

MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS AND COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES - INCLUDING FINAL 2025-27 ADVISORY BODY COMPOSITION

During this agenda item, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considers administrative appointment issues regarding the Council Membership Roster, including Council members, Advisory Body members, and any relevant changes in the Council Operating Procedures (COP). Membership discussions include the current (2022-2024) and upcoming (2025-2027) Advisory Body terms. Additionally, the Council is scheduled identify a Council member to serve on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources marine mammal Take Reduction Team (TRT) for Federal sablefish pot, Dungeness crab, and California spot prawn. Finally, the Council is expected to adopt a modification to Council Operating Procedure 1 to revise the public comment period to five minutes for both individuals and groups.

Council Officers, Members, and Designees

The Secretary of Commerce appointed new and returning members of the Pacific Council as follows and described in Attachment 1. Corey Ridings (California), Ms. Christa Svensson (Oregon), and Mr. David Sones (Tribal) were appointed to Obligatory Seats. Dr. Rebecca Lent (California) and Ms. Aja Szumylo (Washington) were appointed to At-Large Seats. The new and reappointed Council members will serve from September 14, 2024, through August 10, 2027.

Mr. Hugh Morrison is the new Pacific Region Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), replacing Ms. Robyn Thorson who has retired. The Council designees for the USFWS are unchanged.

The Council received a letter from Commander B.D. Ettinger of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) informing the Council of revisions to RADM Charles Fosse's designee list (Attachment 2). The USGC designee list has been revised to remove LT Devon Zych and include LT Skye-Marie Williamsz.

Council Representatives to Other Forums

Take Reduction Team

The NMFS Office of Protected Resources is convening a marine mammal TRT in response to a stipulated settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity (see [Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1, April 2024](#) and [West Coast Take Reduction Team](#)). NMFS has preliminarily decided that the TRT will address three strategic marine mammal stocks (i.e., Central America/Southern Mexico humpback whales, Mainland Mexico humpback whales, and Eastern North Pacific blue whales) and five commercial fisheries, including Federal sablefish pot, WA/OR/CA Dungeness crab pot, and CA spot prawn pot. Additional fisheries and/or marine mammal stocks may be included in the notice formally establishing the TRT, which is expected in 2025. The TRT is expected to meet in person for several meetings (~4) over a six-month period to develop consensus recommendations that achieve the Marine Mammal Protection Act goals.

TRT members include Federal agencies, each coastal State which has fisheries which interact with the species or stock, appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, interstate fisheries commissions, academic and scientific organizations, environmental groups, all commercial and recreational fisheries groups and gear types which incidentally take the species or stock, Alaska Native organizations or Indian tribal organizations, and others as the Secretary deems appropriate.

At their June 2024 meeting, the Council tasked staff with sending a letter to NMFS recommending the several individuals for consideration to serve in the industry seats ([TRT transmittal letter](#); [June Decision Summary Document](#)). Only 2-3 individuals are expected to fill the industry seats.

At the September 2024 meeting, the Council is scheduled to recommend an individual to fill the Regional Fishery Management Council seat on the TRT. On other TRTs, these seats have been filled by either Council staff or Council members. Given current staffing levels, the Executive Director recommends the position be filled by a Council member, with staff support as appropriate.

Council Advisory Body Appointments

Coastal Pelagic Advisory Management Team (CPSMT)

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) nominated Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Wegner to replace Dr. James Hilger in one of the National Marine Fisheries Service positions on the CPSMT (Closed Session A.1, Attachment 1). The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is scheduled to review the nomination and report to the Council under Closed Session.

Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT)

The SWFSC nominated Mr. Owyn Snodgrass to replace Dr. Matthew Craig in one of the SWFSC positions on the HMSMT (Closed Session A.1, Attachment 1). The West Coast Region has nominated Mr. Karter Harmon to replace Ms. Celia Barroso on the HMSMT (Closed Session A.1, Attachment 2). The SSC is scheduled to review the nomination and report to the Council under Closed Session.

Council Advisory Body Appointments for the 2025-2027 Term

The current three-year Advisory Body term ends December 31, 2024 and the Council is embarking on the renewal process described in [COP 9, Schedule 6](#). At the June Council meeting, the Council reviewed the composition of all term-limited Advisory Body positions and adopted the changes for public review as follows and outlined in Attachment 3:

- **Salmon Advisory Subpanel:** Remove the gillnet position and one of the California sport positions originally created for inland fisheries.
- **Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Advisory Subpanel:** Revise the description of the Washington commercial seat on the CPS advisory subpanel to be either Washington commercial or Washington processor (Washington commercial/processor).
- **Groundfish Advisory Subpanel:** Revise the current 3 Sport Fisheries At-large positions to be one Washington, one Oregon, and two California Sport Fishery positions.

The Council also tasked staff with exploring the role and composition of the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) and Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG), considering the Inflation Reduction Act projects (see [Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 3, April 2024](#)). These projects are aligned with the

Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiatives and are anticipated to utilize all resources usually allocated for ecosystem projects. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 4 contains the staff recommendations for these groups for Council consideration for formal Council adoption under this agenda item.

Additionally, under the equity and environmental justice (EEJ) agenda item in June, the Council discussed designating a social scientist position with expertise in EEJ on the SSC but did not adopt the change for public review. If directed, staff could highlight this desired skill set when soliciting nominations for the At-Large positions on the SSC.

In September 2024, the Council is scheduled to adopt the final compositions of term-limited Advisory Body positions and request nominations to fill the next three-year term. Further, the Council is scheduled to take final action on the composition and role of the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel and Ecosystem Workgroup. The Council should consider the form and function of the term-limited Advisory Bodies while taking into consideration the Council's financial status (see Agenda Item K.1), when adopting the final compositions. Appointments are scheduled to be made in November 2024.

Council Operating Procedures

At the June 2024 Council meeting (Agenda Item C.2; see [Decision Summary Document](#)), the Council tasked staff with updating Council Operating Procedure 1 to revise the public comment period to five minutes for both individuals and groups per agenda item. The Council also expressed their intent to maintain the provision that allows the Chair or Vice Chair to modify that time based on the number of participants. Attachment 4 contains a tracked-changes version of COP 1 for Council adoption and implementation at the November 2024 Council meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Recommending a Council representative to the TRT.**
- 2. Appointing SWFSC representatives to the CPSMT and HMSMT.**
- 3. Appointing a WCR representative to the HMSMT.**
- 4. Adopting the final composition for all term-limited Advisory Body positions for 2025-2027 term for public review.**
- 5. Adopting the final role and composition of the EAS and EWG.**
- 6. Adopt revisions to the public comment period provisions in COP 1, scheduled for implementation in November 2024.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item K.3, Attachment 1: Department of Commerce Announces 2024 Appointments to the Regional Fishery Management Councils.
2. Agenda Item K.3, Attachment 2: USCG Designee List Update, Williamsz.
3. Agenda Item K.3, Attachment 3: Summary of Current Term-Limited Advisory Body Positions and Proposed Changes for the 2025-2027 Term.
4. Agenda Item K.3, Attachment 4: COP 1 General Council Meeting Operations.
5. Closed Session A.1, Attachment 1: SWFSC Nominations for the CPSMT and HMSMT.
6. Closed Session A.1, Attachment 2: WCR Nomination for the HMSMT.

7. If received, Public Comments are Electronic Only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

K.3 Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

Including Final 2025-27 Advisory Body Composition

Kelly Ames

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies for 2024; Adopt Final Advisory Body Composition for 2025-27; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures, As Appropriate

PFMC

08/28/24