

2013 REPORT TO CONGRESS

ON APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

ON THE

REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

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

PREPARED BY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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A. BACKGROUND

Section 302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires the Secretary of Commerce 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 [Council].”

There are 114 voting members on the eight Councils. The voting members of each Council include the principal state official (or the official’s designee) with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each constituent state, who is appointed by the governor; the regional administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the geographic area concerned (or the regional administrator’s designee); and members required to be appointed by the Secretary in accordance with Sections 302(b)(2) and (5) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In addition, non-voting members represent the United States Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of State, and the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions.

This report is the 22nd in a series related to the status of voting members appointed to the Councils by the Secretary. In addition to assessing the annual apportionment of Council membership, this report discusses significant fishery management issues and related actions for 2014.

B. FAIR AND BALANCED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The consideration of balance and fairness between commercial and recreational fishing sectors is an important element in the Secretary’s appointments. Equally important is the stewardship responsibilities of Councils and the appointment of individuals who can work collectively with other members to achieve the conservation standards under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Successful nominees, therefore, are those who are qualified in accordance with the provisions at 50 CFR 600.215 and who will best contribute to the stewardship of marine fishery resources.¹

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

1. Have achieved a level of leadership in promoting stewardship of the marine fishery resources under the jurisdiction of the Councils to which they would be appointed; and
2. Participate in, or represent commercial fishermen participating in, one or more commercial fisheries under the Councils’ jurisdictions; or
3. Participate in, or represent recreational fishermen participating in, one or more recreational fisheries under the Councils’ jurisdictions; or

¹ 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.

4. Are otherwise experienced and/or knowledgeable in leadership of organizations whose members participate in a fishery or in management and conservation of natural resources, or are representatives of consumers, teachers, journalists, writers, consultants, lawyers, or marine fishery researchers.

Standard for Apportionment

Before evaluating each Council with respect to fairness and balance, the Secretary must first have a standard for such judgments. The amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and legislative history do not provide specific guidance for judging whether the Secretary's appointments meet the statutory standard. NMFS 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 Council's area of jurisdiction, or individuals with qualifications in one of the "other" related fishing interest categories, who are personally committed to meeting the Council's trusteeship responsibilities for living marine resources. This continues to be the yardstick for judging whether an individual member of a Council will strive toward the conservation and management of fisheries resources.

Over time, fishery management issues have become increasingly complex. Therefore, Council members who possess the necessary background and abilities to address complex issues are critical to the ultimate success of the Councils. A significant consideration in appointing members is their specific knowledge of the conservation and management issues and fisheries in which each Council is expected to be involved. Also important is the level of nominees' participation in the fishery management process, and the support for the nominees from the fishing sector communities 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 participating in more than one of the three general fishing interest sectors. In these cases, NMFS' determination about a nominee's primary interest sector is the result of NMFS' 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.

C. APPORTIONMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council members are appointed from among qualified individuals nominated by the governors of the Councils' states in each Council's region and, in the case of tribal representation on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), from among Indian representatives nominated by the appropriate tribal governments. Appointed members serve 3-year terms and can be reappointed to serve three consecutive terms. A major factor in meeting the requirement to balance membership is the role of the governors in nominating qualified individuals who are knowledgeable regarding conservation and management or the commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources. The process works best when governors provide the Secretary with a variety of highly qualified nominees who meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

For governor-nominated seats, the Secretary will select an appointee for an obligatory seat (state-specific) from the list of qualified nominees submitted by the governor of that state. In filling expiring at-large seats (regional), the Secretary will select an appointee from the list of all qualified candidates submitted by regional state governors.

In 2013, the Secretary announced the appointment or reappointment of 21 voting obligatory and at-large Council members: 20 appointments were made as part of the annual process and one appointment was made as a result of an out-of-cycle vacancy. Table 1 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretary-appointed Council voting members by interest sector for 2011, 2012, and 2013. In June 2013, nine members were appointed from the commercial fishing sector, seven members were appointed from the recreational fishing sector, and five members were appointed from the "other" sector.

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

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

Women and Minority Representation

Ten women currently serve on the Councils. NMFS continues to encourage governors to nominate qualified female and minority candidates.

D. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES DURING 2013

Table 2 lists the 22 Council members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2014. Table 3 sorts the 22 Council members into the three general fishing sector categories. The Magnuson-Stevens Act prohibits the reappointment of Council members to a fourth consecutive term. Three of the 22 members whose terms expire in 2014 have served three consecutive terms and thus will be ineligible to be renominated for a fourth.

TABLE 1: CURRENT APPOINTED RFMC MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2011-2013)

	Year	Commercial	Recreational	“Other”	Total
NEFMC	2011	8	3	1	12
	2012	7	3	2	12
	2013	7	2	3	12
MAFMC	2011	4 ²	3	5	12
	2012	4	5	4	13
	2013	4	5	4	13
SAFMC	2011	3	4	1	8
	2012	3	4	1	8
	2013	4	3	1	8
GMFMC	2011	4	4	3 ³	11
	2012	4	4	3	11
	2013	4	4	3	11
CFMC	2011	2	1	1	4
	2012	2	0	2	4
	2013	2	1	1	4
PFMC	2011	2	3	4	9
	2012	2	3	4	9
	2013	3	3	3 ⁴	9
NPFMC	2011	5	1	1 ⁵	7
	2012	5	1	1	7
	2013	5	1	1	7
WPFMC	2011	2	3	3	8
	2012	2	2 ⁶	3	7
	2013	2	3	3	8
ALL RFMCs	2011	30	22	19	71
	2012	29	22	20	71
	2013	32	21	19	72

² In October 2011, an out-of-cycle vacancy occurred on the Mid-Atlantic Council.

³ In 2011, fishing sector changes occurred for Robert Shipp from the recreational sector to the “other” sector.

⁴ This total includes the tribal representative, who, for the purposes of this table, is counted as a representative of the “other” sector.

⁵ In 2011, fishing sector changes occurred for John Henderschedt from the commercial sector, to the “other” sector.

⁶ In August 2012, an out-of-cycle vacancy occurred on the Western Pacific Council. The seat was unfilled until the 2013 Appointment cycle.

TABLE 2: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2014, GROUPED BY OBLIGATORY OR AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT

OBLIGATORY MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED	AT-LARGE MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED
<u>New England</u> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the New England Council in 2014.			M. Nickell-Tooley/ME (C) L. Ramsden/MA (C) T. Dempsey/MA (C) P. Kendall/NH (C)	2008 2011 2011 2011	2 1 1 1
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u> MD: H. King III/O NC: F. Hemilright/C NY: J. McMurray/R PA: G.W. Elliott/R			L. Nolan/NY(C)	2011	1
<u>South Atlantic</u> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the South Atlantic Council in 2014.			J. Jolley/FL (R) D. Cupka/SC (O)	2011 2005	1 3*
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u> There are no expiring obligatory seats on the Gulf of Mexico Council in 2014.			R. Shipp/AL (O) P. Dana/FL (R) P. Riley/TX (C)	2005 2011 2011	3* 1 1
<u>Caribbean</u> PR: N. Crespo/C			There are no expiring at-large seats on the Caribbean Council in 2014.		
<u>Pacific</u> WA: R.Lincoln/O			J. Feldner/OR (O)	2011	1
<u>North Pacific</u> AK: E. Olsen/C WA: J. Henderschedt/O			There are no available at-large seats on the North Pacific Council.		
<u>Western Pacific</u> CNMI: R. Seman/O			E. Ebisui Jr./HI (O) F. Rice/HI (R)	2012 2011	1 1
9 Obligatory Members			13 At-Large Members		

C = Commercial Sector

R = Recreational Sector

O = Other Sector

*These members have served three consecutive terms; therefore, they are ineligible by law for reappointment to a fourth consecutive term.

**TABLE 3: COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2014
GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES**

	COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	OTHER	TOTAL SEATS
<u>New England</u>	M. Nickell-Tooley L. Ramsden T. Dempsey P. Kendall			4
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	F. Hemilright L. Nolan	J. McMurray G.W. Elliott	H. King III	5
<u>South Atlantic</u>		J. Jolley	D. Cupka	2
<u>Gulf Council</u>	P. Riley	P. Dana	R. Shipp	3
<u>Caribbean</u>	N. Crespo			1
<u>Pacific</u>			R.Lincoln J. Feldner	2
<u>North Pacific</u>	E. Olsen		J. Henderschedt	2
<u>Western Pacific</u>		F. Rice	R. Seman E. Ebisui	3
TOTAL	9	TOTAL 5	TOTAL 8	TOTAL 22

Removal of Members

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 Council member only when the Council concerned first recommends removal of the member by not less than two-thirds of the Council voting members, and the Council 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.
- c) A Council member's appointment is conditional until such time as the member's background investigation has been favorably adjudicated. The Secretary will revoke the member's appointment if that member receives an unfavorable background investigation.

E. SECRETARY'S 2013 APPOINTMENTS/2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the annual appointments announced on June 20, 2013, 20 members were seated on August 11, 2013. The 20 voting obligatory and at-large Council members' three-year terms will expire on August 10, 2016. In addition, one appointment was made to an out-of-cycle vacancy on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council: Mr. Edward Zachary Bowen of Georgia was appointed to replace Mr. Steve Amick. Mr. Bowen's appointment will expire on August 10, 2015.

The following sections update Council appointment rosters, specify apportionment totals for Council members, discuss fishery management issues and challenges being addressed by each Council, and make Secretarial recommendations for future nomination and appointment considerations. The latter reflects 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 of each year.

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1. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2013 for three NEFMC members. As a result of the 2013 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is seven commercial, two recreational, and three “other,” which reflects a change from seven commercial, three recreational, and two “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the NEFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointee are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Michael Sissenwine/other

Ellen Goethel/commercial

Francis Blount/recreational

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Colin Cunningham/recreational (ineligible, by law, for a fourth consecutive term)

David Goethel/commercial (ineligible, by law, for a fourth consecutive term)

Reappointment

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

2013 NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	MCKENZIE, MATTHEW G.	CT	2015	O
O	ALEXANDER, TERRY A.	ME	2015	C
O	QUINN, JOHN F.	MA	2015	O
O	GOETHEL, ELLEN	NH	2016	C
O	PREBLE, DAVID E.	RI	2015	R
A	NICKELL-TOOLEY, MARY BETH	ME	2014	C
A	BALZANO, VINCENT M.	ME	2015	C
A	SISSENWINE, MICHAEL	MA	2016	O
A	RAMSDEN, LAURA F.	MA	2014	C
A	DEMPSEY, THOMAS D.	MA	2014	C
A	KENDALL, PETER T.	NH	2014	C
A	BLOUNT, FRANCIS W. JR.	RI	2016	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2014:

1. Mary Beth Nickell-Tooley – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (Maine)
2. Laura Ramsden – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (Massachusetts)

3. Thomas Dempsey – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (Massachusetts)
4. Peter Kendall – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (New Hampshire)

2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The stocks within the NEFMC’s geographical area that are managed by the Council are primarily associated with commercial fisheries. Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2014, four are from the commercial harvesting sector, two are from the recreational fishing sector, and two are from the “other” sector. Members from the commercial harvesting sector have experience in the groundfish, scallop, herring, spiny dogfish, skate, and monkfish fisheries, utilizing gillnet, trawl, dredge, purse seine, and longline gear. The recreational fishing sector members are rod-and-reel fishermen and/or involved in charter/party fishing.

The four upcoming vacancies are all from the commercial sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate qualified nominees from the commercial fishing sector.

DISCUSSION:

The NEFMC is responsible for six Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Northeast (NE) Multispecies, Atlantic Sea Scallop, Atlantic Herring, Deep-Sea Red Crab, Northeast 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 and the MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the Spiny Dogfish FMP.

The species managed by the NEFMC are primarily commercial; however, the multispecies fishery has an important recreational component (party/charter and private vessels). The Atlantic salmon fishery is considered recreational, although possession of Atlantic salmon is prohibited in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the Atlantic Salmon FMP, and there is no commercial or recreational fishery for Atlantic salmon in the EEZ. 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 while protecting overfished and rebuilding stocks, particularly in the multispecies fishery. Also of concern are measures protecting marine mammals, as well as threatened and endangered species. In 2013, the Council’s management actions included:

- **Northeast (NE) Multispecies**

The Council continued development of Amendment 18, which will consider accumulation caps in the groundfish fishery. The Council completed Framework 48, which set specifications for the 2013-2014 fishery; Framework 49, which made adjustments to the seasonal aspects of scallop access areas; and Framework 50, which set recreational measures for 2013 and made revisions to rebuilding programs and other measures.

- **Atlantic Sea Scallops**
The Council completed Framework 24, which set specifications and other management measures for the 2013 scallop fishery, and began development of Framework 25, which sets specifications for the 2014 fishery. The Council also initiated a performance review of the Limited Access General Category scallop fleet.
- **Atlantic Herring**
The Council completed Amendment 5, to address monitoring and bycatch issues in the fishery, and completed specifications for the 2013-2015 herring fishery. It also developed and submitted Framework 3, which recommends catch caps on river herring and shad, for pre-review by NOAA/NMFS.
- **Monkfish**
The Council continued development of Amendment 6, which will consider new catch share programs, and initiated Framework 8 to set specifications for the 2014-2016 fishery and make other management changes for the monkfish fishery.
- **Habitat**
The Council continued development of an omnibus habitat amendment, which will amend the essential fish habitat (EFH) designations in all of the Council's FMPs and provide additional measures to protect habitat. Phase I, to better define EFH, has been completed, and work on Phase II, to develop management measures to protect EFH, is continuing.
- **Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology**
The Council continued development of an omnibus amendment to implement a standardized bycatch reporting methodology for all managed fisheries.
- **Red Crab**
The Council developed and submitted for pre-review by NOAA/NMFS specifications for the 2014-2016 deep-sea red crab fishery.

Council priorities for 2014 include:

- Continue development of Groundfish Amendment 18 to consider fleet diversity and accumulation limits.
- Complete Groundfish Framework 51 to set specifications for shared U.S./Canada groundfish stocks for 2014 and revise rebuilding programs for several groundfish stocks.
- Develop an action to set specifications for certain groundfish stocks in 2015, and other measures as necessary.
- Complete an omnibus amendment to designate/redesignate EFH across all of the Council's FMPs, minimize adverse effects of fishing on EFH to the extent practicable, and modify groundfish closures, as deemed appropriate.
- Continue development of Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP to consider sectors and/or Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) for the monkfish fishery and other management measures.
- Complete Framework 8 to set specifications for the monkfish fishery for 2014-2016 and other measures for this fishery.
- Complete Framework 3 to create catch caps for river herring in the herring fishery.
- Develop an omnibus amendment to provide for industry-funded monitoring programs in managed fisheries.

- Consider whether river herrings and shads should be included as stocks in the herring fishery.
- Initiate a framework to address measures that were disapproved by NMFS in Amendment 5 to the Herring FMP.
- Complete Scallop Framework 25 to set ACLs and specifications for fishing year 2014, and complete a performance review of the Limited Access General Category scallop program.
- Initiate an action to consider a limited access program for the whiting fishery.
- Complete an omnibus amendment to implement a standardized bycatch reporting methodology for all managed fisheries.
- Continue work on an omnibus deep-sea coral amendment.
- Complete specifications for the 2014-2015 skate fishery.
- Complete specifications for the 2014-2016 deep-sea red crab fishery.
- Develop an omnibus amendment to revise and simplify vessel baseline regulations.

2. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2013 for four MAFMC members. As a result of the 2013 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives was unchanged from four commercial, five recreational, and four “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the MAFMC remains unchanged. The appointee and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Richard Robins/commercial	Reappointment
Lee Anderson/“other”	Reappointment
Jeffrey Kaelin/commercial	Erling Berg/commercial
Stephen Linhard/recreational	Reappointment

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

2013 MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	ANDERSON, LEE G.	DE	2016	O
O	KING, HOWARD J. III	MD	2014	O
O	HEMILRIGHT, FRANCIS D.	NC	2014	C
O	ZEMAN, CHRISTOPHER J.	NJ	2015	O
O	MCMURRAY, JOHN G.	NY	2014	R
O	ELLIOTT, G. WARREN	PA	2014	R
O	DEEM, JEFFREY	VA	2015	R
A	LINHARD, STEPHEN E.	MD	2016	R
A	PATE, PRESTON P. JR.	NC	2015	O
A	KAELIN, JEFFREY	NJ	2016	C
A	NOLAN, LAURIE A.	NY	2014	C
A	ANTHONY D. DILERNIA	NY	2015	R
A	ROBINS, RICHARD B. JR.	VA	2016	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2014:

1. Howard King III – “other” sector – Maryland’s obligatory seat
2. Francis Hemilright – commercial fishing sector – North Carolina’s obligatory seat

3. John McMurray – recreational fishing sector – New York’s obligatory seat
4. G. Warren Elliott – recreational fishing sector – Pennsylvania’s obligatory seat
5. Laurie Nolan – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (New York)

2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2014, two are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and three are from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial sector members’ experiences include harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are all rod-and-reel fishermen.

The five upcoming vacancies include two outgoing members from the commercial sector, two from the recreational sector, and one from the “other” sector. Governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial sector and the recreational sector. Also, governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the “other” sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The MAFMC is exclusively responsible for five Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Tilefish; and Atlantic Bluefish. In addition, the MAFMC and the 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 the Monkfish FMP.

Some of these fisheries are primarily commercial (e.g., surfclam, ocean quahog, tilefish, spiny dogfish, monkfish, squid, Atlantic mackerel, and butterfish); others have significant recreational components (bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass). Management of all fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch. In 2013, the Council’s management actions included:

- **Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass**

The Council developed/reviewed annual specifications and recreational measures for these fisheries. The Council continued development of Amendment 17, which would provide for regional management of black sea bass, and Amendment 18, which would make changes in allocation of scup. The Council also completed its work on development of Special Management Zones (SMZs) for black sea bass.

- **Surfclams/Ocean Quahogs**

The Council continued development of Amendment 15 to define excessive shares in the Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) portion of the fishery, to develop a cost-recovery program for the ITQ fishery, and to update essential fish habitat (EFH). The Council also developed specifications and new information collection procedures for this fishery.

- **Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish**
The Council developed annual specifications for these fisheries, and catch caps for river herring in the mackerel fishery. The Council completed Amendment 14 to improve monitoring in the mackerel fishery, and continued development of Amendment 15, which considers adding river herring and shads as stocks in the fishery, and Amendment 16, which considers deep-sea coral protection measures. The Council completed Framework 8, which revised the butterfish catch cap in the longfin squid fishery to allow greater in-season flexibility.
- **Spiny Dogfish**
The Council developed specifications for this fishery. The Council also completed Amendment 3 to update EFH, address state/federal management issues, provide for research set-aside of spiny dogfish, and other issues.
- **Atlantic Bluefish**
The Council developed specifications for the recreational and commercial Atlantic bluefish fisheries.
- **Tilefish**
The Council re-affirmed specifications for the 2014 tilefish fishery.
- **Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology**
The Council continued development of revisions to an omnibus amendment for standardized bycatch reporting methodology.
- **Omnibus Recreational Accountability Amendment**
The Council completed an omnibus amendment to revise accountability measures for all of its recreational fisheries.
- **Ecosystem**
The Council continued work on an ecosystem-based approach to management.
- **Visioning**
The Council completed its visioning project and began development of a strategic plan consistent with the results of the visioning project.

Council priorities for 2014 include:

- Complete specifications for black sea bass (commercial and recreational), summer flounder and scup (recreational), surfclam/ocean quahog, tilefish, butterfish, and other species as necessary, including research set-asides, as warranted.
- Continue development of Amendment 17 to the Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass FMP to provide for state-by-state or regional management options for black sea bass.
- Continue development of Amendment 18 to the Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass FMP, to consider changes to scup allocations.

- Form a working group to coordinate efforts to manage and conserve river herring and shads.
- Continue development of Amendment 16 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP to consider protective measures for deep-sea corals.
- Continue development of two amendments to the Surfclam/Ocean Quahog FMP, which will define excessive shares, provide a cost recovery system for the fishery, and update EFH.
- Complete Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP, to update EFH, address state/federal management issues, provide for research set-aside of spiny dogfish, and other issues.
- Complete an omnibus amendment to revise standardized bycatch reporting methodology for all managed fisheries.
- Continue working on ecosystem-based approaches to management.
- Develop an omnibus amendment to provide a mechanism for industry-funded observer coverage.
- Continue development of an omnibus amendment to revise and simplify vessel baseline regulations.
- Complete a strategic plan for future management of Mid-Atlantic fisheries.

3. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2013 for two SAFMC members. In addition, one out-of-cycle appointment was made. As a result of the 2013 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is four commercial, three recreational, and one “other,” which reflects a change from three commercial, four recreational, and one “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the SAFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Jack Cox Jr./commercial
 Christopher Conklin/commercial
 Edward Zachary Bowen/recreational

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Thomas Burgess/commercial
 Thomas Swatzel/recreational
 Steve Amick/recreational (resigned)

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

2013 SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	HARTIG, BENJAMIN C. III	FL	2015	C
O	BOWEN, EDWARD Z.	GA	2015	R
O	COX, JACK JR.	NC	2016	C
O	CONKLIN, CHRISTOPHER	SC	2016	C
A	JOLLEY, JOHN W.	FL	2014	R
A	PHILLIPS, CHARLES M.	GA	2015	C
A	BECKWITH, ANNA B.	NC	2015	R
A	CUPKA, DAVID M.	SC	2014	O

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2014:

1. John Jolley – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (Florida)
2. David Cupka – “other” sector – at-large seat (South Carolina)

2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the six members whose terms do not expire in 2014, four are from the commercial sector and two are from the recreational sector. The commercial member's experience includes harvesting, while the recreational members are rod-and-reel fishermen. The governors are encouraged to nominate nominees from both the commercial and recreational sectors so that the Secretary can achieve a balance between these two interest groups. While nominees to help balance the commercial and recreational sectors are important, the governors are also encouraged to nominate nominees from the "other" sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The SAFMC has prepared FMPs and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic EEZ: shrimp (penaeid and rock); coral, coral reef, and live/hard bottom habitats; golden crab; dolphin/wahoo; *Sargassum*; 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 (CMP) species in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. In 2013, the Council's management actions included:

- **Snapper-Grouper**
 - Snapper-Grouper Amendment 18B, which changes the golden tilefish fishing year and limit effort in the golden tilefish commercial sector. Effective May 23, 2013.
 - Snapper-Grouper Amendment 22, which considers tag program to track landings of species with small recreational annual catch limits.
 - Snapper-Grouper Amendment 27, which includes actions related to blue runner, extension of management into the Gulf of Mexico for Nassau grouper, allowing an increase in the number of crew members on dual permitted (commercial and for-hire) vessels, and evaluate captain and crew harvest restrictions on for-hire vessels. Approved by SAFMC March 2013.
 - Snapper-Grouper Amendment 29, which considers an update to the acceptable biological catch control rule, and management measures for gray triggerfish.
 - Snapper-Grouper Amendment 31, which considers updates to the annual catch limit of blueline tilefish based on a recent assessment.
 - Regulatory Amendment 14, which considers measures for greater amberjack, black sea bass, vermilion snapper, and gag. Approved by SAFMC September 2013.
 - Regulatory Amendment 15, which adjusted the annual catch limit for yellowtail snapper based on a recent assessment, and modified an accountability measure for gag. Effective September 12, 2013.
 - Regulatory Amendment 16, which considers modification of a prohibition on the use of black sea bass pots during the November-March right whale calving season.
 - Regulatory Amendment 17, which considers adjustments to existing or the establishment of new marine protected areas to provide enhanced protection for speckled hind and warsaw grouper.

- Regulatory Amendment 18, which adjusted the annual catch limits for vermilion snapper and red porgy based on the results of recent assessments. Effective September 5, 2013.
- Regulatory Amendment 19, which increased the annual catch limit for black sea bass based on a recent stock assessment that indicated the stock was rebuilt, and prohibited the use of black sea bass pots during November-April to provide protection to large whales. Effective September 23, 2013.
- **Coastal Migratory Pelagics**
 - Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 19 (20a), which would eliminate bag limit sales for species in the FMP. Approved by SAFMC September 2013.
 - Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20 (20b), which would modify boundaries for Gulf migratory group king mackerel and change the opening date for Gulf migratory group king mackerel in the Western Zone.
 - South Atlantic Mackerel Framework Action 2013, which considers modifications to the restriction on transfer of fish at sea for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel, restriction on the number of gillnets allowed for each Spanish mackerel vessel, and changes in the commercial trip limit for king mackerel in the Florida East Coast subzone. Approved by SAFMC September 2013
 - Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 24, which would modify commercial and recreational allocations for Spanish and king mackerel.
 - Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 26, which considers separate mackerel permits in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.
 - Joint South Atlantic Mackerel Framework Action 2014, which considers adjustments to annual catch limits for Spanish mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic based on the results of recent assessments.
- **Generic Amendments**
 - South Atlantic For-Hire Amendment, which would require weekly electronic reporting by headboats. Approved by SAFMC March 2013.
 - Joint Generic Dealer Reporting Amendment, which would require weekly electronic reporting by dealers. Approved by SAFMC September 2013.
 - Comprehensive Allocation/Accountability Amendment, which would establish commercial/recreational allocations for snapper-groupers, dolphin, and wahoo, as well as update accountability measures for snapper-groupers and golden crab.
 - Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3, which would consider an action to enhance bycatch reporting requirements for snapper-grouper, coastal migratory pelagics, golden crab, and dolphin wahoo.
- **Shrimp**
 - Shrimp Amendment 9, which modified the protocol for states to request concurrent closure of the EEZ during severe weather and revise the definition of minimum stock size threshold for pink shrimp.
- **Dolphin Wahoo**

- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5, which considers adjustments of annual catch limits based on new estimates of recreational landings from the Marine Recreational Information Program, changes to accountability measures, dolphin commercial trip limits, and updates to the framework. Approved by SAFMC September 2013.
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, which would allow dolphin and wahoo fillets to be brought into the U.S. EEZ from the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.
- **Other Council Actions**
 - Administered and actively participated in the Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process for South Atlantic Spanish mackerel, snowy grouper, and blueline tilefish.
 - Continued to support NMFS, by participating in activities of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee and the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and Billfish Advisory Panels.

Council priorities for 2014 include:

- Submit Snapper-Grouper Amendments 22, 29, and 31 to the Secretary.
- Submit Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 16 to the Secretary.
- Submit Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20b to the Secretary.
- Submit Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 24 to the Secretary.
- Submit Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 26 to the Secretary.
- Submit Joint Mackerel Framework 2014 to the Secretary.
- Submit Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 to the Secretary.
- Continue development of Comprehensive Allocation/Accountability Amendment.
- Continue development of CE-BA 3.
- Continue development of Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 17.
- Begin development of an electronic logbook amendment.
- Begin development of an electronic reporting amendment for charter boats.
- Participate in the SEDAR process for gag and gray triggerfish.

4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2013 for three GMFMC members. As a result of the 2013 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives remains unchanged at four commercial, four recreational, and three “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the GMFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointee are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

Douglass Boyd/recreational
 Leann Bosarge /commercial
 Roy Williams/“other”

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Reappointment
 Harolyn “Kay” Williams/commercial
 Lawrence Abele/“other”

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

2013 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	GREENE, JOHN R. JR.	AL	2015	R
O	SANCHEZ, JUAN M.	FL	2015	C
O	MATENS, CAMPO E.	LA	2015	R
O	BOSARGE, LEANN	MS	2016	C
O	BOYD, DOUGLASS W.	TX	2016	R
A	SHIPP, ROBERT L.	AL	2014	O
A	DANA, PAMELA L.	FL	2014	R
A	WILLIAMS, ROY	FL	2016	O
A	PEARCE, HARLON H.	LA	2015	C
A	PERRET, WILLIAM S.	MS	2015	O
A	RILEY, PATRICK F.	TX	2014	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2014:

1. Robert Shipp – “other” sector – at-large seat (Alabama)
2. Pamela Dana – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (Florida)
3. Patrick Riley – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (Texas)

2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2014, three are from the commercial sector, three are from the recreational sector, and two are from the “other” sector. The remaining commercial members’ experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are all rod-and-reel fishermen.

The three Council members whose terms expire in 2014 include one outgoing member from the commercial sector, one from the recreational sector, and one from the “other” sector. The governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from both the commercial and recreational sectors so that the Secretary can achieve a balance between these two interest groups. While nominees from each sector—commercial and recreational—are important, the governors are encouraged to nominate individuals from the “other” sector. This would include individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

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 (EEZ): reef fish, shrimp, coral and coral reefs, red drum, and aquaculture. The GMFMC and the SAFMC have prepared joint FMPs for the spiny lobster fishery and Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) species in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. In 2013, the Council’s management actions included:

- **Reef Fish**
 - Red Snapper Actions: NMFS published three rulemakings for red snapper at the GMFMC’s request during 2013. The GMFMC requested an emergency rule in February 2013 to adjust recreational red snapper fishing seasons off each Gulf state in accordance with varying state season lengths. A U.S. District Court set this rule aside. In April, the GMFMC approved an action to increase allowable catch for red snapper for 2013. NMFS published a final rule in May 2013 setting the commercial and recreational quotas based on GMFMC recommendations. Subsequently, based on results of a new stock assessment, in August the GMFMC raised the allowable catch again and set a fall recreational season. NMFS published that rule in September 2013.
 - Reef Fish Amendment 37: To meet the targets set forth in the current gray triggerfish rebuilding plan, Amendment 37 established a fixed closed season for the recreational and commercial sectors, a commercial trip limit, a recreational bag limit, and recreational in-season closures. The GMFMC took final action on Amendment 37 in October 2012, and the final rule was effective in June 2013.
 - Reef Fish Amendment 38: The GMFMC developed Amendment 38 to relax post-season accountability measures for shallow-water grouper species. The GMFMC took final action at its August 2012 meeting, and NMFS finalized the regulations in January 2013.

- Framework Action to Revise 2013 Shallow-Water Grouper Recreational Fishing Seasons: This framework action established a July 1 opening (closing when the catch target is projected to be met) for recreational harvest of gag, and relaxed a fixed 2-month recreational shallow-water grouper closure. The GMFMC took final action on this regulatory amendment at its October 2012 meeting, and NMFS finalized rulemaking in July 2013.
 - Framework Action to Adjust Allowable Catch for Vermilion and Yellowtail Snapper: Based on new stock assessments, the GMFMC considered raising allowable catches for vermilion and yellowtail snapper. Ultimately, the GMFMC chose not to increase vermilion snapper catch limits, but did establish a non-restrictive recreational bag limit for them. Allowable catches were increased for yellowtail snapper. In addition, the framework removed a requirement to vent all reef fish before release. The GMFMC submitted this action in April 2013, and NMFS implemented rulemaking in September 2013.
 - Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Administrative Changes: NMFS recommended to the GMFMC several administrative changes to the IFQ programs for red snapper and grouper-tilefish. The GMFMC approved these recommended changes at its August 2013 meeting, and NMFS is expected to implement rulemaking by early 2014.
- **Shrimp**
 - Framework to Modify the Electronic Logbook Program: Since 2005, NMFS has contracted services to monitor and analyze data collected by electronic logbooks aboard federally permitted shrimp vessels. Based on recommendations from NMFS, the GMFMC developed an action to modify this program. The modifications include updating the logbooks to more modern and efficient units, and establishing cost sharing for the program between NMFS and the industry. The GMFMC approved this action at its June 2013 meeting, and rulemaking is currently underway. NMFS expects this rule to be effective in early 2014.
- **Mackerel**
 - Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendments 20A and 20B: The GMFMC approved these two amendments, developed jointly with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAMFC) at the October 2013 meeting. Amendment 20A would prohibit certain recreational sale and remove the income requirement to renew a permit. Amendment 20B would modify fishing years, trip limits, regional quotas for king and Spanish mackerel in the South Atlantic; the framework, annual catch limits, and allocations between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic for cobia; and transit provisions. The SAFMC will have to review and approve Amendment 20B at their December 2013 meeting. NMFS expects to finalize rulemaking in spring 2014.
- **Aquaculture**
 - The Aquaculture Fishery Management Plan entered into effect by operation of law in 2009. Subsequently, NMFS and DOC issued national aquaculture policies, which required changes to the proposed regulations to implement aquaculture in federal

waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The GMFMC reviewed and approved these changes in February 2013, and the rulemaking is currently under Agency review.

- **Generic Rules**

- Dealer Reporting Amendment: This joint amendment with the SAFMC is intended to improve the current reporting requirements for those individuals or organizations holding federal seafood dealer permits for species contained in FMPs for the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Initially approved by the GMFMC and SAFMC in 2012, subsequent regulatory changes required the two Councils to re-approve the amendment in fall 2013. Rulemaking is currently being prepared by NMFS, and this action should be effective in early 2014.
- Electronic Reporting for Headboats: This action is intended to improve the current reporting requirements for all headboats in the Gulf of Mexico, replacing paper logbooks with weekly electronic reporting. The GMFMC approved this action in June 2013, and rulemaking is currently underway. NMFS expects this rule to be effective in early 2014.
- For-hire Permit Passenger Requirements: The GMFMC relaxed restrictions on limited access for-hire permits, and no longer requires that the number of persons onboard not exceed the number of passengers allowed under the for-hire permit. This allows vessels to do other for-hire activities using the passenger capacity identified on the Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection. The GMFMC approved this action in April 2013, and NMFS published rulemaking effective in August 2013.

- **Other GMFMC Actions**

- Active participation by the Council and/or staff in Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process for Gulf of Mexico Spanish mackerel, cobia, South Atlantic Spanish mackerel, red snapper, gulf gag, and greater amberjack.
- Continued to support NMFS by participating in activities of the ICCAT Advisory Committee and the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and Billfish Advisory Panels.

Council priorities for 2014 include:

- Continue development of Reef Fish Amendment 28 (red snapper allocations between recreational and commercial sectors).
- Consider an amendment to address separate allocations between private anglers and the for-hire fleet.
- Consider an amendment for inter-sector trading of allocation in the reef fish fishery.
- Finalize the 5-year red snapper IFQ review and Reef Fish Amendment 36, which would consider potential modifications to the red snapper IFQ program.
- Continue development of Reef Fish Amendment 39 to establish regional management for recreational red snapper fishing.
- Initiate development of an amendment to consider establishing regional management of recreational gag fishing.
- Consider development of an amendment to re-allocate allowable catch of gag and red grouper between commercial and recreational sectors.
- Continue development of amendments to require electronic reporting for private anglers, charter boats, and commercially permitted vessels.

- Consider establishment of an IFQ for additional reef fish species.
- Consider an action to have a different recreational red snapper season, and adjust AMs to include overage adjustments for the recreational sector.
- Consider actions to allow a rights-based management approach for the for-hire component of the reef fish fishery.
- Consider a generic amendment to develop default status determination criteria for reef fish species that do not already have them.
- Adjust ACLs for all data-poor stocks, substituting Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) values for Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) values where long-term average landings have been used to calculate ACLs.
- Consider development of CMP amendments to address allocation across sectors.
- Develop and complete an action to adjust Spanish mackerel allowable catches.
- Initiate amendments to the Shrimp FMP to adjust stock status criteria.
- Consider the role of artificial substrates as essential fish habitat for one or more managed species.
- Participate in SEDAR benchmark assessments.

5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

A term expired in 2013 for one CFMC member. As a result of the 2013 appointment to that vacant position, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged from two commercial, one recreational, and two “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the CFMC remains unchanged. The appointee is as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector
Louis Blanchard/Commercial

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Winston Ledee/Commercial

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

2013 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	FARCHETTE, CARLOS F.	VI	2015	O
O	CRESPO, NELSON R.	PR	2014	C
A	PIÑEIRO-SOLER, EUGENIO	PR	2015	R
A	BLANCHARD, LOUIS	VI	2016	C

EXPIRING TERM:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2014:

1. Nelson R. Crespo – commercial fishing sector – Puerto Rico’s obligatory seat

2013 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the three members whose terms do not expire in 2013, one is from the commercial fishing sector, one is from the recreational sector, and one is from the “other” sector. The 2014 vacancy will be from the commercial fishing sector. The governors are encouraged to recommend nominees from the commercial fishing sector, or other nominees with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The CFMC has prepared fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ): queen conch, reef fish, and corals and reef associated plants and invertebrates.

In 2013, the Council's management actions included:

- **Queen Conch**
 - Developed Regulatory Amendment 2 to the Queen Conch FMP, which revised the commercial trip limit for queen conch in the Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to be compatible with the trip limit in territorial waters of the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). The measure became effective October 15, 2013. The regulatory amendment:
 1. Changed the commercial trip limit from 150 queen conch per licensed fisherman to 200 queen conch per vessel.

- **Reef Fish**
 - Developed Regulatory Amendment 4 to the Reef Fish FMP to establish minimum size limits for the recreational and commercial harvest of parrotfish in the EEZ surrounding St. Croix, USVI. The measure became effective August 29, 2013. The regulatory amendment:
 - Established a minimum size limit for harvest of redband parrotfish of 8 inches fork length.
 - Established a minimum size limit for harvest of all other parrotfish (excluding midnight, blue, and rainbow parrotfish for which harvest is prohibited) of 9 inches fork length.

- **Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates**
 - Developed Amendment 4 to the Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates FMP to remove all species of seagrasses from federal management. The measure became effective July 5, 2013.

- **Other Council Actions**
 - Initiated the process of converting FMPs from species-based management to island-based management in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ:
 - Finalized the Environmental Assessment describing the shift in management from species-based to island-based in the U.S. Caribbean.
 - Continued developing each island Environmental Impact Statement and FMP for Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas/St. John.
 - Conducted public hearings during July and August 2013 to obtain input from fishermen, the general public, and representatives of local agencies on the development of island-based FMPs for each of Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, and St. Croix.
 - Initiated the development of compatible regulations among the three seasonally closed areas off Puerto Rico (Abrir La Sierra, Bajo de Sico, and Tourmaline Bank) with the goal of protecting the red hind spawning aggregation, and large individuals of snappers and groupers, from directed fishing pressure to achieve a more natural sex ratio, age, and size structure, while minimizing adverse social and economic effects. Compatibility between the federal and state waters within these seasonally closed areas is also being pursued.
 - A scoping was held in November 2013 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

- Initiated the development of a Comprehensive Amendment to the Council FMPs to establish a control rule to modify the buffer reduction that is applied to the overfishing level or other chosen reference point to derive an annual catch limit (ACL) in response to changes in the overfishing status of any U.S. Caribbean fishery management unit. An options paper was presented to the Council at its December 11-12, 2013 meeting.

The Council coordinated and participated in the following workshops and meetings:

- Participated in SEDAR 30 – blue tang and queen triggerfish.
- Prepared to participate in SEDAR 35 – red hind. The Data Workshop was postponed to 2014 because it was originally scheduled for the time of the government shutdown.
- Constituted an Ad Hoc Committee and coordinated meetings to discuss the timing of accountability-measure (AM) based fishery closures and the socio-economic impacts of those closures.
- Participated in the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), and the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC) Working Group on Spawning Aggregations in Miami, Florida.

Council priorities for 2014 include:

- Continue the development of an alternative mechanism for choosing AM closure periods that will provide options for closure dates and lengths which keep landings within the assigned ACL while minimizing the economic and cultural impacts of the closure.
- Develop a compatible fish-trap reduction program in federal waters of the USVI.
- Develop an amendment to the Reef Fish and Spiny Lobster FMPs, which would require escape vents in fish traps.
- Evaluate the implications of a prohibition on the use of traps in the recreational sector, in order to be compatible with territorial/commonwealth waters.
- Evaluate the implications of a federal Snapper Unit 2 commercial harvest permit system.
- Monitor and amend the ACLs as necessary.
- Coordinate and participate in international workshops addressing spawning aggregations and recreational fisheries, as well as other shared resources issues.
- Continue development and strengthening of the Education and Outreach program.
- Continue work on converting FMPs from species-based to island-based management in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ.

6. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2013 for two PFMC members. As a result of the 2013 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is unchanged from three commercial, three recreational, and three “other.” There is one tribal representative, who is counted as a member of the “other” sector. The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of available at-large seats on the PFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector
 Danny L. Wolford/recreational
 Herb A. Pollard/recreational

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
 Reappointment
 Reappointment

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

2013 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	CRABBE, DAVID M.	CA	2015	C
O	POLLARD, HERBERT A. II	ID	2016	R
O	LOWMAN, DOROTHY M.	OR	2015	O
O	LINCOLN, RICHARD H.	WA	2014	O
O	PFMC TRIBAL SEAT (*T): SONES, DAVID B.	WA	2015	T
A	BRIZENDINE, WILLIAM L. II	CA	2015	R
A	WOLFORD, DANNY L.	CA	2016	R
A	FELDNER, JEFFREY N.	OR	2014	C
A	MYER, DALE D.	WA	2015	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2014:

1. Richard Lincoln – “other” sector – Washington’s obligatory seat
2. Jeffrey Feldner – “commercial” sector – at-large seat (Oregon)

2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the seven members whose terms do not expire in 2014, two are from the commercial fishing sector, three are from the recreational fishing sector, and two are from the “other” sector (which includes the tribal representative). The remaining commercial members’ experience includes harvesting, processing, and seafood marketing, while the recreational members are all rod-and-reel fishermen.

The two upcoming vacancies in 2014 include one outgoing member from the “other” sector and one outgoing member from the “commercial” sector. The governors are encouraged to provide the Secretary with nominees from the other sector with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management, as well as nominees from the commercial sector as a basis for maintaining a balance of both sector interests.

DISCUSSION:

The PFMC has prepared FMPs for: Pacific Coast groundfish, West Coast salmon, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species. The PFMC has also adopted a Fishery Ecosystem Plan and an Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix to help integrate ecosystem considerations into its fishery management decisions. The PFMC has responsibility for recommending allocations of Pacific halibut among treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial and recreational fishers in Area 2A under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act. In 2013, the Council’s management actions included:

- **Fishery Ecosystem**
 - Adopted a Fishery Ecosystem Plan and Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix. This plan and appendix enhance the Council’s species-specific management programs with more ecosystem science, broader ecosystem considerations, and management policies that coordinate Council management across its FMPs.
 - Adopted recommendations for updating the Federal list of Authorized West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone Fisheries and Gear.
 - Initiated work on an unmanaged forage fish protection initiative by developing a list of species needing protection against development of new unmanaged fisheries.

- **Groundfish**
 - Proceeded with development of a more streamlined management process for establishing groundfish fishery specifications and management measures to be used for the 2015-2016 fisheries and beyond.
 - Developed new procedures for dealing with fish stocks that have only a moderate amount of data available or are part of a complex of stocks.
 - Approved recommendations for new seabird avoidance regulations.
 - Established a tentative plan and timeline for a formal review of the sablefish permit stacking program.
 - Continued with the implementation of trailing amendments to the trawl catch shares program to enhance the beneficial operation of this program.

- Recommended significant in-season adjustments to the 2013 groundfish fishery, adopted final recommendations for the Pacific whiting fishery under the new U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Agreement, adopted depth-based mortality rates for certain groundfish species associated with the use of descending devices in the recreational fishery, initiated consideration of a new electronic monitoring program, and continued progress on a formal review of groundfish essential fish habitat.
- **Salmon**
 - Adopted annual recommendations for commercial, recreational, and treaty tribal 2013 ocean salmon fisheries and adopted changes to Pacific salmon essential fish habitat as the result of a formal review (Salmon FMP Amendment 18).
- **Pacific Halibut**
 - Adopted final 2013 incidental halibut catch regulations in the commercial salmon fishery.
 - Adopted proposed changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for 2014, including a new California recreational subarea and quota.
- **Highly Migratory Species**
 - Requested that NMFS 1) evaluate the application of recent research on leatherback sea turtle habitat utilization to instruct potential changes to the configuration of the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area that would minimize sea turtle-fishery interactions and 2) continue research on alternative swordfish gears, including deep-set longline and buoy gear.
 - Provided input for international tuna management and conservation measures to 1) the U.S. State Department, 2) the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and 3) the U.S. delegations of the Northern Committee and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The input included issues with regard to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty, the status of Pacific bluefin tuna, and North Pacific albacore tuna conservation.
- **Coastal Pelagic Species**
 - Recommended that NMFS issue an exempted fishing permit to continue another year of an industry-sponsored Pacific sardine research survey that has contributed important abundance information through aerial survey techniques.
 - Adopted final 2013-2014 management specifications and measures for the Pacific mackerel fishery.
 - Changed the start date of the sardine fishery from January 1 to July 1 to coordinate better with data availability. A biomass projection estimate was used to set management specifications and measures for the sardine fishery from January 1 to July 1, 2014 and a full stock assessment will be available to set the annual season specifications for the 2014-2015 management year.

- **Other Council Actions**

- The PFMC organized and facilitated a national fishery conference in May (Managing our Nation's Fisheries 3) which resulted in the development of 128 recommendations for improving fishery sustainability.
- The PFMC also hosted and facilitated the annual Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Meeting. The PFMC and CCC have begun further refinement of the recommendations resulting from the national conference, which will be forwarded for consideration in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- The PFMC also completed a 5-year Research and Data Needs document to help guide fishery research.

Council priorities for 2014 include:

- Complete a timely process for setting the 2015-2016 groundfish fisheries.
- Establish a groundfish stock assessment plan for 2015 and continue exploring ways to improve assessments of data poor-species and stock complexes.
- Complete trailing amendments for the limited access catch shares program for the groundfish trawl fishery, including consideration of an electronic monitoring program.
- Proceed with consideration of minor changes and a formal review of the sablefish permit stacking program.
- Proceed with the 5-year review of groundfish essential fish habitat.
- Establish the 2014 ocean salmon fisheries with opportunities for commercial, recreational, and treaty Indian fisheries while protecting ESA-listed and other depressed salmon stocks.
- Recommend final 2014 incidental catch regulations and 2015 Catch Sharing Plan changes for Pacific halibut.
- Complete the unmanaged forage fish protection initiative.
- Establish 2014-2015 Pacific sardine and mackerel fisheries.
- Consider alternative gear possibilities for implementing a West Coast swordfish fishery.
- Continue to gather information regarding characteristics of the domestic and international albacore fishing fleets for the purpose of ensuring conservation and anticipating any need for domestic fishery limitation controls.
- Maintain an active presence in highly migratory species regional fishery management organizations that impact Council management recommendations.

7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2013 for two NPFMC obligatory members. As a result of the 2013 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC is unchanged from five commercial, one recreational, and one “other.” There are no available at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointees/reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
David Long/commercial	Samuel Cotten/commercial
Duncan Fields/commercial	Reappointment

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

2013 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Members)				
Obligatory	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	HULL, HOWARD D.	AK	2015	C
O	FIELDS, DUNCAN S.	AK	2016	C
O	LONG, DAVID	AK	2016	C
O	OLSON, ERIC A.	AK	2014	C
O	DERSHAM, ROBERT E.	AK	2015	R
O	CROSS, CRAIG A.	WA	2015	C
O	HENDERSCHIEDT, JOHN J.	WA	2014	O

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2014:

1. Eric Olson – commercial fishing sector – Alaska obligatory seat
2. John Henderschedt – “other” sector – Washington obligatory seat

2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the five members whose terms do not expire in 2014, four are from the commercial fishing sector and one is from the recreational fishing sector. The commercial sector members have experience in processing and harvesting, and the recreational member has experience in hook and line fishing. The two upcoming vacancies include one outgoing member from the commercial sector and one from the “other” sector. Although commercial fisheries are particularly important in this region, the governors are encouraged to continue to nominate persons from the recreational fishing sector and from the “other” sector. “Other” sector

nominees should include persons with backgrounds in academics, fisheries management, environmental science, economics, or social science, and who have knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and their habitats, and ecosystem approaches to management. Recently, Alaska Native tribal entities also have voiced strong support for greater representation on the NPFMC.

DISCUSSION:

The NPFMC has six FMPs for: Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska, Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI), Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab, the Scallop Fishery off Alaska, and Fishery Resources of the Arctic Management Area. In 2013, the Council's management actions included:

- **Fishery Management Plans**
 - The NPFMC recently adopted additional amendments to the groundfish, and crab 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 NPFMC retains oversight of major allocation, overfishing definition, and habitat management issues.
 - Under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the NPFMC has authority over allocation issues affecting the Pacific halibut fishery in and off Alaska, while the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) retains responsibility for conservation management of this fishery.

- **Rebuilding Plans**
 - Of all fisheries managed under FMPs, only the Pribilof Islands blue king crab is currently under a rebuilding plan. After NMFS determined that this stock was overfished, the NPFMC promptly began the process of developing rebuilding plans for this species, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. A rebuilding plan was approved for Pribilof Island blue king crab in 2004 (FMP Amendment 17). A revised rebuilding plan for Pribilof Islands blue king crab was recommended by the Council and NMFS is developing proposed regulations to implement the Council's recommendations.

- **Salmon Bycatch Efforts**
 - In 2013, the Council recommended bycatch limits for Chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska non-pollock fisheries. NMFS is developing proposed regulations to implement the Council's recommendations. If approved, those regulations would be effective at the end of 2014. These regulations mirror other regulations that the Council has recommended and NMFS has implemented over the past 3 years for the pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

Council priorities for 2014 include:

- Aiding the implementation of a restructured Observer Program to monitor the groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries. NMFS implemented the restructured Observer Program in

2013, and the Council is advising NMFS on specific monitoring objectives. The restructured program would include a fee-based system that would allow for more flexibility to deploy observers needed to collect quality catch information in the groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries.

- Aiding efforts by NMFS and industry participants to develop and implement cooperative research for electronic monitoring to address concerns or practicality of deploying observers on small vessels. The Council has developed an electronic monitoring strategic plan, and is developing an electronic monitoring work group to facilitate further research and implementation.
- Assessing the potential for a catch share program in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries that would provide incentives and tools to reduce the bycatch of halibut and salmon, improving monitoring and enforcement, and enhancing the value of Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries.
- Assessing the biological opinion due to be finalized in early 2014 developed by NMFS on the impacts of the groundfish fisheries on endangered Steller sea lions and associated mitigation measures to determine whether adequate protections to these animals could be provided through measures that are less costly to fisheries and coastal communities. This process could result in Council engagement in changes to Steller sea lion protection measures that would not result in a jeopardy or adverse modification determination proposed under section 7 of the ESA.
- Assessing options to reduce bycatch of Pacific halibut, crab, salmon, and other species caught incidentally in the groundfish fisheries.
- Refining the various catch share programs developed by the NPFMC and implemented by NMFS.
- Addressing ongoing domestic allocation issues associated with the Pacific halibut resource in recognition that the overall coast-wide harvest strategy for this resource is established by the IPHC.

8. Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2013 for two WPFMC members. As a result of the 2013 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the WPFMC is now two commercial, two recreational, and four “other,” which is changed from two commercial, two recreational, three “other,” and one TBD. This change is due to filling the American Samoa obligatory seat, which is now “other.” The current geographical balance regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the WPFMC remains unchanged, with three from Hawaii, one from American Samoa, and none from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The new appointees and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Claire Poumele/other	Vacancy/NA
Julie Leialoha/other	Reappointment
William Sword/recreational	Reappointment

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

2013 WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obligatory/ At-large	Appointed Members	State	Appt. Ends	Interest Sector
O	DUENAS, MICHAEL P.	GU	2015	C
O	POUMELE, CLAIRE T.	AS	2016	O
O	SEMAN, RICHARD B.	CNMI	2014	O
O	GOTO, MICHAEL K.	HI	2015	C
A	LEIALOHA, JULIE A.K.	HI	2016	O
A	RICE, FREDERICK M.	HI	2014	R
A	EBISUI, EDWIN A.	HI	2014	O
A	SWORD, WILLIAM A.	AS	2016	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2014:

1. Richard Seman – “other” sector – obligatory seat (CNMI)
2. Frederick Rice – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (HI)
3. Edwin Ebisui – “other” sector – at-large seat (HI)

2014 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the five appointed members whose terms do not expire in 2014, one is from the recreational fishing sector, two are from the commercial fishing sector, and two are from the “other” sector. The commercial sector members have experience in processing and harvesting, and the recreational member has experience in hook and line fishing. The three upcoming vacancies include one from the recreational fishing sector, once from the commercial fishing sector, and one from the “other” sector. To achieve sector balance on the WPFMC, the governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the recreational fishing sector.

DISCUSSION:

Domestic fisheries in U.S. EEZ waters and operating in the adjacent high seas of the western Pacific (Pacific Islands) are managed under five fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs): Pacific Pelagic FEP, Hawaii Archipelago FEP, American Samoa Archipelago FEP, Mariana Archipelago FEP, and Pacific Remote Island Areas FEP. The Council’s 2013 accomplishments included, but were not limited to:

- Established fishing regulations for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, Rose Atoll Marine National Monument, and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.
- Extended the region-wide moratorium on the harvest of gold corals in the U.S. Pacific Islands through June 2018.
- Established the 2013 annual catch limits and accountability measures for all insular stocks of management unit species in the region, including bottomfish, coral reef fish, precious corals, and crustaceans.
- Completed a 3-year marine conservation plan for the Pacific Remote Islands Areas that describe projects for using funds under the Pacific Insular Area Fishing Agreements and from fines and penalties from illegal foreign fishing.
- Completed Amendment 7 to the Pacific Pelagic FEP, which would establish a process for specifying catch and effort limits and accountability measures for pelagic fisheries in American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, and authorize each of those governments to allocate a portion of its specified catch or effort limit to U.S. fishing vessels through a specified fishing agreement.
- Promoted the establishment of the joint Endangered Species Act (ESA) Working Group of the Council Coordination Committee, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to improve transparency of ESA section 7 consultations for fishery management actions.
- Established a new Fisheries Data Collection and Research Committee and assembled a technical committee. The committees will develop a strategic plan to improve fishery

data collection and coordinate fishery research and monitoring for the Western Pacific region.

- Established two new advisory committees to the Council: 1) Marine Planning and Climate Change Committee and 2) Education Committee.
- Coordinated and chaired the Council Coordination Committee's Electronic Monitoring Subcommittee.
- Supported projects, assessments, and internships that fulfill the Council's conservation and management objectives and fishery development priorities.
- Partnered with Pacific Island communities to support community-based management and development projects.
- Completed a variety of education and outreach initiatives to support public awareness of sustainable fishery issues, build local capacity in fisheries management, and enhance engagement of fishermen and the public in the federal fishery management process.

Council priorities for 2014 will include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Modify the American Samoa longline limited entry program to reduce programmatic barriers that may be limiting small vessel participation, which in turn may be affecting sustained community and indigenous American Samoan participation in the longline fishery.
- Specify annual longline catch limits and annual transferable limits for American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI for fishing year 2015.
- Develop a permitting system for off-shore aquaculture in the U.S. EEZ around the Pacific Islands.
- Remove the current swordfish trip limits for the American Samoa longline fishery, and investigate the feasibility of authorizing shallow-set longline fishing for swordfish in American Samoa, while minimizing sea turtle interactions.
- Convene a workshop on the movement of bigeye tuna in the Pacific Ocean with the objectives of exploring the connectivity of bigeye across the region, identifying research required to improve stock assessments, and developing spatially explicit international management measures for bigeye tuna.
- Continue to support the annual International Sea-Turtle Symposium through travel grants and sponsorship and coordination of the East Asia Regional Meeting component of the Symposium.
- Amend all FEPs to designate ecosystem component species for all western Pacific fisheries.
- Improve the specification of ACLs for data-poor stocks using a model-based approach.
- Continue to work with NMFS to refine descriptions of essential fish habitat and habitats of particular concern for all western Pacific management unit species.
- Continue to assist eligible Pacific Island communities in developing proposals for access to fisheries through the Western Pacific Community Development Program.

- Continue to support the Guam Mayor's Council and the Village of Merizo to finalize their community-based plan for the management of coastal and marine resources.
- Convene the Marine Planning and Climate Change Committee, and amend Council FEPs to further address climate change and impacts to Western Pacific fishery resources.
- Implement ESA Working Group recommendations through improved coordination with NMFS on section 7 consultations involving fisheries managed by the Council FEPs.
- Initiate process to amend the Marianas FEP to remove the CNMI large vessel closure for bottom fishing around CNMI southern islands and assist the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, to establish complementary management measures for the newly acquired Commonwealth waters from 0-3 miles from shore.
- Continue to work with the Insular Fishery Offices, NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies and institutions to support the Fisheries Data Collection & Research Committee and develop a strategic plan to improve fishery data collection and coordinate fishery research and monitoring for the Western Pacific region.
- Continue to work with fishing communities throughout the region on fisheries development and other projects identified in the Marine Conservation Plans.
- Complete video on Hawaii's yellowfin tuna, and work with State of Hawaii and NMFS on potential increase of commercial minimum size, now set at 3 pounds.
- Continue campaigns to raise public awareness about sustainable fishery issues, debunk fishery myths, and engage fishermen/communities/public in the federal fisheries management.
- Continue national outreach and education efforts and maintenance and promotion of the fisherycouncils.org website.

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F. APPENDIX – STATISTICAL FISHERIES DATA

In addition to assessing the apportionment of membership on each Council, this report provides, in this appendix, the following statistical information about the status of fisheries managed under each Council. It also identifies the number of Council 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.⁷

This appendix provides statistical data required by Section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Unless otherwise indicated, the data are for the 2012-2013 fisheries listed by FMP. Reported landings 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 Council.
2. 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. Weight of each species or species group in a fishery landed in 2008 (or as otherwise indicated) showing both the landings for commercial and recreational fishermen, if recreational information is available.
5. 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.
7. Range and seasonality of the fishery.
8. Number of current Council members who are commercial or recreational sector participants in each fishery; or their representatives.⁸

LEGEND FOR TYPE FISHERIES

C - Commercial fishery: 80 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: 60 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: 80 percent or more of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

⁷ The Secretary also has management authority over Highly Migratory Species in the EEZ off the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico coasts. An additional table has been included with the following Appendix, which lists FMPs and other statistical data for Atlantic and Gulf HMS.

⁸ Vertical sums in the attached appendices may not match the sums entered for interest sectors in Table 1 on page 6. If one or more Council members actively participated in more than one fishery, the vertical sum will exceed the number entered in the interest sector column. Also, if a Council member participated in a currently closed fishery, he or she is still listed as a representative of the fishery in the table because of the expertise they bring to the Council regarding the operation of the fishery.

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2012	Vessels (permits) 2012	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2012	
								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	4,075 1,743 5,958 10,829 3,848 2,287 1,530 2,395 1,038 33 31 0	2,540	trawl, dredge, longline, gillnet, hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted	8	3
	R	Recreational Cod Pollock Winter flounder	668 547 49	702	hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted, filleted		
Atlantic Sea Scallops	C	Atlantic sea scallops	26,060	824	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	1,193	1,500	Traps, trawl	FMP area/year round	whole, partially processed at sea	1	0
Atlantic Herring	C	Atlantic herring	87,761	2,158	Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/canned shoreside/fresh bait	3	0
Monkfish	C	Monkfish	5,391	2,432	gillnets, trawls, dredges	FMP area/year round	fresh	7	0
Northeast Skate Complex	C	Skates	10,539	2,265	Trawls, gillnets, dredge, longline	FMP area/year round	fresh bait, frozen, partially processed at sea		

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's data base as of December 2013. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/commercial/fus/fus12/03_recreational2012.pdf and is based on the results of the 2012 Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

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

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2012	Vessels (permits) 2012	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2012	
								Comm.	Rec.
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish	C	Commercial Atlantic mackerel	5,335	2,154	otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	frozen, whole	2	1
	C	Squid, <u>Loligo</u> Squid, <u>Ilex</u> Butterfish	13,215 11,709 655	(Combine) 2,062	trawl; traps	FMP area/year round	at-sea & ashore, some mackerel fillets		
	R	Recreational Atlantic mackerel	682	776		FMP area/year round			
Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs	C	Atlantic surfclams	18,389	695	Dredge	FMP area/year round (ITQ mgmt.)	shucked shoreside	1	
		Ocean quahogs	15,930	722					
Summer Flounder (fluke)	x	Commercial	5,966	870	hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets ashore; fresh & frozen	3	3
		Recreational	2,955	826					
Scup	x	Commercial	7,047	725					
		Recreational	1,889	750					
Black Sea Bass	x	Commercial	786	772					
		Recreational	1,715	808					
Tilefish	C	Golden Tilefish	766	2,083	longline, hook & line	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	1	
Atlantic Bluefish	x	Commercial	2,137	2,667	hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet	FMP area/year round	fillets fresh/frozen	1	3
	x	Recreational	5,458	864					
Spiny Dogfish	C	Commercial	10,606	2,666	gillnet; trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/frozen	5	1

Commercial fisheries landings statistics were provided by the Northeast Region and are based on information in the Region's data base as of December 2013. Recreational fisheries information was obtained from the Office of Science and Technology at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/commercial/fus/fus12/03_recreational2012.pdf and is based on the results of the 2012 Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)

A-iii SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (SAFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2012	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2012	
								Comm.	Rec.
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab	359	11	traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh		
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	X	Commercial Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species	383 Confidential 1,145 1,861	748	rod and reel, bandit gear, longline, handline	FMP area/ prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau grouper and Goliath grouper year-round ²	at sea, gutted	3	4
		Recreational Groupers Snappers Other Species	239 749 5,088	1,797 (for-hire)	handline, rod and reel, bandit gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area			
Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial All	10,031	638 (penaeid) 271 (rock)	trawls	FMP area/ year-round	shore-side processing		
		Recreational White	n/a ³	n/a ³	n/a ³				
Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial-Octocoral ³ (2010 landings)	24,442 (2,261 Fed, 22,181 State) colonies	25	hand harvest	south FL/ year-round	Fresh		
		Recreational	n/a ⁴	n/a ⁴					
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster [Jointly managed with GMFMC]								1	
Coastal Migratory Pelagics [Jointly managed with GMFMC]								4	8

- 1 Number of vessels with active permits at the end of 2012.
- 2 Commercial and recreational sector for shallow water groupers closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for red porgy closed during January-April. Commercial fishery for greater amberjack closed during April. Fishing prohibited year-round in Oculina HAPC.
- 3 Not applicable (No recreational fishery in the EEZ).
- 4 Octocoral landings and number of persons harvesting octocoral provided by State of Florida. Federal permits are not required for octocoral harvest.

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) datasets produced by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL, and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the SEFSC ACL datasets and include MRFSS and headboat landings data. NMFS Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2010.

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GMFMC)	Type	Fishery/Species, Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2012	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2012	
								Comm.	Rec.
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	R	Commercial - Red Drum	19	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	2	2
		Recreational	5,666 ⁵	n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶	EEZ Closed n/a ⁶	n/a ⁶		
Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	X	Commercial Grouper Red Snapper Other snapper Other species ⁷	3,165 1,831 1,555 409	917 (reef fish) 407 (red snapper) ⁸	longline, handline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/ year round ⁹ .	at-sea, gutted; shore-side processing	1	2
		Recreational Grouper Red Snapper Other snappers Other species ⁷	1,309 1,796 1,013 945	n/a ³ (1,378 for-hire vessel permits)	spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net	FMP area/ year round ^{4,9} .			
Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-All	61,565	1,582	trawl, butterfly net, skimmer, cast net	FMP area/ year round; annual TX closure; seasonal FL closure	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	2	
		Recreational	n/a ³	n/a ³	trawl	FMP area/ year round			
Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	C	Commercial ¹⁰	2,648	305 commercial 428 tailing FL: n/a ²	trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest	Florida/ Aug-Apr	tail separation at-sea; shore-side processing	1	1
		Recreational ¹⁰	558 ²	n/a ³	dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest	FL / 2-day sport-season in July, Aug-Apr			
Coral & Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial Octocoral ²	8,786 (4,715 Fed + 4,071 State)	12	hand harvest	South FL/ year round	fresh	1	
		Recreational	n/a ³	n/a ³	hand harvest				
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	X	Commercial King mackerel Spanish mackerel Cobia	2,293 2,237 81	1,512 2,147 n/a ²	gillnets, longline, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, purse net	Gulf & South Atlantic: Year round, commercial closures when quotas are reached	At-sea, gutted, Shore-side processing	2	1
		Recreational King mackerel Spanish mackerel Cobia	2,272 2,305 899	n/a ³ n/a ³ (1,403 Gulf for-hire vessels) (1,794 south Atlantic for-hire vessels)	bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear				

1 Number of vessels with active permits at the end of 2012.

2 Data from state of Florida.

3 Not Available (no federal permit or reporting requirements, except for-hire vessels).

4 Recreational fishery for red snapper in 2012 was closed from January 1 to May 31 and from July 17 through December 31.

A-iv GMFMC (continued) from preceding page:

5 State landings only.

6 Not applicable (fishery closed in federal waters).

7 Includes greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish, gray triggerfish, tilefishes, and hogfish.

8 Individual Fishing Quotas Program shareholders at the end of 2012.

9 Bottom fishing prohibited year-round on Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps; the Edges is closed to all fishing January through April. Recreational fishery for gag, red grouper, and black grouper is closed February 1 to March 31.

10 Data from 2011-2012 fishing season.

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) datasets produced by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL, and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the SEFSC ACL datasets and include MRFSS, TPWD, and headboat landings data. NMFS Southeast Region, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2012.

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)

A-V CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CFMC)	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2012	Vessel permits ¹	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2012	
							Comm.	Rec.
Spiny Lobster	Commercial	96 ⁴ (PR) 77 (USVI)	n/a	trap/pot, dip net gillnet, snare	year-round	fresh, landed whole	1	
	Recreational	n/a ²	n/a	dip net, trap, pot	year-round			
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, other reef species)	Commercial	421 ⁴ (PR) 343 (USVI)	n/a	longline, hook and line, trap, pot,	area closures ³ , seasonal closures for numerous snappers and groupers;	gutted at-sea, shore-side processing	2	1
	Recreational	97 ² (PR) n/a ² (USVI)	n/a	dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear	prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau and Goliath groupers			
Coral Reef Resources	Commercial Stony Corals Gorgonians Live Rock Other Invertebrates Algae Seagrasses	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	year-round	live, fresh		
	Recreational	n/a ²	n/a	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest				
Queen Conch	Commercial	118 ⁴ (PR) 17 (USVI)	n/a	hand harvest (no hooka)	closed year round (no harvest) in EEZ except east of St. Croix (portion of Lang Bank) where it is closed seasonally each year July through September	live, landed whole in shell, shore-side processing		
	Recreational	n/a ²	n/a	hand harvest (no hooka)				

¹ Not applicable (no permits required).

² Recreational landings are only available for Puerto Rico and are collected by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey. Spiny lobster, coral reef resources, and conch are not collected in the survey.

³ Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gill nets, and trammel nets is prohibited year-round at Grammanik Bank and at various mutton snapper and red hind spawning aggregation sites. Fishing for any species is prohibited year-round within Hind Bank Marine Conservation District.

⁴ 2012 Puerto Rico landings are not complete.

Sources: Puerto Rico and USVI landings were obtained from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) in Miami, Florida. Puerto Rico commercial landings are from the Accumulated Landings System at the SEFSC.

A-vi PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (PFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	2012 Landings (salmon in # of fish, others in metric tons)	2012 Permits (Vessels) & Angler Trips	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2012	
								Comm.	Rec.
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California ²	X	Commercial Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Recreational Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	382,240 41,168 0 56,535 47,623 0	CA Troll 1,150 OR Troll 1,003 WA Troll 157 183,031 Angler Trips	Troll; hook and line,	WA, OR & CA/ variable dates by area	headed & gutted; fillets; fresh & frozen	0	3
Pacific Coast Groundfish ¹	X	Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish All groundfish Recreational Groundfish	159,235 11,313 4,797 183,408 2,684	Limited Entry: 323 vessels registered to a LE permit Open Access: (599 vessels landed more than 100 pounds of groundfish) 813,000 Boat Based Trips targeting groundfish	trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen	3	3
Coastal Pelagic Species ³	C	Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy	66,817 2,104 314 129,909 1,284	Federal Limited Entry south of Point Arena 65 State Limited Entry north of Point Area- 36	purse seine	CA - year round OR and WA - summer	human consumption bait meal and oil	1	
Highly Migratory Species ⁴	X	Northern albacore Other tunas Swordfish Sharks	11,855 35 367 117	1,970	Surface hook-and line Coastal purse seine Harpoon Drift gillnet High Seas longline	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	Fresh, frozen, canned Human consumption		4

1/ Pacific Coast groundfish fishery data was extracted directly from the PacFin data system (commercial), RecFIN, and Final EIS for 2007-08 Pacific Groundfish Fishery (Recreational).

2/ "Review of 2008 Ocean Salmon Fisheries:" (February 2009; Pacific Fishery Management Council).

3/ SWR estimates from PacFIN.

4/ SWR estimates from PacFIN.

A-vii NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage 2012 (metric tons) ¹	Fishermen & Crew ²	Gear	Fishing Areas and Seasons	Processing	Participants/Representatives in 2012 ⁴	
								Comm.	Rec.
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	101,355 56,621 29,620 27,325 11,953 1,188 5,850	1,244 Federal Fishing permits 1,110 LLP permits (some Interim)	trawl; pot; hook & line; jig	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	1,206,250 245,665 291,905 28,117 1,946 47,825 31,536	572 Federal fishing permits 507 LLP permits (some Interim)	trawl; pot; hook & line; jig	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI	C	King Crab Red king crab Golden king crab St. Matt. Blue King Crab Tanner Crab <u>C. opilio</u> (snow) <u>C. bairdi</u>	3,204 (red) Confidential (golden) 659 (SMB) 27,042 (snow) closed(bairdi)	503 Quota Share holders for IFQ crab 347 LLP permits (some Interim)	Pot	Deferred to State; generally November and winter months; LLP permits have fishery endorsements for minor crab species.	cooked; refrigerated; frozen	3	
Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters	C	Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Sockeye salmon Chum salmon	1,179 3,151 271 8 2,177	964 permits fished	Troll ³	Deferred to State; generally West area is closed; southeast area time area limits.	fresh; gutted & gilled; glazed; frozen; canned; smoked		1
Scallop Fishery off Alaska	C	Weathervane scallops (no directed fisheries occur for other scallop species listed in the FMP)	207	9 LLP permits	Dredges	Deferred to State; Time and area openings are adjusted inseason	hand shucked and frozen or iced		

§ 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 2012, the commercial fishing season for halibut in and off Alaska runs from March 17 through November 7. The total commercial catch of halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs through November 7, 2012 was 11,237 mt, net weight, about 97 percent of the available quota. At that date, about 309 mt of Pacific halibut remained. For Pacific halibut, 2,522 persons held IFQ Quota Share as of December 2012.

¹ 2012 salmon catch data are from the State of Alaska. These data represent 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 catch data for the BSAI crab fisheries are from the BSAI Crab Rationalization Program Report for Fishing Year 2011/2012 (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012), prepared by the Alaska Region, NMFS. Alaska scallop fishery catch data for the 2011/2012 season (July 1, 2011 to February 15, 2012) are from the State of Alaska. All other catch data are from the Alaska Region, NMFS, and reflect catch reports through December 31, 2012. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts. Miscellaneous groundfish species includes squid, skates, sharks, octopus, and sculpin.

²Data 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 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), initially effective in 2000, apply to all fisheries except crab fisheries brought under a new IFQ system in 2005, 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. In 2005, a new IFQ program replaced the LLP license requirement for most BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. A total of 490 distinct persons were initially issued one or more types of harvesting quota share for eight crab fisheries (managed as nine fisheries starting July 1, 2007); in the 2011/2012 crab year most IFQ crab was assigned to cooperatives; 133 distinct Hired Masters fished IFQ for 10 active permit holders (counting cooperatives, not members). Some LLP crab licenses were re-issued to authorize fishing not managed under the IFQ system. Of the approximate total 2,182 current LLP permits, most (1,835) authorized fishing for groundfish in the BSAI or GOA or both, and 347 still authorized fishing for BSAI crab species not under crab rationalization management; the remaining 9 were for scallop harvest. A number of permits were "interim" and will be revoked following final adjudication of claims. Also, a total of 841 persons held QS to harvest sablefish as of December 2011, 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 permits fished in 2010.

³Troll gear is the 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.

⁴ Columns not completed. In many cases, overlapping interests exist and defining the specific degree of Council representation on a specific FMP cannot be conclusively determined.

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)

A-viii WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WPFMC)	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2012 ¹	Vessels (permits) ²	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2013	
								Comm.	Rec.
Hawaii Archipelago (including Midway Atoll)	C/R	Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish	194(C) 495(R) ³	468 (C) Est. 313 (R)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except: a. Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) upon reaching annual catch limit b. Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) (closed) c. Hancock Seamounts (closed until pelagic armorhead is rebuilt)	fresh fish market	2	1
		Spiny and slipper lobster, Kona crab, deep-water shrimp	28	2	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except: a. NWHI (closed) b. MHI: (closed 5/1 - 8/31)	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	2	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except NWHI where fishery is closed.	shaped/polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	503 (C) 395(R) ³	1	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurpgun, spear	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Mariana Archipelago (CNMI & Guam)	C/R	Bottomfish	5 (CNMI) 3 (Guam)	12 (CNMI) 0 (Guam)	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish market	1	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	No data(CNMI) >1(Guam)	0 (CNMI) 0 (Guam)	traps hand	FEP Area/year round	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round	shaped/polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	28 (CNMI) 36 (Guam)	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurpgun, spear	FEP Area/year round	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
American Samoa	C/R	Bottomfish	3	No permits required	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closure within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	fresh fish market	0	1
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	>1	0	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closure within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	shaped/polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	23	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurpgun, spear	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of Rose Atoll	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Pacific Remote Island Areas (Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, and Wake and Palmyra Atolls)	C/R	Bottomfish	0	0	handline, rod and reel	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish market	0	0
		Spiny and slipper lobster, and deep-water shrimp	0	0	traps hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	flash frozen and live market		
		Precious corals (all species combined)	0	0	manned submersible, remote operated vessel, hand	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	shaped/polished		
		Currently harvested coral reef taxa, Potentially harvested coral reef taxa	0	0	hook and line, hand, net, trap, slurpgun, spear	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures within 12 nm of land	fresh fish and aquarium markets		
Pelagic	C/R	Commercial - Tunas - Swordfish - Other (inc. sharks) - Blue marlin - Mahimahi - Other billfish - Wahoo - Squid	13,880 1,295 1,513 477 947 536 466 2	181 (longline) 3 (troll/handline) 1 (squid)	longline troll/handline squid	FEP Area/year round, except for area closures around the Hawaii, Mariana and American Samoa Archipelagos	fresh fish market whole frozen for cannery	0	0
		Estimated Recreational (all species)	5,823(R) ³	n/a					

¹ Landing information was obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network databases at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/wpacfin> (accessed on November 26, 2013), and is primarily comprised of domestic commercial landings, but includes non-commercial (recreational and subsistence) landing.

² Vessel information was obtained from NMFS Pacific Islands Region Sustainable Fisheries Permits Program, except for Hawaii bottomfish and seamount groundfish, which is based on State of Hawaii commercial marine license and bottomfish vessel registration programs.

³ Where noted, recreational (R) fisheries landing information was obtained from NMFS Office of Science and Technology at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/stl/recreational/queries/index.html> (accessed on November 26, 2013)

SECRETARIAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
A-ix HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

A-ix HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES	TYPE	SPECIES/ SPECIES GROUP	LANDINGS 2012 MT = METRIC TONS WW = WHOLE WEIGHT DW = DRESSED WEIGHT	2013 VESSELS (PERMITS)	GEAR ⁷	FISHING AREAS/SEASONS ⁸	PROCESSING	2012 REPRESENTATIVES ⁹				
								COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	ACADEMIA/ ENVIROS	FMCs	IAC
Atlantic Billfishes ¹	R	White Marlin; Blue Marlin; Saifish; Longbill Spearfish (prohibited)	78.1 mt ww ² (comm dead discards)	Charter permits ⁵ Recreational permit ⁶	Rod & reel	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Calendar year	Sale prohibited	12	12	8	5	1
			19.6 mt ww ² (rec)									
Atlantic Sharks ¹	X	Commercial/Recreational -Large coastal (11 spp) -Pelagics (5 spp) -Small coastal (4 spp) -Prohibited (19 spp)	Comm ³ 1,091 mt dw 686LCS 102 Pel 303 SCS	LIMITED ACCESS ⁷ Commercial permits - 220 directed - 265 incidental	Longline; Gillnets; Rod & reel; Handline; Bandit	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Aggregated LCS regions: Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico; Calendar year	Fins exported; Carcasses/ cartilage to U.S. market	12	12	8	5	1
			Rec ^{3,4} 169.7 63 LCS 7.7 Pel 99 SCS	Charter permits ⁵ Recreational permit ⁶	Rod & reel; Handline		Sale Prohibited					
Atlantic Swordfish ¹	X	Commercial	3580.2 mt ww ² (includes discards)	LIMITED ACCESS Commercial permits - 185 directed - 152 incidental/ handgear	Longline; Buoy; Handline; Harpoon; Rod & reel; Bandit; Greenstick; Ottertrawl (incidental)	North and South Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico; Calendar year; North Atlantic directed semi- annual seasons: 1/1-6/30; 7/1- 12/31	Fresh/frozen U.S. market	12	12	8	5	1
		Recreational	70.8 mt ww ²	Charter permits ⁵ Recreational permit ⁶	Rod & reel; Handline	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea; Calendar year	Sale prohibited					
Atlantic Tunas ¹	X	Commercial Bluefin Yellowfin Bigeye Albacore Skipjack	4,035.3 mt ww ² 766.8 2,381.9 599.1 279.5 8	Commercial permits - 252 Longline - 3,783 General - 14 Harpoon - 7 Trap - 3 Purse Seine (VTQ) Charter permits ⁵	Rod & reel; Purse seine; Bandit gear; Longline; Handline; Harpoon; Trap; Greenstick	Northwest Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico (No Directed Fishing for Bluefin Tuna), and Caribbean Sea; Calendar year	Bluefin: fresh foreign and U.S. market. Other tunas: fresh/canned foreign and U.S. market	12	12	8	5	1
		Recreational Bluefin Yellowfin Bigeye Albacore Skipjack	2,393.9 mt ww ² 148,71,727 269.7 145 103.5	Recreational permit ⁶	Rod & reel; Handline; Speargun (non- bluefin tuna)		Sale prohibited					

1. 2006 Final Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan.

2. Source: 2013 U.S. National Report submitted to ICCAT. Includes rod and reel recreational landings from the Caribbean

3. Source: 2013 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

4. Number of fish in thousands (not mt).

5. 3,698 Charter/headboat permits issued as of October, 2013. Required for all tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish fishing. These permits are considered commercial.

6. 21,686 recreational angling permits issued as of October, 2013. Required for all tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish recreational fishing.

7. Certain gear types may have restrictions, including time/area closures and gear modifications.

8. Seasons may close when quota is reached.

9. HMS Advisory Panel includes representatives of commercial and recreational fishing groups, academic, and environmental organizations, and one each from the U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee, Atlantic and Gulf states, and the New England, Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils. The numbers for tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks are not additive.