

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS AND COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES – 2025-27
ADVISORY BODY COMPOSITION AND RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE POLICIES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed its current composition as described in Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 3. The SSC workload is increasing and a reduction in membership would reduce the Committee's ability to respond to Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) requests. Furthermore, the current membership of 18, including 9 at-large members, is necessary to reflect the range of expertise needed for all Council Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). The at-large members are essential to the success of the review process, particularly for groundfish, because many of the appointed members have conflicts of interest relative to the Stock Assessment Teams. Restricting the number of terms for which at-large members can serve on the SSC would limit the SSC's effectiveness. For example, topics that the SSC reviews and comments on often span multiple meetings and years. Discussions surrounding these topics benefit from consistency in SSC membership. The SSC notes that these positions are generally held by those volunteering their expertise and time. Frequent changes in these positions may result in lessening of applicant interest and willingness to volunteer.

PFMC
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