

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS
AND COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

At the March meeting, the Council was scheduled to modify to Council Operating Procedure 3 (COP3), which describes Advisory Body Memberships (see [Agenda Item I.4](#) and [Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 1](#)). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) recommended having two unspecified seats on the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) instead of one NWFSC seat and one West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) seat. This change was intended to allow the NWFSC flexibility in their appointments, while recognizing the desire to have stock assessment, economics, observer program, and fishery analysis expertise on the GMT (see the section entitled Composition, #3). This proposal was also viewed to be consistent with the state seats on the GMT whereby the states have flexibility in the appointments. For example, the COP does not specify the state seats as commercial and recreational - that is a decision made by the state managers.

The proposed change to Council Operating Procedure (COP) 3 was also an attempt to acknowledge that the WCGOP seat was created in April 2014 but has never been filled due to staffing changes and subsequent workload challenges at WCGOP. Since that time, members of the GMT have been given better access to WCGOP data, so having a specified WCGOP seat is no longer as critical of a need as it was when we requested it in the past. The GMT does, however, recognize the expertise of WCGOP staff and the value they would bring to the team. To the extent workload and staffing allows, the GMT would support a WCGOP representative fill one of the two unspecified seats proposed in the revised COP3 language.

The NWFSC also nominated Mr. Jerry Leonard and Dr. Andi Stephens to fill the NWFSC positions anticipated to be modified under COP 3.

The Council decided to postpone action to modify COP 3 until the April meeting to provide the opportunity for groundfish advisory bodies to comment. Mr. Leonard was appointed in March, recognizing the need to fill the NWFSC seat and the Economist role that would have otherwise been unfulfilled given the recent rotation off of the team of the previous Economist from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center. The Council postponed consideration of Dr. Stephens' appointment until the proposed changes to the COP 3 are adopted.

The GMT recommends modifying the COP 3 language as shown in [Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1](#).