

COUNCIL STAFF SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AT THE MARCH COUNCIL
MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED REVISIONS TO COUNCIL OPERATING
PROCEDURES

Groundfish Management Team (GMT) – [Agenda Item C.3, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)

- The GMT recommends that the *Rules of Conduct for Employees and Advisors and Contractors of Regional Fishery Management Councils, U. S. Department of Commerce* 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.
- 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. 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.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) – [Agenda Item C.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)

- With special attention to COP 4. The SSC suggests that when the word “Chairman” (or “Chair”) is used, it should be clear whether the reference is to the Council Chair or the Advisory Body Chair (e.g., point number 7 of the “Termination of Membership” section.)
- In the “Termination of Membership” section, the COP states that allegations of disruptive or harassing behavior, including sexual harassment, should be reported to the Executive Director or the Council Chair. The SSC suggests that when these two positions are held by two men or two women, there should be an additional person not of that gender to whom people can make official reports.
- The SSC also questioned whether there was a process in place for reporting back to the employer of the person for whom removal is being considered or carried out.
- While the SSC discussed COP 4 in particular, these comments likely apply to other COPs as well.

Summarized Oral Public Comments – (see [Council Meeting Recordings](#) for exact testimony).

- Mr. Mike Conroy: Regarding the “Termination of Membership” section and the language “*the Chairman, in consultation with the Executive Director, determines that a Team member should be removed for just cause (e.g., violation of marine resource regulation, felony, conviction, reports of sexual harassment, etc.; these examples are not all-inclusive.)...*” Mr. Conroy suggested changing the word “violation” to the word “conviction.” Mr. Conroy suggested the Council consider a temporary suspension of a member pending the outcome of an alleged violation. Mr. Conroy also suggested that terminations should be based on investigated reports of harassment and felt that, as written, the language implies that a report of harassment alone would suffice.
- Ms. Gilly Lyons expressed appreciation for the COP revisions and support for the language regarding appropriate conduct. Ms. Lyons also supported the report of the SSC and the GMT suggestion to post the *Rules of Conduct for Employees and Advisors and Contractors of Regional Fishery Management Councils, U. S. Department of Commerce* to the Council

web site. Ms. Lyons suggested that the Council consider a code of conduct that would apply more broadly than the COPs. Ms. Lyons also reiterated previous interest in adding an additional conservation seat on each of the Council's Advisory Bodies without waiting for the next term.

- Mr. Geoff Schester concurred with the comments of Ms. Lyons and noted that he has seen an improvement in conduct and would like to see that trend continue. Mr. Schester expressed support for the COP revisions.

PFMC
03/20/19