

2003 REPORT TO CONGRESS
ON APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP
ON THE
REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 302(b)(2)(B) OF THE
MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT ACT

PREPARED BY
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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A. BACKGROUND

Section 302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Secretary (Secretary) to report annually to Congress on the achievement, to the extent practicable, of a “fair and balanced apportionment,” on a rotating or other basis, of the active participants (or their representatives) in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of each Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC). This is the twelfth Report related to the status of such apportionments.^{1/} In addition to assessing the annual apportionment of RFMC memberships, this Report discusses significant fishery management issues and related actions either under development or pending in the future.

B. FAIR AND BALANCED RFMC MEMBERSHIP

The consideration of balance and fairness between commercial and recreational fishing sectors has always been an important element in the Secretary’s appointments. An equally important consideration however, is the stewardship responsibilities of RFMCs and the appointment of individuals who can work collectively with members to achieve the conservation standards under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Successful nominees, therefore, are those who not only are qualified in accordance with the provisions located at 50 CFR 600.215, but will also best contribute to the stewardship of marine fishery resources.^{2/}

Generally, the most qualified nominees are those whose records indicate that they–

1. Have achieved a level of leadership in promoting stewardship of the marine fishery resources under the jurisdiction of the RFMCs to which they would be appointed; and
2. Participate in, or represent commercial fishermen participating in one or more commercial fisheries under the RFMCs’ jurisdictions; or
3. Participate in, or represent recreational fishermen participating in one or more recreational fisheries under the RFMCs’ jurisdictions; or
4. Are otherwise experienced in and/or knowledgeable in leadership of organizations whose members participate in a fishery; management and conservation of natural resources; representatives of consumers; teachers; journalists; writers; consultants; lawyers; or marine fishery researchers.

^{1/} The initial report assessed the RFMC memberships in 1991 and 1992 and was submitted to Congress on September 1, 1992.

^{2/} The qualifications for appointment are derived from Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and are also included in regulations contained at 50 CFR 600.215.

Standard for Apportionment

Before evaluating each RFMC with respect to fairness and balance, the Secretary must first have a standard for such judgments. Although clear as to intent, the amendments to the Sustainable Fisheries Act and their legislative history did not provide specific guidance for judging whether the Secretary's appointments result in "fair and balanced memberships." National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries has addressed the requirement by reasoning that, in the ideal case, voting members should be individuals with prescribed qualifications related to commercial or to recreational fishing within the RFMC's area of jurisdiction, or individuals with qualifications in one of the "other" related fishing interest categories, who are personally committed to meet the RFMC's trusteeship responsibilities for the living marine resources. This continues to be the yardstick for judging whether an individual RFMC will fulfill its paramount mandate, the conservation of fisheries resources.

Over the past decade, fishery management issues have become increasingly complex; therefore, RFMC members who possess the necessary background and abilities to address current issues are critical to the ultimate success of the RFMCs. A significant consideration in the appointment of members is their specific knowledge and experience of the management issues and fisheries in which each RFMC is expected to be involved. Also important is the level of nominees' participation in the fishery management process, and the support for the nominees by fishing sector and other individuals, largely through endorsement letters to the Secretary.

For the purposes of this Report, three general fishing interest sectors are discussed: the commercial fishing sector, the recreational fishing sector, and an "other" sector. The "other" sector is made up of appointed members with knowledge of, and experience in, biological, economic, or social sciences; environmental or ecological matters; consumer affairs; and associated fields.

Nominees may be categorized as participants in more than one of the three general fishing interest sectors. In these cases, the Agency's determination about a nominee's primary interest sector is the result of the Agency's interpretation of: (1) supporting background information provided by the nominating governor, (2) background information provided by the nominee, reflecting the nominee's demonstrated principal participation, and (3) other supplemental information provided by reliable sources.

C. APPORTIONMENT OF RFMC MEMBERSHIP

RFMC members are appointed from among qualified individuals nominated by the governors of the RFMCs' constituent states and, in the case of tribal representation on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), from among Indian representatives nominated by the appropriate Tribal Governments. A controlling factor in meeting the requirement to balance membership

will be cooperation of the governors of the constituent states in nominating qualified individuals who meet the standard of membership. It is incumbent on the governors to provide the Secretary with a wide diversity of highly qualified nominees to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

On June 27, 2003, the Secretary of Commerce announced the regular appointment or reappointment of 30 of 31 obligatory and at-large RFMC members whose 3-year terms, having commenced on August 11, 2003, will expire on August 10, 2006. The Secretary announced the thirty-first appointment of Marcos R. Hanke on September 5, 2003, to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC). In addition, on June 27, 2003, the Secretary announced the appointment of Eugene J. Kray to an out-of-cycle vacancy on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to complete Edward J. Mesunas' term, who resigned January 2003. Mr. Kray's term will expire August 10, 2005.

Of the 31 members appointed, whose 3-year term will expire on August 10, 2006, 14 are from the commercial fishing sector; 13 are from the recreational fishing sector; and 3 are from the "other" interest sector, plus 1 tribal representative on the PFMC, who is counted as a representative of the "other" sector.

The distribution of appointed RFMC voting members by interest sector during 2001, 2002, and 2003 is shown in Table 1 (page 7). In 2003, 50 percent of the appointed members were from the commercial fishing sector (36 members), 39 percent were from the recreational sector (28 members), and 11 percent were from the "other" sector (8 members).

The commercial fishing sector continues to be the largest component of RFMC representation due to the large numbers from that sector on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council because of regulatory issues to be addressed. The overall growth in representation for the commercial sector in 2003 has occurred while the "other" sector representation has declined.

Recreational fishing sector membership continues to remain about the same in recent years, 27 members in 2001, 25 members in 2002, and 28 members in 2003. A significant increase in the representation for the recreational sector has occurred on the PFMC this year.

Representation between the commercial and recreational fishing sector is generally in balance on most Councils except for the New England and North Pacific Councils. The Pacific Council has a significant difference between the sectors in 2003 (2 commercial, 5 recreational), and the Gulf Council continues to make steady improvement on working toward a balance (4 commercial, 6 recreational).

Because of the limited number of RFMC seats, not all sectors and localities can be represented on each RFMC. In addition, the Secretary's appointments are constrained by the nominations submitted by the RFMC governors. Within these parameters, the Secretary endeavors to select appointees who possess the breadth of knowledge and experience to collectively provide a balance on each RFMC, and who pursue their RFMC roles as stewards and trustees of the living resources. To the extent practicable, the appointments also seek to rotate membership, thereby distributing participation among all sectors of the fisheries specific actions. Adjustments to the distribution of representation on each RFMC also are made, where possible, to achieve a balance of interest sectors or needed experience to address changing agendas.

Where sector or gear components are not represented on a RFMC, membership on the various RFMC advisory panels and committees also is crucial to providing those sectors with representation during RFMC deliberations, as well as with a "voice" on specific issues of interest.

Women and Minority Representation

Prior to the 2003 appointments, the total number of appointed female members on the RFMCs was eleven. As a result of the 2003 appointments, the RFMC gained one new female member, Sally E. McGee, who was appointed to the NEFMC. Terms expired for Barbara D. Stevenson of the NEFMC who could not be renominated to a fourth consecutive term due to Magnuson-Stevens Act term limitations, and Judith P. Guthertz of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council who was not renominated, leaving the total number of appointed females currently at ten.

The Governor of American Samoa indicated that his 2003 nominees were all considered minority candidates, and the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands indicated that his 2003 nominees are all minorities and women.

The RFMC governors will continue to be encouraged to nominate qualified female and minority candidates.

D. RFMC MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES DURING 2004

Table 2, page 8, lists the 19 RFMC whose terms will expire on August 10, 2004. Table 3, page 9, sorts the 19 members into the three general fishing sector categories.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act prohibits the reappointment of RFMC members to a fourth consecutive term. As a result, two of the 19 members whose terms expire in 2004 will be ineligible for renomination consideration. The members are Erik S. Anderson on the NEFMC, New Hampshire's obligatory seat, and Mr. Irby W. Basco on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Texas' obligatory seat.

TABLE 1: APPOINTED RFMC MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2001-2003)

		COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	OTHER	TOTALS
NEFMC	2001	8	2	2	12
	2002	9 <u>3/</u>	2	1	12
	2003	9	2	1	12
MAFMC	2001	6	5	2	13
	2002	6	5	2	13
	2003	6	5 <u>2/</u>	2	13
SAFMC	2001	3	4	1	8
	2002	3	3 <u>4/</u>	1	7
	2003	3	4	1	8
GMFMC	2001	3	7	1	11
	2002	3	7	1	11
	2003	4	6	1	11
CFMC	2001	1	1	2	4
	2002	2	1	1	4
	2003	2	1	1	4
PFMC	2001	3	3	2 <u>5/</u>	8
	2002	3	3	3 <u>6/</u>	9
	2003	2	5	2	9
NPFMC	2001	4	1	2	7
	2002	4	1 <u>7/</u>	2	7
	2003	6	1	0	7
WPFMC	2001	3	4	1	8
	2002	3	3	2	8
	2003	4	4	0	8
ALL RFMCs	2001	31	27	13	71 (see footnote 5)
	2002	33	25	13	71 (see footnote 4)
	2003	36	28	8	72

3/William J. Brennan, a resident of Maine, resigned effective June 2002. With the appointment of Mr. Rice, the total number of members on the NEFMC representing the commercial fishing sector increased by one, and the total number of members on the NEFMC representing the "other" sector decreased by one.

4/Due to the resignation of Glen H. Durden who was completing a term due to expire on August 10, 2003, the appointment of a member to Georgia's obligatory seat is still pending.

5/This total also reflects a vacancy on the Pacific Council due to the expiration of a term on August 10, 2001 to Idaho's obligatory seat. This total includes the Tribal representative, who for the purposes of this table, is counted as a representative of the "other" sector.

6/This total includes the June 17, 2002, appointment of David Ortmann to Idaho's obligatory seat that expired on August 10, 2001, and the Tribal representative, who for the purposes of this table, is counted as a representative of the "other" sector.

7/Robert C. Penney resigned effective October 2002. With the appointment of Mr. Ellis, the total number of members on the NPFMC representing the recreational fishing sector remains the same.

8/Edward J. Mesunas, a resident of Pennsylvania, resigned effective January 2003. With the appointment of Mr. Kray, the total number of members on the MAFMC representing the recreational fishing sector remains the same.

TABLE 2: RFMC MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2004

OBLIGATORY MEMBERS		APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED	AT-LARGE MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED	
<u>New England</u>	NH: E. Anderson (C)	1995	***3	M. Amorello/MA (C) R. Boragine/RI (C)	2001 2001	1 1	
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	DE: R. Smith (O)	1998	2	J. Lovgren/NJ (C) Y. Peabody/VA (C) L. Simms/MD (C)	2000 2001 2001	*;1 1 1	
<u>South Atlantic</u>	SC: H. Pearce, Jr. (R) NC: R. Southerland (C)	2001 2001	1 1	There are no 2004 at-large vacancies on the South Atlantic Council			
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u>	TX: I. Basco (R) MS: D. Saucier (R)	1996 2001	**; ***3 1	J. Morris/FL (O)	2001	1	
<u>Caribbean</u>	There are no 2004 obligatory vacancies on the Caribbean Council			M. Lester/VI (C)	2001	1	
<u>Pacific</u>	ID: D. Ortmann (O)	2002	**1	R. Thomas /CA (R)	1998	2	
<u>North Pacific</u>	AK: S. Anderson (C) AK: S. Madsen (C)	2001 2001	1 1	There are no at-large seats on the North Pacific Council			
<u>W. Pacific</u>	There are no 2004 obligatory vacancies on the W. Pacific Council			E. Ebisui, Jr./HI (R) F. McCoy, Sr./AmS (C)	2001 1998	1 2	
Total			9	Total			10

Fishing Sectors: C=commercial; R=recreational; "O"=other

*These members replaced other members who left office during a term or who are deceased; in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, section 302(b)(3), Any term in which an individual was appointed to replace a member who left office during the term shall not be counted in determining the number of consecutive terms served by that Council member.

**These members served a partial term during their initial 3-year appt., in accordance with 50 CFR 600.210(a), A voting member's Council service of 18 months or more during a term of office will be counted as service for the entire 3-year term.

***These members were appointed after January 1, 1986 and have served three consecutive terms; therefore, they are ineligible by law for reappointment to a fourth consecutive term.

TABLE 3: OUTGOING 2004 RFMC MEMBERS GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES

	C=COMMERCIAL	R=RECREATIONAL	“O”=OTHER	TOTAL
New England	Mark E. Amorello Erik S. Anderson Ralph P. Boragine			3
Mid-Atlantic	James R. Lovgren Yvonne M. Peabody Lawrence W. Simms		Ronal W. Smith	4
South Atlantic	Robert L. Southerland	Henry E. Pearce, Jr.		2
Gulf of Mexico		Irby W. Basco David E. Saucier	Julie K. Morris	3
Caribbean	Monica M. Lester			1
Pacific		Roger Thomas	David W. Ortmann	2
North Pacific	Stosh S. Anderson Stephanie D. Madsen			2
W. Pacific	Frank W. McCoy, Sr.	Edwin A. Ebisui, Jr.		2
	Total 11	Total 5	Total 3	Total 19

Removal of Members

There are occasions, after appointments have been made, when RFMC constituents have advised the Secretary of concerns about, or indicated disagreement with, some of the Secretarial appointment decisions. In some cases, constituents have called for the revocation of particular appointments. All such concerns are noted. However, in accordance with Section 302(b)(6) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the removal of a council member is limited to the following circumstances:

a) the Secretary may remove for cause any Secretarially appointed RFMC member only when the RFMC concerned first recommends removal of that member by not less than two-thirds of the RFMC voting members, and the RFMC submits such removal recommendation to the Secretary in writing, together with a statement of the basis for the recommendation; or

b) after notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with Section 554 of Title 5, United States Code, the member is found by the Secretary to have committed an act prohibited by Section 307(1)(O) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which pertains to compliance with financial disclosure requirements.

E. THE SECRETARY'S 2003 APPOINTMENTS/2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 27, 2003, the Secretary of Commerce announced the regular appointment or reappointment of 30 of 31 members who were seated on August 11, 2003. Marcos R. Hanke, the 31st member, was appointed to the CFMC on September 5, 2003, and one out-of-cycle appointment was made on the MAFMC for a total of 32 appointment actions.

An overall perspective of fishing sector composition on each of the RFMCs for the past three years in on page 7, Table 1.

The following sections update RFMC appointment rosters; specify apportionment totals for commercial and recreational fishing sector representatives; discuss fishery management issues and challenges being addressed by each RFMC, and Secretarial recommendations for future nomination and appointment considerations, which reflect information included in letters sent to the constituent state governors requesting nominees, consistent with regulations at 50 CFR 600.215. The governors are required to submit their nominees by March 15, 2004.

1. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2003 for five NEFMC members. The composition of fishing sector representatives on the NEFMC remains unchanged at nine commercial, two recreational, and one “other.” The geographical balances with regard to the distribution of at-large seats on the NEFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Rodney M. Avila/commercial
Francis W. Blount, Jr./recreational
Sally E. McGee/ “other”
James A. Odlin/commercial

Dana B. Rice, Sr./commercial

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

James M. Kendall/commercial
Reappointment
D. Douglas Hopkins/ “other”
Barbara D. Stevenson/commercial
(ineligible, by law, for renomination to a fourth consecutive term)
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NEFMC:

COUNCIL: NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2003				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members (12)	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	ANDERSON, ERIK S.	NH	2004	C
O	AVILA, RODNEY M.	MA	2006	C
O	BLOUNT, FRANCIS W. JR.	RI	2006	R
O	MC GEE, SALLY E.	CT	2006	O
O	ODLIN, JAMES A.	ME	2006	C
A	AMORELLO, MARK E.	MA	2004	C
A	BORAGINE, RALPH P.	RI	2004	C
A	FERNANDES, ANTHONY III	NH	2005	C
A	HILL, THOMAS R.	MA	2005	R
A	PAPPALARDO, JOHN W.	MA	2005	C
A	RICE, DANA B.	ME	2006	C
A	WILLIAMSON, JOHN C.	ME	2005	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2004:

1. Erik S. Anderson - commercial fishing sector - New Hampshire's obligatory seat; by law, Mr. Anderson, who is completing a third consecutive term, is ineligible for renomination to a fourth consecutive term.
2. Mark E. Amorello - commercial fishing sector - at-large seat (Massachusetts)
3. Ralph P. Boragine - commercial fishing sector - at-large seat (Rhode Island)

2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATION (s):

The majority of issues being dealt with by the NEFMC are related to the commercial sector, particularly in the groundfish, monkfish, scallop, spiny dogfish, and Atlantic herring fisheries. Of the nine members whose terms do not expire in 2004, five are from the commercial harvesting sector, one is a seafood dealer, two are from the recreational fishing sector, and one is from the "other" sector. Members from the commercial harvesting sector have experience in the scallop, herring, lobster, flounder, monkfish, and mackerel fisheries and the use of trap and pot, dredge, trawl, purse seiners, and gillnet gear.

The constituent state governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the recreational sector to allow the Secretary to better balance membership on the Council. They are also encouraged to nominate representatives from the commercial scallop, monkfish, Atlantic herring and groundfish fisheries; seafood marketers or processors; and representatives from the "other" sector, specifically related to the protection of marine resources and habitat.

DISCUSSION:

The NEFMC is responsible for six Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) (Northeast multispecies, Atlantic sea scallop, Atlantic herring, deep-sea red crab, skates, and Atlantic salmon). In addition, the NEFMC and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) are jointly responsible for two FMPs (spiny dogfish and monkfish). The NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the monkfish FMP, while the MAFMC has the lead responsibility for dogfish.

The species managed by the NEFMC are primarily commercial; however, the multispecies fishery has an important recreational component (party/charter and private vessels). The salmon fishery is considered recreational, though possession of Atlantic salmon is prohibited in the Exclusive Economic Zone under the Atlantic salmon FMP. Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch. Fishing gear technology and selectivity are areas of great interest, to allow healthy stocks to be harvested at or near their optimum yields (OY) while protecting overfished and rebuilding stocks.

Council priorities for 2004 include completion of framework actions for the Northeast multispecies and scallop fisheries (Frameworks 39 and 16, respectively), which will provide rotational harvest opportunities for the scallop fishery by reopening areas that are currently closed. The Council is also working on major amendments to the monkfish and Atlantic herring FMPs and an omnibus amendment to address issues regarding essential fish habitat across all of the Council's FMPs.

In 2003, the Council's management actions included:

Northeast Multispecies

The Council continued the development of Amendment 13 to rebuild overfished stocks of groundfish, to address habitat impacts of the fishery, and to bring the FMP into full conformance with all applicable laws. The Council also submitted Framework Adjustments 37 and 38 to the FMP. Framework 37 implemented revised measures for year 4 of the management program for whiting to reflect the improved condition of the whiting stocks. Framework 4 implemented measures to exempt a portion of the whiting fishery from the mesh size regulations in the inshore Gulf of Maine.

Atlantic Sea Scallops

The Council continued development of Amendment 10 to use rotational area openings and closures to manage scallops, to address habitat impacts of the fishery, and to make other changes in the management of the scallop fishery.

Atlantic Herring

The Council submitted annual specifications for the 2004 fishery and began work on a major amendment to the Herring FMP (Amendment 1), which will develop a limited access program for this fishery, as well as make other adjustments to the management program.

Monkfish

The Council submitted Framework Adjustment 2 to the FMP, which modified the overfishing definition reference points and OY control rule to be consistent with the best available scientific information and made other adjustments to the management of this fishery. It also continued development of Amendment 2, which will make significant changes in the management of the monkfish fishery and address impacts of fishing on essential fish habitat.

Deep-sea Red Crab

The Council developed annual specifications for the 2004 fishery.

Skates

The Council submitted the Skate FMP, which was approved and implemented in 2003.

Habitat

The Council developed habitat alternatives for consideration in Northeast multispecies Amendment 13, which consider impacts of the fishery on habitat and protect important groundfish habitat. The Council also developed habitat protection alternatives for the scallop fishery in Amendment 10 to the scallop FMP, for the monkfish fishery in Amendment 2 to the monkfish FMP, and for the Atlantic salmon and Atlantic herring fisheries for inclusion in an omnibus amendment that will amend both of those FMPs.

2. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2003 for four MAFMC members. In addition, former obligatory member Edward J. Mesunas, who was completing a term due to expire on August 10, 2005, resigned in January 2003. In August 2003, Eugene J. Kray was appointed to replace Mr. Mesunas for the remainder of his term. As a result of the 2003 appointments, and the out-of-cycle appointment, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the MAFMC remains unchanged at six commercial, five recreational, and two “other.” The geographical balances with regard to the distribution of at-large seats on the MAFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector
Anthony P. Bogan/recreational

Eugene J. Kray/recreational
Robert H. Pride, III/recreational
Laurie A. Nolan/commercial
Dennis L. Spitsbergen/ “other”

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Gary A. Caputi/recreational
(ineligible, by law, for renomination to a fourth consecutive term)
Edward J. Mesunas/recreational
Reappointment
Reappointment
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the MAFMC:

COUNCIL: MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2003				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members (13)	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	AUGUSTINE, PATRICK H.	NY	2005	R
O	BOGAN, ANTHONY P.	NJ	2006	R
O	KRAY, EUGENE J.	PA	2005	R
O	PRIDE, ROBERT H. III	VA	2006	R
O	RUHLE, JAMES A. SR.	NC	2005	C
O	SAVAGE, RICKS E	MD	2005	C
O	SMITH, RONAL W.	DE	2004	O
A	LOVGREN, JAMES R.	NJ	2004	C
A	NOLAN, LAURIE A.	NY	2006	C
A	PEABODY, YVONNE M.	VA	2004	C
A	SIMNS, LAWRENCE W.	MD	2004	C
A	SPITSBERGEN, DENNIS L.	NC	2006	O
A	WITEK, CHARLES A. III	NY	2005	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2004:

1. Ronal W. Smith - "other" sector - Delaware's obligatory seat
2. James R. Lovgren - commercial fishing sector - at-large seat (New Jersey)
3. Yvonne M. Peabody - commercial fishing sector - at-large seat (Virginia)
4. Lawrence W. Simms - commercial fishing sector - at-large seat (Maryland)

2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Nine members will continue to serve beyond 2004. Three are from the commercial sector, five are from the recreational sector, and one is from the "other" sector. All of the commercial fishermen are harvesters, with experience in surf clams, ocean quahogs, bluefish, squid, mackerel, flounder, tilefish, snapper-grouper, and pelagic fisheries, utilizing dredge, trawl, and longline gear.

Because many of these stocks have recreational as well as commercial components, it is important that a balance be achieved between both sectors. Since five recreational members remain on the Council, compared to only three for the commercial sector, the majority of the vacant seats should be filled by commercial or "other" sector representatives in order to achieve a more balanced apportionment. It is recommended that the governors nominate commercial representatives from among fisheries for summer flounder, scup, lack sea bass, Atlantic sea scallops, spiny dogfish, and monkfish; and those familiar with the use of trawl, dredge, gillnet, trap and pot gear. Representatives in the academic or other appropriate areas should also be nominated in order to bring additional knowledge to the Council in its efforts to satisfy all mandates associated with fisheries management, such as minimizing bycatch and impacts of fishing on essential fish habitat (EFH).

DISCUSSION:

The MAFMC is responsible for five existing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) (summer flounder, scup and black sea bass; Atlantic mackerel, squid and butterfish; surf clam and ocean quahog; tilefish; and bluefish). In addition, the MAFMC and New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) are jointly responsible for two other FMPs (spiny dogfish and monkfish). The MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the spiny dogfish FMP, and the NEFMC has the lead responsibility for monkfish.

Some of these fisheries are primarily commercial (e.g., surfclam, ocean quahog, tilefish, spiny dogfish, squid, butterfly); others have significant recreational components (bluefish, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, Atlantic mackerel). Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch.

Council priorities for 2004 include development of Framework Adjustment 4 and Amendment 9 to the Atlantic Mackerel/Squid/Butterfish FMP, which will address habitat issues, extend the *Illex* squid moratorium and develop a limited access program for mackerel; development of Amendment 1 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP, which will consider alternative rebuilding programs for that species; an action to reestablish permit categories in the Tilefish FMP; Framework 5 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP, to establish multi-year specifications; and annual specifications for the summer flounder/scup/black sea bass, spiny dogfish, mackerel/squid/butterfish, bluefish, and surfclam/ocean quahog fisheries, including research set-asides, as warranted. The Council may, in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, address changes to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP regarding biological reference points for summer flounder and consider allocation inequities and impediments inherent in the FMP.

In 2003, the Council's management actions included:

Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass

In addition to developing annual specifications and recreational measures for these fisheries, the Council developed and submitted Frameworks 3 and 4 to change quota periods and procedures for scup and to allow transfer of scup at sea, and began development of Framework 5 to allow multi-year specifications.

Surfclams/Ocean Quahogs

In addition to developing annual specifications for these fisheries, the Council completed Amendment 13 to the Surfclam/Ocean Quahog FMP, which will revise the overfishing definition for surfclams, remedy the disapproved EFH measures for surfclam and ocean quahogs, establish authority for a vessel tracking system, establish a multi-year quota system, and revise surfclam minimum size limits.

Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish

In addition to developing annual specifications for these fisheries, the Council continued the development of Amendment 9 to the FMP, which would revise *Illex* squid quota procedures, establish a limited access program for Atlantic mackerel, and make other modifications to the management of these fisheries. Framework Adjustment 3 was completed, to take short-term action to extend the *Illex* moratorium while Framework 4 is completed, which would extend the moratorium for a longer period.

Spiny Dogfish

In addition to development of the annual specifications for this fishery, the Council continued its development of Amendment 1 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP to revise the spawning stock biomass rebuilding target.

Tilefish

The Council initiated action to develop improved rationale for the implementation of permit categories for allocation of quota in the tilefish fishery. The FMP contained such measures, but they were set aside by a court as the result of litigation, on the basis that the categories were not sufficiently justified.

3. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2003 for four SAFMC members. As a result of the 2003 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the SAFMC is three commercial, four recreational, and one “other,” which reflects a change from three commercial, three recreational, one “other,” plus one vacancy. The geographical balance regarding at-large vacancies occurring in 2003 remains unchanged. The appointees and the reappointee are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Charles D. Harris/recreational
 Anthony L. Iarocci/commercial
 Benjamin M. Currin/recreational
 John A. Wallace/commercial

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Vacant (Glen H. Durden resigned August 2002)
 Reappointment
 Clarence W. Lee/recreational
 Obadiah F. Love, Jr./commercial
 (ineligible, by law, for renomination to a fourth consecutive term)

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the SAFMC:

COUNCIL: SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2003				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members (8)	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	HARRIS, CHARLES D.	GA	2006	R
O	IAROCCI, ANTHONY L.	FL	2006	C
O	PEARCE, HENRY E. JR.	SC	2004	R
O	SOUTHERLAND, ROBERT L.	NC	2004	C
A	CURRIN, BENJAMIN M..	NC	2006	R
A	DEAN, JOHN M.	SC	2005	O
A	GEIGER, GEORGE J.	FL	2005	R
A	WALLACE, JOHN A.	GA	2006	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2004:

1. Henry E. Pearce, Jr. - recreational fishing sector - South Carolina's obligatory seat
2. Robert L. Southerland - commercial fishing sector - North Carolina's obligatory seat

2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Of the members whose terms do not expire in 2004, two are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and one is from the "other" sector (academic). The continuing Council's commercial sector members have experience fishing for reef fish, crab, and whelk, using trawl, trap and pot, handline, and gillnet gear, while the continuing recreational sector members are associated with fishery resources for South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagics, snapper-grouper, red drum, bluefish, menhaden, weakfish, and summer flounder, utilizing rod and reel, cast nets, and hook and line gear. Both sectors have experience fishing for shrimp and spiny lobster.

Only two obligatory vacancies will occur in 2004, therefore, the Governors of North and South Carolina are encouraged to submit nominees from the commercial shrimp, snapper-grouper, mackerel, tuna, shark, and spiny lobster fisheries, utilizing trap and pot, trawl, cast net, longline, and handline gear. Also a rod and reel fishing representative from the recreational sector should be provided in order to address the issues that the SAFMC will deal with in the upcoming years.

DISCUSSION:

The SAFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone: red drum; shrimp (penaeid and rock); coral, coral reef and live/hard bottom habitats; golden crab; dolphin-wahoo; *Sargassum* habitat; and the snapper-grouper species complex. The SAFMC and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagic species (mackerel) of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

During 2003, the SAFMC submitted to NOAA Fisheries management actions limiting effort and requiring a vessel monitoring system in the rock shrimp fishery; a FMP to manage the dolphin and wahoo fisheries on the Atlantic seaboard; a FMP to manage *Sargassum* habitat; developed options in Amendment 13A to the FMP for the snapper-grouper fishery to extend regulations that prohibit fishing and retention of snapper-grouper species within the *Oculina* experimental closed area; developed options in Amendment 13B to the FMP for the snapper-grouper fishery to specify required Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) parameters in the snapper-grouper fishery; established new Turtle Excluder Device regulations that allow larger turtles to escape from shrimp trawl nets; and decided that Atlantic coast mackerels required no adjustments this year. Other actions included gathering comments and developing options on the use of marine reserves for fisheries management purposes, and the extension of prohibition to fishing in the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area.

During 2004, the SAFMC will submit for Secretarial review and approval, new FMPs for Calico scallops, Spiny Lobster Amendment 7 addressing tailing permits and the structure of the management system; Mackerel Amendment 13 that would separate South Atlantic and Gulf FMPs, amend the south Atlantic fishing year and make changes to framework; Shrimp Amendment 6 that would require shrimp permits, night time closures and trawl size restrictions for the shrimp fishery; Snapper-Grouper Amendment 13A to extend restriction on prohibition to fishing within the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area, Amendment 13B to specify SFA parameters for snapper-grouper species; Amendment 14 creating marine protected areas; and various framework adjustment actions for mackerel, snapper-grouper, wreckfish and coral.

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4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2003 for five GMFMC members. As a result of the 2003 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is four commercial, six recreational, and one “other,” which reflects a change from three commercial, seven recreational, and one “other.” The appointments changed the geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the GMFMC. The appointee and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Karen L.J. Bell/commercial	Reappointment
Myron J. Fischer/recreational	Reappointment
Bobbi M. Walker/recreational	Dan Dumont/recreational
Walter J. Thomassie/commercial	Bobbi M. Walker/recreational
Harolyn Kay Williams/commercial	Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the GMFMC:

COUNCIL: GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2003				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members (11)	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	BASCO, IRBY W.	TX	2004	R
O	BELL, KAREN L.J.	FL	2006	C
O	FISCHER, MYRON J.	LA	2006	R
O	SAUCIER, DAVID E.	MS	2004	R
O	WALKER, BOBBI M.	AL	2006	R
A	CLAVERIE, MAUMUS F.	LA	2005	R
A	FENSOM, JAMES B.	FL	2005	R
A	HENDRIX, JOSEPH P. JR.	TX	2005	C
A	MORRIS, JULIE K.	FL	2004	O
A	THOMASSIE, WALTER J.	LA	2006	C
A	WILLIAMS, HAROLYN KAY	MS	2006	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members terms will expire on August 10, 2004:

1. Irby W. Basco - recreational fishing sector - Texas' obligatory seat; by law, Mr. Basco, who is completing a third consecutive term, is ineligible for renomination to a fourth consecutive term.
2. David E. Saucier - recreational fishing sector - Mississippi's obligatory seat
3. Julie K. Morris - "other" sector - at-large seat (Florida)

2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Of the eight members whose terms continue beyond 2004, four are from the commercial sector and four are from the recreational sector. The remaining commercial members' experiences include aquaculture, harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are all rod and reel fishermen. With the remaining Council sector representation being balanced at four commercial and four recreational, and in order to achieve a balance on the Council for 2004, governors are strongly encouraged to nominate representatives from all sectors to afford the Secretary the ability to achieve the required balance. Those representatives should have a mix of experience and knowledge from all major fisheries, including shrimp, reef fish, lobster, migratory pelagics, and crab. Representatives from the "other" sector should also be nominated, especially social scientists or economists who can assist the Council with an understanding of regulatory impacts in its deliberations.

DISCUSSION:

The GMFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone: Reef fish resources; shrimp; coral and coral reefs; red drum; and stone crab. The GMFMC and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council have prepared joint FMPs for the spiny lobster fishery and coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) species (king and Spanish mackerel, dolphin, and cobia) of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

During 2003, the GMFMC submitted to NOAA Fisheries, the following actions: Secretarial Amendment 1 for the Reef Fish FMP for a rebuilding program for red grouper, including measures to reduce fishing mortality on other grouper species; Amendment 21 for the Reef Fish FMP with options for continuing the Madison-Swanson area closure; a draft final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the generic amendment addressing essential fish habitat (EFH); option paper for CMP Amendment 15; draft Shrimp13 Amendment/Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing status determination criteria for shrimp stocks; a corrected amendment for a charter vessel/headboat permit moratorium; recommendations addressing a Texas shrimp closure; amendment for offshore aquaculture scoping document; scoping document for joint reef fish/CMP limited entry; draft regulatory amendment for vermilion snapper; and total allowable catch actions for yellowtail snapper.

During 2004, the GMFMC expects to submit to NOAA Fisheries the following actions: a resubmission of Amendment 18 options paper to the Reef Fish FMP that addresses improved conservation for several grouper stocks; draft Shrimp Amendment 13/EA; options paper for Shrimp 14/EIS; options paper for CMP Amendment 15/EIS; Texas Shrimp Closure action; final Reef Fish Amendment 22 (Red Snapper rebuilding Plan); draft Amendment 24 for the Reef Fish FMP with alternatives for a red snapper International Fishing Quota program; draft regulatory amendment for vermilion snapper; options paper for generic offshore aquaculture amendment; draft regulatory amendment for yellowtail snapper; review of Draft Final EIS for EFH Amendment; and scoping document for generic amendment for operator permit.

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5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2003 for two CFMC members. As a result of the 2003 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives remains the same at two commercial, one recreational, and one “other.” The geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats was not affected. The reappointee and new appointee are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector
 Viridin C. Brown/“other” sector
 Marcos R. Hanke/recreational

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
 Reappointment
 Miguel A. Sanabria/recreational
 (ineligible, by law, for renomination to a fourth consecutive term)

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the CFMC:

COUNCIL: CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2003				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members (4)	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	BROWN, VIRDIN C.	VI	2006	O
O	PIÑEIRO-SOLER, EUGENIO	PR	2005	C
A	HANKE, MARCOS R.	PR	2006	R
A	LESTER, MONICA M.	VI	2004	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following member’s term will expire on August 10, 2004:

1. Monica M. Lester - commercial fishing sector - at-large seat (U.S. Virgin Islands)

2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Three remaining members will serve beyond 2004 on the CFMC, one from the commercial fishing sector, one from the recreational fishing sector, and one from the “other” sector. The governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. Additionally, representatives from the conservation, academic, or other related fisheries areas could provide the Secretary with the opportunity to appoint a member who could bring additional perspective and knowledge to Council deliberations.

DISCUSSION:

For 2004, the CFMC expects to finalize a comprehensive amendment to its four Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) (Reef Fish FMP, Spiny Lobster FMP, Coral Reef Resources, and Queen Conch Resources) to further meet requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA), that include overfishing definitions with status determination criteria for “overfishing” and “overfished,” stock rebuilding for “overfished species,” measures to regulate fishing mortality; conserving and protecting yellowfin grouper; descriptions of fishing communities, collection of fisheries data, and bycatch assessment and minimization. In addition, the SFA Amendment may establish a permit system for all fisheries, and establish additional seasonal or area closures to protect fish spawning aggregations. In 2004 the CFMC will also be amending the Essential Fish Habitat FMP that amends all other FMPs.

6. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2003 for five PFMC members. As a result of the 2003 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is two commercial, five recreational, one “other,” and one tribal representative, which reflects a change from three commercial, three recreational, one “other,” and one tribal representative. The at-large reappointments did not affect the current geographical balance regarding the distribution of available at-large seats on the PFMC. The appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Darrell J. Ticehurst/recreational	James G. Caito/commercial
Frank R. Warrens/recreational	Hans D. Radtke/ “other”
James E. Harp/Tribal Representative	Reappointment
Robert D. Alverson/commercial	Reappointment
Donald K. Hansen/recreational	Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the PFMC:

COUNCIL: PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2003				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members (9)	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	CEDERGREEN, MARK V.	WA	2005	R
O	ORTMANN, DAVID W.	ID	2004	O
O	TICEHURST, DARRELL J.	CA	2006	R
O	WARRENS, FRANK R.	OR	2006	R
O	PFMC TRIBAL SEAT: HARP, JAMES E.	WA	2006	T* (Tribal)
A	ALVERSON, ROBERT D.	WA	2006	C
A	BROWN, RALPH H.	OR	2005	C
A	HANSEN, DONALD K.	CA	2006	R
A	THOMAS, ROGER	CA	2004	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2004:

1. David W. Ortmann - “other” sector - Idaho’s obligatory seat
2. Roger Thomas - recreational fishing sector - at-large seat (California)

2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Members who will continue to serve beyond 2004 include two commercial representatives (one non-trawl representative and one harvester) fishing for groundfish, using trawl, hook and line and pot and trap gear; four recreational fishermen utilizing rod and reel and hook and line gear; and one (Tribal) representative, who is counted as a representative of the “other” sector.

Because salmon, halibut, groundfish, and highly migratory species have commercial and recreational elements, it is important to maintain a balance of both sector interests on the PFMC. However, because four recreational members will remain on the Council after 2004 compared to only two commercial members, the governors are encouraged to focus on commercial and “other” sector nominees. It is also important to have groundfish expertise on the Council, because the restoration of groundfish stocks has the greatest workload of any fishery managed by the PFMC. Governors are encouraged to nominate commercial representatives from the groundfish fishery, and other fisheries managed by the PFMC. Also “other” sector representatives should be nominated from the academic, conservation, or related fisheries areas who can bring an understanding concerning the impacts on the industry and other issues that face the PFMC in the upcoming years.

DISCUSSION:

The PFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery, the West Coast salmon fisheries, the coastal pelagic species fisheries, and highly migratory species fisheries. The PFMC also has responsibility for allocating Pacific halibut among treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial and recreational users in Area 2A under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act.

During 2003, the PFMC submitted to NOAA Fisheries actions that include the following: 2003 fishery specifications and management measures for groundfish; revision of the annual sardine allocation process for 2003 - 2005; Amendment 10 to the Coastal Pelagics FMP; emergency revision of the annual sardine reallocation date; and establishing optimum yield and overfishing

definitions for West Coast salmon fisheries. In addition, the Council approved Amendment 17 to the Pacific groundfish FMP that will change the annual management cycle for groundfish to a biennial cycle, and approved a proposed new FMP for West Coast highly migratory species fisheries.

One of the greatest challenges facing the PFMC in 2004 and for the next several years is management of the groundfish fishery. The PFMC must rebuild overfished stocks, reduce fishing capacity, provide sustainable harvest levels, allocate various groundfish stocks among commercial, recreational and treaty Indian fisheries, reduce bycatch, improve information on all aspects of the fishery, and address impacts to essential fish habitats. Harvest levels in 2003 continue to be substantially reduced for commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries coastwide. Rebuilding programs for some species will extend for decades because these stocks are slow-growing, long-lived, and have low productive rates.

The challenge for the salmon fishery is to provide opportunities for commercial, recreational, and treaty Indian fisheries in the ocean while protecting Endangered Species Act-listed and other depressed salmon stocks. Non-fishing impacts to essential salmon habitat in freshwater continue to be a major problem limiting recovery of depressed stocks.

During 2004, the PFMC is expected to complete and submit to NOAA Fisheries rebuilding plans for the remaining five overfished groundfish stocks, and, if approved by NOAA Fisheries, implement the Highly Migratory Species FMP.

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7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2003 for three NPFMC obligatory members. The composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC is six commercial, and one recreational, which reflects a change from four commercial, one recreational, and two “other.” There are no available at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

David Benson/commercial

Arne J. Fuglvog/commercial

Edward B. Rasmuson/recreational

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

David L. Fluharty “other”

(ineligible, by law, for renomination to a fourth consecutive term)

David Benton/ “other”

Ben H. Ellis/recreational

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NPFMC:

COUNCIL: NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2003				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members (7)	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	ANDERSON, STOSH S.	AK	2004	C
O	BENSON, DAVID W.	WA	2006	C
O	BUNDY, MILTON J.	WA	2005	C
O	FUGLVOG, ARNE J.	AK	2006	C
O	MADSEN, STEPHANIE D.	AK	2004	C
O	NELSON, HAZEL C.	AK	2005	C
O	RASMUSON, EDWARD B.	AK	2006	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2004:

1. Stosh S. Anderson - commercial fishing sector - Alaska’s obligatory seat
2. Stephanie D. Madsen - commercial fishing sector - Alaska’s obligatory seat

2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

NPFMC members who will continue beyond 2004 include four commercial sector members, two of which are harvesters fishing for groundfish, salmon and halibut, utilizing hook and line, longline, and gillnet gear; two seafood marketers; and one recreational fisherman. Although commercial fisheries are particularly important in this region, the governor is encouraged to nominate representatives from the “other” sector, as well as commercial and recreational sectors. “Other” sector interests with backgrounds in fisheries management, environmental or social sciences would bring additional knowledge and expertise to the NPFMC that impact the economic and social well-being of individuals, communities and the fisheries.

DISCUSSION:

The NPFMC has five Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) in place for (1) Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish, (2) Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish, (3) salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone, (4) BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries, and (5) scallop fisheries in the GOA and BSAI. The Council recently adopted additional amendments to the groundfish FMPs, which have not yet been approved and implemented. Routine management of the fisheries under the salmon, scallop, and BSAI crab FMPs is deferred to the State of Alaska while the Council retains oversight of major allocation decisions. In addition, under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the Council has authority over allocation issues affecting the Pacific halibut fishery in and off Alaska while the International Pacific Halibut Commission retains responsibility for conservation management of this fishery.

The 2002 report to Congress on the status of fisheries of the United States identified as overfished 3 stocks for which the Council has management responsibility: two Tanner crab species, and the St. Matthew blue king crab. The Council promptly began rebuilding plans for these species as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and these plans have been approved by NOAA Fisheries. A fourth stock, the Pribilof Islands Blue king crab, subsequently was determined by NOAA Fisheries to be overfished. The Council adopted a rebuilding plan for this stock in October 2003.

The most significant fishery management issues that faced the Council in 2003 and will again receive priority attention in 2004, include (1) continued consideration of rationalization programs for the BSAI crab fisheries and the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries; (2) continuing work towards finalizing major environmental impact statements addressing alternatives for essential fish habitat, rationalization of the BSAI crab fisheries, and programmatic level assessments of the groundfish fisheries management programs; and (3) refinements to Steller sea lion protection measures.

8. Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2003 for three WPFMC members. As a result of the 2003 appointments, and a fishing sector change for Frank P. Farm, Jr., from “other” sector to recreational, the composition of fishing sector representatives is four commercial and four recreational, representing a change from three commercial, three recreational, and two “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of available at-large seats on the WPFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Manuel P. Duenas, II/commercial
 Sean C. Martin/commercial
 Stephen Haleck/recreational

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Judith P. Guthertz/ “other”
 Bryan Y.Y. Ho/commercial
 Aitofele T. Sunia/recreational

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the WPFMC:

COUNCIL: WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2003				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members (8)	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	DUENAS, MANUEL P. II	GU	2006	C
O	MARTIN, SEAN C.	HI	2006	C
O	SABLAN, BENIGNO M.	CNMI	2005	C
O	HALECK, STEPHEN	AmS	2006	R
A	EBISUI, EDWIN A. JR.	HI	2004	R
A	FARM, FRANK P. JR.	HI	2005	R
A	MCCOY, FRANK W. SR.	AmS	2004	C
A	MORIOKA, ROY N.	HI	2005	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2004:

1. Edwin A. Ebisui, Jr. - recreational fishing sector - at-large seat (Hawaii)
2. Frank W. McCoy, Sr. - commercial fishing sector - at-large seat (American Samoa)

2004 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Members on the WPFMC who will serve beyond 2004 include three commercial sector representatives (harvester, seafood marketers), and three recreational sector representatives. In 2004, the terms of two at-large appointed members will expire. The governors of the State of Hawaii, Territory of American Samoa, Territory of Guam, and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands are encouraged to nominate representatives from the commercial fishing sector as well as the recreational fishing sector, and representatives from the “other” sector who have strong experience and interest in addressing the varied issues that the WPFMC faces in the upcoming years.

DISCUSSION:

Fishery Management plans are currently in place for five fisheries under the jurisdiction of the WPFMC: pelagics, bottomfish and seamount groundfish, crustaceans, precious corals, and coral reef ecosystems.

During 2003, WPFMC participated in the development of a long-term sea turtle conservation proposal governing the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery. The proposal, developed in concert with industry, conservation groups, and NOAA Fisheries, is intended to reopen, on a limited basis initially, the previously closed Hawaii swordfish fishery, while ensuring the continued protection of sea turtles from accidental takes by longline fishing gear. A critical aspect of this project is to demonstrate practical and effective sea turtle take deterrent techniques (similar to the successful program applying circle hooks with mackerel bait in the Atlantic longline pelagic fishery) guided by NOAA Fisheries scientists. Eventually the techniques may be adopted by foreign longline fishing fleets as part of a multinational, cooperative sea turtle conservation effort in the Pacific Ocean.

Internationally, the WPFMC continues to be an active participant in fisheries management and sea turtle conservation conferences of the United Nation’s Committee of Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, Western and Central Pacific Highly Migratory Species Convention, etc. Its involvement in the international arena is important for the timely dissemination, better understanding, and implementation of collaborative programs to help address global marine resource issues of mutual interest to the U.S. flag Pacific island communities.

F. Appendix - Statistical Fisheries Data

In addition to assessing the apportionment of membership on each RFMC, this Report provides, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the following statistical information about the status of fisheries managed under each RFMC, and also identifies the number of RFMC members participating in those fisheries. The most recent data were compiled to show the volume of fisheries production and the related effort in each fishery managed under an FMP. ^{9/}

^{9/}The Secretary also has management authority over highly migratory species (HMS) in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico coasts. An additional table has been included within the following Appendix which lists FMPs and other statistical data for Atlantic and Gulf HMS.

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Appendix

**Report to Congress on Apportionment of Membership
on the Regional Fishery Management Councils
in 2003**

This appendix provides statistical data required by Section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Unless otherwise indicated, the data are for the 2002-3 fisheries listed by fishery management plan (FMP). Reported landings noted are for catches throughout the entire range of a fishery managed under the FMP. Beginning from the leftmost column, the listed data are:

1. FMPs developed by each RFMC;
2. the type of fishery managed under each plan, i.e., commercial or recreational, or mixed (see below);
3. species/species groups making up each fishery
4. the weight of each species or species group in that fishery landed in 2002 (or as otherwise indicated) showing both the landings for commercial and recreational fishers, if recreational information is available;
5. the number of fishermen participating in the listed fisheries, if available; otherwise, the number of U.S. vessels either permitted or estimated to be operating in the fishery;
6. gear and processing methods used in each fishery; and
7. the range and seasonality of the fishery; and
8. the number of current RFMC members who are commercial or recreational sector participants in each fishery, or their representatives ^{10/}

LEGEND FOR TYPE FISHERIES

C - Commercial fishery: Eighty percent or more of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.

c - Mainly commercial fishery: More than 60 percent but less than 80 percent of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.

x - Mixed fishery: Sixty percent or less of the reported landings are by each group of commercial and of recreational fishermen.

r - Mainly recreational fishery: More than 60 percent but less than 80 percent of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

R - Recreational fishery: Eighty percent or more of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

^{10/}Vertical sums in the attached appendices may not match the sums entered for interest sectors in Table 1 page 7. If one or more fishermen actively participated in more than one fishery, the vertical sum will exceed the number entered in the interest sector column; if some members are not longer active fishermen, the vertical sum will be less than the number indicated in the interest sector column.

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons)	Vessels (permits)	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2003	
								Comm.	Rec.
Northeast Multi-Species	C	Commercial Atlantic cod Haddock Pollock Hakes Ocean perch (redfish) Yellowtail flounder American plaice Winter flounder Witch flounder Windowpane flounder* Atlantic halibut Ocean pout	11,140 6,627 3,149 11,343 368 5,355 3,420 5,890 3,189 98 9 12	3,772	trawl, longline, gillnet, hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted	9	2
	R	Recreational Cod Pollock Winter flounder	2,031 382 265	687	hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted, filleted		
Atlantic Sea Scallops	C	Atlantic sea scallops	23,912	2,837	dredge & trawl	FMP area/year round	hand shucking and freezing	3	0
Atlantic Salmon	R	Atlantic salmon	0	none	none	none	none	0	0
Deep-sea Red Crab	C	Deep-sea red crab	2,169	879	traps	FMP area/year round	whole, partially processed at sea	0	0
Atlantic Herring	C	Atlantic herring	68,413	2,197	Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/canned shoreside/fresh bait	2	0
Monkfish	C	Monkfish	12,943	2,855	gillnets, trawls, dredges	FMP area/year round	fresh	9	0

¹ = Charter/party boat only

NEFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2003	Recreational 2003	Other 2003
9	2	1

Statistics for the above data were provided by the Northeast Region, and also are contained in "Fisheries of the United States, 2002" (August 2003).

* - NMFS weighout data

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons)	Vessels (permits)	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2003	
								Comm.	Rec.
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish	C	Commercial Atlantic mackerel	26,599	2,805	otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/ year round	frozen, whole	2	1
	C	Squid, <u>Loligo</u> Squid, <u>Ilex</u> Butterfish	16,719 2,750 874		trawl; traps	FMP area/ year round	at-sea & ashore, some mackerel fillets		
	R	Recreational Atlantic mackerel	1,294	641		FMP area/year round			
Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs	C	Atlantic surfclams Ocean quahogs	32,655 18,144	1,745 1,711	dredge	FMP area/ year round (ITQ mgmt.)	shucked shoreside	2	0
Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass									
Summer Flounder (fluke)	x	Commercial	6,576	982	hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/ year round	fillets ashore; fresh & frozen	3	3
		Recreational	3,632	711					
Scup	x	Commercial	3,312	866					
		Recreational	1,644	617					
Black Sea Bass	x	Commercial	1,615	938					
		Recreational	2,015	667					

¹ = Charter/party boat only.

(MAFMC FMP data and other pertinent information are continued on the next page.)

A-ii MAFMC (continued)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons)	Vessels (permits)	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2003	
								Comm.	Rec.
Tilefish	C	Golden Tilefish	778	1,749	longline, hook & line	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	1	0
Atlantic Bluefish	X	Commercial	2,915	3,424	hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets fresh/frozen	1	3
	x	Recreational	4,665	805					
Spiny Dogfish	C	Commercial	2,107	3,055	gillnet; trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	5	1

¹ = Charter/party boat only.

MAFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2003	Recreational 2003	Other 2003
6	5	2

Statistics for the above data were provided by the Northeast Region, and also are contained in "Fisheries of the United States, 2002" (August 2003).

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons)	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2003	
								Comm.	Rec.
Atlantic Coast Red Drum	n/a ³	Commercial - Red drum Recreational (2002 landings)	36 ² 866 ²	n/a ³	n/a ³	n/a ³	n/a ³	0	0
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab(2002 Landings)	222	12	Traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh	2	0
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	x	Commercial (2002 Landings) Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species	969 80 1,037 1,290	998 1228 (for-hire)	Rod and reel, bandit gear, longline & handline	FMP area/ prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau grouper and Goliath fish (jewfish) year-round	At sea, gutted	1	2
		Recreational (2002 Landings) Groupers Snappers Other Species	471 726 1,712		Handline, rod and reel, bandit gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area			
Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	c	Commercial all (2002 Landings)	12,129	N/A ⁴	Trawls	FMP area/ year-round	Shoreside processing	2	0
		Recreational white	n/a ⁵	N/A ⁵	n/a ⁵				
Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial-Octocoral (2002 landings) (colonies)	33,059 colonies	FL: 35	Hand harvest	South FL/ year-round	Fresh	1	0
		Recreational	n/a ³	n/a ³					
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster	[Shared with GMFMC, see table A-v]							1	2
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources	[Shared with GMFMC, see Table A-v]							1	3

- ¹ Number of vessels with active permits at any time during 2003 (as of 9/23/03).
- ² State landings only.
- ³ Not applicable (n/a). Fishery closed in EEZ.
- ⁴ Not Available (N/A). No proposed FMP measures to allow NMFS to collect this data.
- ⁵ Not applicable (n/a) No recreational fishery in the EEZ.

(A summary of the SAFMC fishing sector membership, as well as sources for the above data, is on the next page).

A-iii SAFMC (continued)

SAFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2003	Recreational 2003	Other 2003
3	4	1

Sources: Commercial landings information was provided by the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Branch, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates for 2001 and 2002 were obtained from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey. NMFS Southeast Region Permits Division Permits Team, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2003.

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Fishery/Species, Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2001-2002	Vessels (permits) 2003	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2003	
								Comm.	Rec.
Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-Stone Crab	2,917 (claw weight)	1,358	traps	FL West Coast/ Oct-Apr	at-sea, declaw; shoreside processing	2	0
		Recreational	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	traps, scuba & other gear				
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	R	Commercial - Red Drum	8 ²	n/a ³	n/a ³	EEZ Closed n/a ³	n/a ³	0	
		Recreational	5,251 ²	n/a ³	n/a ³	EEZ Closed n/a ³	n/a ³		6
Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	x	Commercial Grouper	5,349	1,161 ⁸	longline & other fishtrap & other fishtrap only hook & line	FMP area/ year round, ⁴ and ⁵	at-sea, gutted; shoreside processing	2	6
		Red Snapper	2,168	618 ^{7,8}					
		Other snapper	1,261						
		Other species	1,249						
		Recreational Grouper	2,904	N/A ¹ (1564 for-hire vessels ⁸)		FMP area/ year round, and ⁶			
		Red Snapper	1,982						
		Other snappers	955						
		Other species	614						
Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-All	109,886	ca. 2,283	otter trawls	FMP area/ year round; annual Texas Closure	tail separation at-sea; shoreside processing	2	1
		Recreational	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	cast or dip nets	FMP area/ year round			
Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	C	Commercial Spiny lobster	2,801	132 commercial 353 tailing FL: 2,158 FL:106,691	traps, diving, trawl, other scuba & related gear	South FL/ Aug-Apr	tail separation at-sea; shoreside processing	0	0
		Recreational	0						
Coral & Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial Octocoral	5,079 colonies	FL: 35	scuba & related gear	South FL/ year round	fresh	0	0
		Recreational	N/A ¹	n/a ³					
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	r	Commercial King mackerel	2,125	1,822	gillnets, hook & line	Gulf & South Atlantic: Year round, commercial closures when quotas are reached	At-sea, gutted, shoreside processing	2	6
		Spanish mackerel	1,668	1,531					
		Recreational King mackerel	3,070	N/A ¹	hook & line				
		Spanish mackerel	2,361	N/A ¹ (1,657 for-hire vessels)					

from preceding page:

N/A¹ Not Available (No Federal permit or reporting requirements)
² State landings only

n/a³ Not applicable (fishery closed in Federal waters);

⁴ Fishing prohibited year-round on Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps. Commercial fishery for gag, red grouper, and black grouper closed February 15 to March 15.

⁵ Commercial red snapper fishery is closed from January 1 until noon February 1 and thereafter from noon on the 10th of each month to noon on the first of each succeeding month until the quota is reached or until noon on October 1, whichever occurs first. From October 1 to December 1, the fishery is closed from noon on the 10th of each month to noon on the first of each succeeding month until the quota is reached or until December 31, the end of the fishing year.

⁶ Recreational fishery for red snapper is closed from January 1 to April 20 and from November 1 through December 31.

⁷ Includes Class 1 and Class 2 licenses

⁸ Reflects # licenses after open access ends 11/13/03

GMFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2003	Recreational 2003	Other 2003
4	6	1

Sources: Commercial landings information for the 2001/2002 seasons was provided by the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Branch, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates for 2001 and 2002 were obtained from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey. NMFS Southeast Region Permits Division Permits Team, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2003.

A-v CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons). No correction factor	Vessel permits	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2003	
							Comm.	Rec.
Spiny Lobster	Commercial	137 (PR) 104 (USVI)	n/a ¹	trap/pot, dip net gillnet trammel net hand harvest snare	year-round	fresh, landed whole	1	
	Recreational	N/A ²	n/a ¹	dip net, trap, pot, gillnet, trammel net	year-round			1
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, ornamental species)	Commercial	827 (PR) 468 (USVI)	n/a ¹	longline, hook and line, trap, pot, gillnet trammel net	closures by species and area, prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau and Goliath groupers, as well as juvenile red hind and mutton snapper as aquarium species; otherwise year- round	gutted at-sea, shore-side processing	1	0
	Recreational	403 ³ (PR) N/A ² (USVI)	n/a ¹	dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear				
Coral Reef Resources	Commercial	0	n/a ¹	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	year-round	live, fresh	0	1
	Stony Corals	0	n/a ¹					
	Gorgonians	0	n/a ¹					
	Live Rock	0	n/a ¹					
	Other Invertebrates	0	n/a ¹					
	Algae	0	n/a ¹					
	Seagrasses	0	n/a ¹					
Recreational	N/A ²	n/a ¹	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest					

(CFMC FMP data and other pertinent information is continued on the next page.)

A-v CFMC (continued)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons)	Vessel permits	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2003	
							Comm.	Rec.
Queen Conch	Commercial	107 (PR) 51 (USVI)	n/a ¹	hand harvest	October-June	live, landed whole, shore-side processing	0	
	Recreational	N/A ²	n/a ¹	hand harvest				0

PR (Puerto Rico); USVI (US Virgin Islands)

* = 1992 TIP data

1 = not applicable; no permits required.

2 = Not Available; MRFS information for 2002 is available only for finfish for Puerto Rico only.

3 = Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey data; 2002.

CFMC - Membership

Commercial 2003	Recreational 2003	Other 2003
2	1	1

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	2002 Landings (metric tons)	Vessels (permits)	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2003	
								Comm.	Rec.
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California	x	Commercial Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	798,800 ¹ 19,200 0	1,240	troll	CA/May-Oct OR/April-Oct WA/May-Sept	fresh and frozen	0	4
		Recreational Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	284,100 ¹ 110,900 0	403,500 angler trips; (all species)	hook & line	CA/Feb-Nov OR/April-Oct WA/July-Sept			
Pacific Coast Groundfish	c	Total Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish Other groundfish Recreational Groundfish	129,993 13,083 5,957 10,609 2,452	Limited Entry: 410 Open Access: 1,150 N/A ²	trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen	2	3
Coastal Pelagic Species	c	Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy	96,824 3,733 1,025 72,317 4,882	Limited Entry (S. CA) 65 Open Access North - ca 20	purse seine	CA - year round OR and WA - summer	human consumption bait meal and oil	0	1

PFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2003	Recreational 2003	Other 2003
2	5	2*

¹ Salmon catch expressed as numbers of fish.

² = Not Applicable: permits not required for some species.

* = total of two "other" includes tribal representative.

Statistics for the above data:

- 1) Pacific Coast groundfish fishery data was extracted directly from the PacFin data system.
- 2) "Review of 2002 Ocean Salmon Fisheries:" (February 2003; Pacific Fishery Management Council).

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons)*	Fishermen & Crew**	Gear	Fishing Areas and Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2003***	
								Comm.	Rec.
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	51,674 54,037 34,165 21,554 12,509 82 4,217	1,849 Federal fishing permits 1,755 LLP permits (some Interim)	trawl; pots; hook & line; jigs	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	0
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	1,480,636 193,336 162,477 16,181 2,773 45,289 29,424	879 Federal fishing permits 580 LLP permits (some Interim)	trawl; pots; hook & line; jigs	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	5	0
Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI	C	King Crab <u>C. opilio</u> Tanner Crab	6,912 13,711	383 LLP permits (some Interim)	pots	Deferred to State; generally November and winter months LLP permits have fishery endorsements	cooked; refrigerated; frozen	2	0
Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters	C	Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Sockeye salmon Chum salmon	2,371 4,145 136 3 483	2,098 permit holders	troll****	Deferred to State; generally West area is closed; southeast area time area limits.	fresh; gutted & gilled; glazed; frozen; canned; smoked	1	1
Scallop Fishery off Alaska	C	Weatherwane scallops (no fisheries for other scallop species listed in FMP)	220	9 LLP permits	dredges	Deferred to State; adjusted inseason	hand shucked	0	0

§ In addition to these five FMPs, the NPFMC also is responsible for developing regulations governing Pacific halibut fisheries in and off of Alaska under authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). These regulations, which are in addition to and not in conflict with regulations adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, primarily allocate halibut fishing privileges among U.S. fishermen. Although the NPFMC develops halibut management regulations according to principles of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, no halibut FMP exists because the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not apply to management of the Pacific halibut fisheries. In 2002, the commercial catch of halibut in and off Alaska was 27,494 mt net weight. This catch was made by 3,479 persons holding a total of 4,909 permits to harvest halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs.

* 2002 salmon catch data are from the State of Alaska; this data represents only the southeast AK hand and power troll fisheries that are governed by the Salmon FMP and managed as one fishery, inside and outside State waters by the State of Alaska. The 2002 catch data for the BSAI crab and Alaska scallop fisheries also are from the State. All other catch data are from NMFS, Alaska Region. NMFS catch data includes both retained and discarded catch amounts; in the GOA, catch data for groundfish includes harvests in State managed fisheries.

(Explanations for the asterisks and other notes are continued on the next page.)

**Data represent persons or vessels permitted to harvest fish, not the number of individuals actually involved in the operation of vessels, catching and processing fish. The actual number of License Limitation Program (LLP) permits is as of October, 2003 and has been decreasing steadily due to appeals adjudications and resulting revocations; and the number of permits actually used to harvest fish is fewer than that indicated by the data. Participation in all FMP fisheries is governed by some form of limited access system. License Limitation Programs (LLP) were in effect in 2000 for all fisheries except salmon (which is governed by the State of Alaska limited entry system), Demersal Shelf Rockfish in the Southeast Gulf of Alaska, IFQ sablefish, and IFQ and CDQ halibut fisheries. Of the approximate total 2,307 current LLP permits, most (1,924) authorized fishing for groundfish in the BSAI and/or GOA and 383 authorized fishing for BSAI crab species. A number of permits were are Interim and will be revoked following final adjudication of claims. Also, a total of 892 persons held 1,726 IFQ permits at the end of 2002, for harvesting sablefish with fixed gear in the GOA and BSAI under the IFQ Program. The salmon permit data are from the State of Alaska and represent the number of individual permit holders of hand and/or power troll permits in 2002. Not all permits holders landed fish in 2002.

***Secretarial appointed NPFMC membership in 2003: Commercial 6; Recreational 1; Other 0

****Troll gear is the only gear authorized to be used in the EEZ under the salmon FMP, however, other gear types such as gill nets, and purse seines are authorized in other areas of the State to harvest salmon.

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons)	Vessels (permits)	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2003	
								Comm.	Rec.
Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish	c	Bottomfish Seamount Groundfish	383 ^a	3600 ^b	handline rod & reel	FMP areas (year round/except Hancock Seamount (closed until year 2004)	fresh fish market	1	1
Crustaceans	C	Spiny lobster, Slipper lobster	0 (NWHI Fishery closed 2000-2003)	15 federal limited entry NWHI permits	traps	NWHI & MHI/ NWHI: 7/1-12/31 MHI- 1/1-4/30 & 9/1-12/31 (NOTE: NWHI Fishery closed 2000-2003)	flash frozen and live market	1	0
Pelagics ^c	c	Tunas Swordfish Other (inc. sharks) Blue marlin Mahimahi Other billfish Wahoo see: footnote (c) below	14,471 335 973 528 747 470 509	Estimated 8,000 ^d	troll handline longline	FMP areas/ year round	fresh fish market Whole frozen for cannery	4	4
Precious Corals	C	All species combined	Harvest confidential	0	manned submersible/ remote operated vessel	FMP area (Makapuu bed and Exploratory Area of EEZ around HI)	shaped/ polished	0	0

WPFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2003	Recreational 2003	Other 2003
4	4	0

^a Includes recreational, subsistence, & commercial domestic bottomfish landings from Guam & American Samoa, total commercial domestic landings from Hawaii & commercial sales data from the Northern Mariana Islands.

^b Includes Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands recreational & commercial bottomfish vessels.

^c Includes recreational & commercial domestic pelagic landings data, where available (e.g., Hawaii, only commercial landings). Foreign transshipment or domestic cannery pelagic landings are not included in data.

^d Includes Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands recreational & commercial pelagic trollers/handliners; Hawaii and A.Samoa longliners, Hawaii pole-and-line vessels.

(SECRETARIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION)
A-ix HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	TYPE	SPECIES/ SPECIES GROUP	LANDINGS 2003 MT = METRIC TONS WW = WHOLE WEIGHT DW = DRESSED WEIGHT	VESSELS (PERMITS) (2003 UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE)	GEAR	FISHING AREAS/SEASONS ^{3,12}	PROCESSING	2003 REPRESENTATIVES ¹⁰				
								COMMERCIAL	RECREATION	ACADEMIA/ENVI	FMCs	IAC
Atlantic Billfishes ¹	R	White Marlin; Blue Marlin; Sailfin Longbill Spearfish	89 mt ww ⁶ (comm dead discards)	Charter permits ¹² Recreational permit ¹⁴ Longbill spearfish prohibited	Rod & reel (directed); Longline (incidental)	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Year-round	Sale prohibited	2	4	2	5	1
			126 mt ww ⁶ (rec)									
Atlantic Sharks ²	X	Commercial/Recreational -Large coastal (11 spp) -Pelagics (5 spp) -Small coastal (4 spp) -Prohibited (19 spp) -Deepwater/Other (33 spp)	Comm ⁵ 2,107 mt dw 1,616 LCS 165 Pel 326 SCS	LIMITED ACCESS ¹¹ Commercial permits 251 directed permits 359 incidental permits	Longline; Gillnets; Rod & reel	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Year-round with two semi-annual seasons: 1/1-6/30; 7/1-12/31	Fins exported; Carcasses/ cartilage to U.S. market	2	2	2	5	1
			Rec ^{4,5} 318,179 124,845 LCS 3,832 Pel 189,502 SCS	Charter permits ¹² Recreational permit ¹⁴	Rod & reel		Sale Prohibited					
Atlantic Swordfish ²	C	Commercial	2,709 mt ww ⁶ (includes discards)	LIMITED ACCESS ¹¹ Commercial permits 206 directed permits 99 incidental permits 95 handgear permits	Handline;Harpoon; Longline; Rod & reel; Driftnet banned ⁹ ; Otter trawl (incidental)	North and South Atlantic Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico; Year-round. North Atlantic directed semi-annual seasons: 6/1-11/30; 12/1-5/31	Fresh/frozen U.S. market	3	1	2	5	1
		Recreational	48.3 mt ww ⁶	Charter permits ¹² Recreational permit ¹⁴	Rod & reel only	Year-round (East Coast of US)	Sale prohibited					
Atlantic Tunas ^{2,8}	X	Commercial Bluefin Yellowfin Bigeye Albacore Skipjack	3,804 mt ww ⁶ 1,327 2,967 524 524 16	9,526 (1998) 9,760 (1999) 9,813 (2000) 9,984 (2001) 6,953 (2003) 5,725 (2003)	Rod & reel; Purse seine; Bandit gear; Longline; Handline; Harpoon Pound nets; Weirs; Driftnet ban ⁹	Maine to Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean; Year-round 6/1-5/31	Bluefin: fresh foreign and U.S. market. Other tunas: fresh/canned foreign and U.S. market	4	4	2	5	1
		Recreational Bluefin Yellowfin Bigeye Albacore Skipjack	5,967 mt ww ⁶ 548 2,878 51 175 74	10,668 (1998) 13,147 (1999) 15,032 (2000) 13,263 (2001)	Rod & reel; Handline		Sale prohibited					

1. Amendment One to the Fishery Management Plan (FM) for Atlantic Billfish published April 1999.
2. FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks published April 1999. Amendment 1 to HMS FMP published Nov. 2003.
3. Seasons may close when quota is reached.
4. Number of fish (not mt).
5. Source: Cortes and Neer. 2002. Updated Catches of Sharks. SEFSC/NMFS SB-02-15.
6. Source: 2002 U.S. National Report submitted to ICCAT.
7. Driftnets in swordfish fishery prohibited effective February 25, 1999. (64 FR 4055, Jan. 27, 1999)
8. Atlantic tunas include bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack.

9. Driftnets in tuna fisheries prohibited effective July 1, 1999 (64 FR 29090, May 28, 1999).
10. HMS and Billfish Advisory Panels include representatives of commercial and recreational fishing groups, academic and environmental organizations, and one each from the U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee, the states, and the , Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils.
11. Total number of permit holders in both the shark and swordfish limited access fisheries is 697. because of permits issued for both fisheries to same permit holder.
12. Permits are required for Charter/Headboats in tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish fisheries.
13. Certain gear types may have restrictions, including time/area closures and gear modifications.
14. Final rule for recreational permits for all HMS published December 18, 2002 (67 FR 77434).