

Under Agenda Item E.1, National Marine Fisheries Service apprised the Council that the Secretary of Commerce will appoint membership to the Pacific Whiting Treaty Advisory Panel prior to the June meeting. Given this timing, if the Council wishes to make recommendations to NMFS on the composition of the Panel, this should be completed at the April meeting. Representation on the Joint Management Committee also includes one member of the Pacific Council, however the timing of the appointment allows the Council to make its recommendation at the June Council meeting, at the earliest.

The Pacific Whiting Act of 2006 provides the following structure to the composition of the Advisory Panel:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint **at least 6 but not more than 12** individuals to serve as members of the advisory panel, selected from among individuals who are—

(A) knowledgeable or experienced in the **harvesting, processing, marketing, management, conservation, or research** of the offshore whiting resource; and

(B) not employees of the United States.

(2) Terms of Office.—An individual appointed under paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of not exceed 4 years, but shall be eligible for reappointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term of office of that individual’s predecessor shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.”

(emphasis added)