

MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS AND COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

During this agenda item, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considers administrative appointment issues regarding the Council's Membership Roster, including Council and Advisory Body members, and any relevant changes in the and Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPP) and Council Operating Procedures (COP).

Council Officers, Members, and Designees

On June 30, 2025, the Department of Commerce appointed Jaime Diamond (California) to an At-Large seat and re-appointed Pete Hassemer (Idaho) to an Obligatory Seat on the Council. These members will serve from August 14, 2025 through August 10, 2028.

The Council received a letter from David Hogan of the Department of State announcing his retirement and introducing Rachel Ryan as the new Senior Pacific Affairs Officer and representative to the Council. Department of State representation to the Council was later updated to be Colin Brinkman (Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1).

The Council received a letter from Commander S.H. McGrew of the United States Coast Guard informing the Council of revisions to their representation on the Council (Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 2). Rear Admiral Arex Avanni is the Agency Principal, replacing Rear Admiral Charles Fosse. Additionally, Commander Scott McGrew replaced Commander Brett Ettinger as the first designee.

Standing Committees

Legislative and Budget Committees

Marc Gorelnik concluded his Council appointment on August 10, 2025 and was previously appointed to the Budget and Legislative Committees. The Council may wish to provide input on the Chair's appointments to these committees.

Council Advisory Body Appointments

Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) – 1 Tribal

The Council received the following application for the tribal position on the GAP

- Steve Hines (Closed Session A.1, Attachment 1)

Habitat Committee (HC)

Former Council Chair Brad Pettinger appointed Kate Sherman to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission seat, replacing Stan Allen. Former Chair Pettinger also appointed Victor Almeida, replacing Corianna Flannery, to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife seat on the HC.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) – 1 At-Large position

Dr. Tommy Moore resigned from his At-Large SSC position, effective following the September Council meeting. As requested by the Council in June, staff advertised for the position to facilitate

consideration and appointments at the September Council meeting. The following individuals applied for the 1 At-Large position on the SSC:

- ~~Dr. Yi Xu (Closed Session A.1, Attachment 2) WITHDRAWN~~
- Dr. Aaron Berger (Closed Session A.1, Attachment 3)

The SSC is scheduled to review the qualifications of the nominees and report to the Council under Closed Session.

Vacancies

The following table summarizes the vacancies on Council Advisory Bodies and Ad hoc groups.

Advisory Body or Ad hoc Group	Agency
Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ecosystem Workgroup	Seat formerly held by Tommy Moore
Salmon Technical Team	Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Klamath River Workgroup	NWFSC
Sacramento River Workgroup	USFWS
Habitat Committee	NWFSC
Marine Planning Committee	WCR

Council Operating Procedures (COP)

COP 20 Protocol for consideration of exempted fishing permits for highly migratory species fisheries

At its June 2025 meeting, the Council tasked the Fisheries Innovation Workgroup (FIW) with proposing near-term, focused edits to COP 20 to 1) the timing when EFP proposals will be reviewed (proposed to be changed to November and March); 2) providing the opportunity for the Council to make recommendations on EFP applications in a single meeting, and 3) accepting EFP applications for Council review at either of the two proposed meetings. The FIW considered a draft revised COP 20 at its August 19–20 meeting and recommended the edits in Attachment 3. While the recommended edits extend beyond the scope of the Council’s June direction, the FIW determined that additional clarification at this time would improve the process.

Council staff notes that several of the FIW’s proposed edits overlap with prior Council discussions on EFPs and ongoing initiatives to improve responsiveness for all sectors —specifically, the June discussion under Agenda Item D.2 Council Response to Executive Orders and Administration Updates and the April discussion under C.4 Adaptive Management Workplan and Update. In those discussions, the Council highlighted the need to make the EFP process more efficient while preserving Council involvement. Members emphasized aligning the Council’s EFP review with the process by which applicants may apply directly to NMFS, including the importance of synchronizing Council comments with the *Federal Register* comment period. The Council was also interested in exploring a pre-assessment step with NMFS to improve application quality and developing performance metrics. At the same time, the Council cautioned against imposing constraints at the EFP stage that might limit innovation in developing new fisheries.

Staff further notes that some FIW-recommended edits change language that is also contained in COP 19 Protocol for Consideration of EFPs for Groundfish Fisheries and COP 23 Protocol for Consideration of EFPs for Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries. Adoption of these edits in COP 20 would create divergence across Council COPs. Should the Council agree with the direction and intent of the FIW's recommended edits, it would be appropriate to task staff with incorporating them into a set of final COP revisions that ensure consistency and clarity across the various sections of the COPs, relevant regulations, and other factors. These final COPs would be brought back for final Council adoption at a future meeting.

COP 27 Process for Initiating Allocation Reviews

Staff have proposed changes to the groundfish and Pacific halibut sections of COP 27, Process for Initiating Allocation Reviews, based on two recently completed Council actions in June 2025, Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) Actions and the Intersector Allocation Review. Regarding LEFG, the Council recommended removing the outdated Amendment 6 language from the FMP which specified how to allocate between limited entry and OA fisheries in favor of having a policy that promotes giving LE vessels greater opportunity. COP 27 notes that the Amendment 6 allocations were mostly superseded by Amendment 21 and the current framework for allocations and therefore staff propose striking this row to be consistent. Staff also identified needed changes to identify the species by allocation type; eliminate references to specific review years, terminology for off-the-top deductions, and set asides; and the inclusion of the inseason flexibility incorporated in 2024 into the Pacific halibut CSP.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Provide feedback regarding Chair's appointments to the upcoming vacant positions on the Budget and Legislative Committees.**
- 2. Appoint 1 tribal GAP member.**
- 3. Appoint 1 At-Large SSC member.**
- 4. Consider tasking staff with incorporating all or some of the FIW-proposed revisions to COP 20.**
- 5. Adopt revisions to COP 27.**

Reference Materials:

1. Closed Session A.1, Attachment 1: GAP Tribal Nomination, Hines.
- ~~2. Closed Session A.1, Attachment 2: SSC At-Large Nomination, Dr. Xu. WITHDRAWN~~
3. Closed Session A.1, Attachment 3: SSC At-Large Nomination, Dr. Berger.
4. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1: Department of State Representative, Brinkman.
5. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 2: USCG Representative, Avanni.
6. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3: FIW Proposed Revisions to COP 20.
7. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 4: Council Staff Proposed Revisions to COP 27.
8. If received, Public Comments are Electronic Only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

I.3 Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

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; Adopt Changes to and Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures and Council Operating Procedures, As Appropriate

PFMC
08/27/25