



# Backgrounder:

## Council Advisory Bodies

The Pacific Fishery Management Council’s advisory bodies (including technical teams, advisory subpanels, committees and working groups) prepare and review information and provide input to help the Council make decisions.

All advisory body meetings are open to the public, but the advisory subpanels offer the best opportunity for public involvement in the process.

### **Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is a group of scientists from state and Federal agencies, academic institutions, and other sources. The SSC prepares and reviews fishery management plans (FMPs) and other documents. Among other duties, the SSC identifies scientific resources required for the development of FMPs and amendments; provides a multi-disciplinary review of FMPs or amendments, and advises the Council on their scientific content; helps the Council evaluate statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information; and makes recommendations on the composition of plan development, technical, and management teams. The SSC has subcommittees that focus on salmon, groundfish, highly migratory species, coastal pelagic species, ecosystem management, and economics. SSC members are selected by a vote of the Council. At-large members serve three-year terms, while management agency representatives serve indefinite terms.

### **Advisory Subpanels**

Advisory subpanels represent the commercial and recreational fishing industry, tribes, the public, and conservation interests. They advise the Council on fishery management issues (such as annual management measures, FMPs, and amendments) and provide input into fishery management planning. Members are selected by a Council vote and serve three-year terms.

The Council has five advisory subpanels—one for each FMP being developed or monitored:

- Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). This panel includes three fixed gear (at-large) commercial fishers, one conservation representative, two processors, one at-sea processor, three sport fishers, two open access fishers, three trawlers, one tribal rep-

representative, and four charter boat operators (one for Oregon and Washington, one for northern California, and one for southern California).

- Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS). This subpanel includes three California commercial fishers, one Oregon commercial fisher, one Washington commercial fisher, three processors (one from each state), one California charter or sport fisher, and one conservation representative.
- Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS). This subpanel includes one member each from the commercial troll, purse seine, gillnet, and private recreational fisheries; two from the charter fisheries (one northern, one southern); three commercial at-large members; two processors (one northern, one south of Cape Mendocino); one conservation representative; and one public at-large member.
- Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS). Currently, this group comprises one tribal representative from California; one tribal fisher from the Washington coast; one gillnetter; three charter boat operators and three trollers (one from each state); four sport fishers (one from each state, including Idaho); one processor, and one conservation representative.
- Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS). This subpanel consists of three representatives each from California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; and one tribal representative.

## **Enforcement Consultants**

Enforcement Consultants are representatives from state police agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, NMFS regions, and the Coast Guard. They provide advice to the Council about whether proposed management actions are enforceable and how they affect safety at sea. There are seven enforcement consultants who serve indefinite terms.

## **Habitat Committee**

The Habitat Committee (HC) works with other teams and panels on habitat issues that affect Council fisheries. The group helps develop ways to resolve habitat problems and avoid future habitat conflicts, and it makes recommendations for actions that will help achieve the Council's habitat objectives. The HC includes one member each from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and the National Marine Sanctuary program; one NMFS region representative and one NMFS science center representative; one at-large member; one conservation representative; one member each from the four state fishery agencies; two tribal representatives; and two fishing industry members. The Council chair requests nominees from these agencies and organizations. HC members representing NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Sanctuaries, PSMFC, and state agencies serve indefinite terms. Other HC members serve three-year terms.

## **Groundfish Allocation Committee**

The Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) is charged with developing options for allocating certain groundfish species among the commercial and recreational sectors and among gear groups within the commercial sector. The purpose of the GAC is to distribute the harvestable surplus among competing interests in a way that resolves allocation issues on a short- or

long-term basis. The GAC is composed of voting members who sit on the Council (one representative each from the California, Oregon and Washington management agencies, NMFS, PSMFC, and the Council Chair). NOAA Northwest Regional Counsel provides legal advice. In addition, there are seven non-voting members representing the non-whiting trawl, whiting trawl, fixed gear, open access, and recreational sectors; conservation groups; and processors.

## **Plan Development, Technical, and Management Teams**

Plan development, technical, and management teams are working groups of state, Federal, tribal, and nongovernmental biologists and economists. Members serve indefinite terms and are selected by a vote of the Council.

Technical and Management Teams monitor fisheries and prepare stock assessments and fishery impact analyses. They may monitor catch rates and management impacts, analyze or recommend harvest limits, develop rebuilding plans, or conduct other tasks assigned by the Council. Currently, the Council has a Salmon Technical Team, Groundfish Management Team, Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, Salmon Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Highly Migratory Species Management Team.

Plan Development Teams focus on the development of fishery management plans. This includes appraising Council fisheries and resources, working with other teams to draft fishery management plans and amendments, presenting alternative management objectives to the Council, analyzing the short- and long-term tradeoffs of management measures, helping Council and NMFS staff prepare related documents, attending public hearings, advising the Council on biological and socioeconomic impacts of fisheries management, providing information to advisory subpanels, and presenting stock assessments and analyses to the SSC for review. Currently only the Ecosystem Plan Development Team exists.

## **Standing Committees**

Standing committees are made up of current Council members. The Budget Committee generally meets three times a year to review the Council's budget and grant proposals, and the Legislative Committee monitors Federal legislation on Council operations and West Coast fisheries and develops a position and course of action for Council consideration.

## **Ad-Hoc Committees**

Ad-hoc committees are created to serve special needs. Ad-hoc committees that exist now or have existed in the recent past include:

- Coastal Pelagic Species Tribal Allocation Committee
- Full Retention Committee
- Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement Oversight Committee
- Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee
- Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee
- Groundfish Multi-Year Management Committee
- Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee

- Highly Migratory Species Management Committee
- Marine Protected Area Committee
- Salmon Amendment Committee
- Shore-based Whiting Amendment Workgroup
- Trawl Individual Quota Analytical Team
- Trawl Individual Quota Enforcement Group
- Trawl Individual Quota Independent Experts Panel
- Observer Program Implementation Committee
- Vessel Monitoring System Committee
- Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee
- Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee Open Access Conversion Subcommittee.

For more information on the membership of the Council's advisory bodies, contact the Council at the phone number on the first page of this information sheet or see the following websites:

- Council Rosters: <http://tinyurl.com/3388hyf>
- Council Operating Procedures: <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/operating-procedures/>
- Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures: <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/statement-of-organization/>

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