation Programs (LLP), initially effective in 2000, apply to all fisheries except crab fisheries brought under a new IFQ system in 2005, salmon (which is governed by the State of Alaska limited entry system), demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Gulf of Alaska, IFQ sablefish, and IFQ and CDQ halibut fisheries. In 2005, a new IFQ program replaced the LLP license requirement for most BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. A total of 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 2015/2016 crab year most IFQ crab was assigned to cooperatives; 149 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 2,208 current LLP permits, most (1,852) authorized fishing for groundfish in the BSAI or GOA or both, and 347 still authorized fishing for BSAI crab species not under crab rationalization management; the remaining 9 were for scallop harvest. A number of permits were "interim" and will be revoked following final adjudication of claims.

Also, a total of 812 persons held QS to harvest sablefish as of November 30, 2016, with fixed gear in the GOA and BSAI under the IFQ Program. The salmon permit data are from the State of Alaska and represent the number of individual permits fished in 2014.

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

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

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)

| A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC) | Type | Species/Species Group | Landings (metric tons) 2015 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) (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 | # | 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 | | | | FEP Area/year round, except for area closures around the Hawaii, Mariana and American Samoa Archipelagos | fresh fish market | | |
| | | - Tunas | 11,810 | 185 (longline) | longline | | | | |
| | | - Swordfish | 1,464 | 7 (troll/handline) | troll/handline | | | | |
| | | - Other (incl. sharks) | 1,882 | 0 (squid) | squid | | | | |
| | | - Blue marlin | 685 | | | | | | |
| | | - Mahimahi | 863 | | | | | | |
| | | - Other billfish | 786 | | | | | | |
| | | - Wahoo | 607 | | | | | | |
| | | - Squid | 2 | | | | | | |
| | | Estimated Recreational (all species) | 4,914(R) ³ | n/a | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | whole frozen for cannery | 0 | 1 |

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)

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