

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the proposed changes to the Council Operating Procedures (COPs) in [Agenda Item C.3. Attachment 1](#), and provide the following for consideration.

COPs 2 (Advisory Subpanels), 3 (Plan, Technical, and Management Teams), 4 (Scientific and Statistical Committee), 6 (Habitat Committee), and 8 (Ad Hoc Committees) have several additions to the section on “Termination of Membership” that describe why a member may be replaced. Included in that list is: “6) violates the *Rules of Conduct for Employees and Advisors and Contractors of Regional Fishery Management Councils, U. S. Department of Commerce.*” The GMT recommends that this document be shared with subpanels, teams, and committees, and posted to the Council website, to ensure that members are fully aware of the expectations of them.

As we stated in November ([Agenda Item I.4.a. Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2018](#)), the GMT still has concerns on whether a 30-day notice for an alternate will provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate agency personnel or staffing issues in situations that may require an alternate. We understand the benefits that a 30-day notice can provide to resolving logistical issues with travel reservations, hotel room blocks, etcetera, particularly for non-federal employees. GMT members will continue to provide as much notice as possible, however the GMT suggests returning to the former standard of two weeks’ notice required for an alternate. Having all seats filled for a meeting, even by a shorter notice alternate, will ensure that the GMT is able to be successful as a team in providing comprehensive analysis and reports for Council decision-making.

PFMC
03/10/19*