



# WHO ARE THE DECISION-MAKERS?

## COUNCIL = DECISION MAKERS

Council members balance

**COMPLEX SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION & DIVERSE PUBLIC INTERESTS**

while trying to make decisions for the overall benefit of the nation.

**15** COUNCIL members  
: 11 voting  
: 4 non-voting

### NON-VOTING MEMBERS: 4

- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Coast Guard



### VOTING MEMBERS: 11

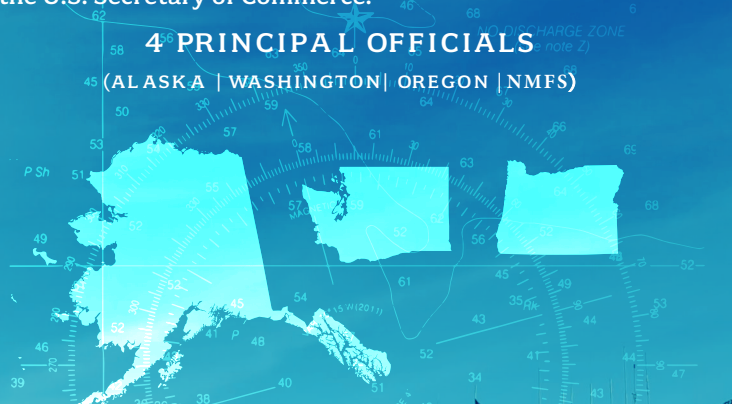
#### 7 APPOINTED SEATS

(ALASKA: 5 | WASHINGTON: 2)

Private citizens with fishery and marine ecosystem knowledge. Nominated by Alaska and Washington Governors and appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

### 4 PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS

(ALASKA | WASHINGTON | OREGON | NMFS)



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

*The Council appoints additional groups to review analyses, hear public input, and make recommendations.*

### ADVISORY PANEL

A diverse cross section of industry and community representatives provide stakeholder perspectives on each issue.

### SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

Technical experts in the biology, economics and social science of North Pacific fisheries and ecosystems.

### PLAN TEAMS

A team of scientists and managers who review stock assessments of groundfish, crab and scallop stocks.



### STAFF

An Executive Director, Deputy Director, technical staff and support staff facilitate the Council and advisory bodies. Technical staff prepare regulatory and management analyses, focusing on economics, social science, biology, ecosystems, and habitat.

### COMMITTEES

Committees are standing or ad hoc and focus on specific timely topics such as monitoring requirements or the IFQ fishery.



# WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL DO?

The Council, working with experts, stakeholders, staff and the public, is required to  
**BALANCE CONSERVATION, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL CONCERNS**  
with the intent of managing sustainable fisheries for  
**THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO THE NATION.**

## THE COUNCIL SETS AND CHANGES FEDERAL LAW



### MAGNUSON-STEVEN'S FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT { *the MSA* }

is the primary law governing fishery management in federal waters and allows the Council to:

- **SET** harvest quotas
- **SET** prohibited species catch limits
- **SET** gear/season/area restrictions
- **DESIGN** ecosystem and habitat protections
- **DEVELOP** community protections
- **CONSTRUCT** monitoring programs
- **CREATE** limited entry access privileges

**5**  
meetings  
A YEAR

**3** in Anchorage  
**1** in an AK fishing community  
**1** in Seattle or Portland

meetings last approximately  
**8 DAYS**

## WHAT REGIONS AND FISHERIES ARE MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL?

### INDUSTRY:

Trawl, longline, jig, pot and dredge fishermen; catcher vessels and catcher-processors

### STOCKS:

Groundfish (pollock, cod, flatfish, rockfish etc.), Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab, scallops, salmon, and halibut (allocations only)



The Council manages federal waters 3-200 miles.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A COUNCIL MEETING?

- 3 {
- Council
  - Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)
  - Advisory Panel (AP)

## GROUPS MEETING SIMULTANEOUSLY

The AP and the SSC are advisory bodies to the Council and represent scientific and stakeholder expertise. By meeting at the same time and place,

**THE PUBLIC IS ABLE TO ENGAGE WITH ALL OF THESE GROUPS** about management issues under consideration.

## WHAT'S THE MEETING PROCESS?

At each of the three meetings, **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN SIGN UP TO TESTIFY.**

*Signup sheets can be found on a table near the entrance, and staff are available to answer questions about the meeting process.*

### EACH GROUP:

1. Hears staff and advisory group reports
2. Takes public testimony
3. Deliberates
4. Makes a recommendation or takes an action.

## HOW DO I ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE?



➔ **SOME AGENDA ITEMS**, but not all, will be discussed by all three groups at one meeting, so each group agenda is a little different. Their schedules are staggered throughout the 8 days of the meeting so the public can participate fully.

➔ **SCHEDULES** can be found online and posted at the meeting, and also include a list of all associated public events for the week. The Council, AP and SSC use the same agenda, but scheduling is different among the three groups. The schedule lists the approximate timing for each agenda item as well as the location and meeting times.

➔ **IF THE ISSUE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN** is discussed multiple times, it is helpful to listen to the discussions at each group. Given the groups' different areas of expertise, discussion and public testimony can vary, and offer valuable insights into the scope of the Council's considerations.

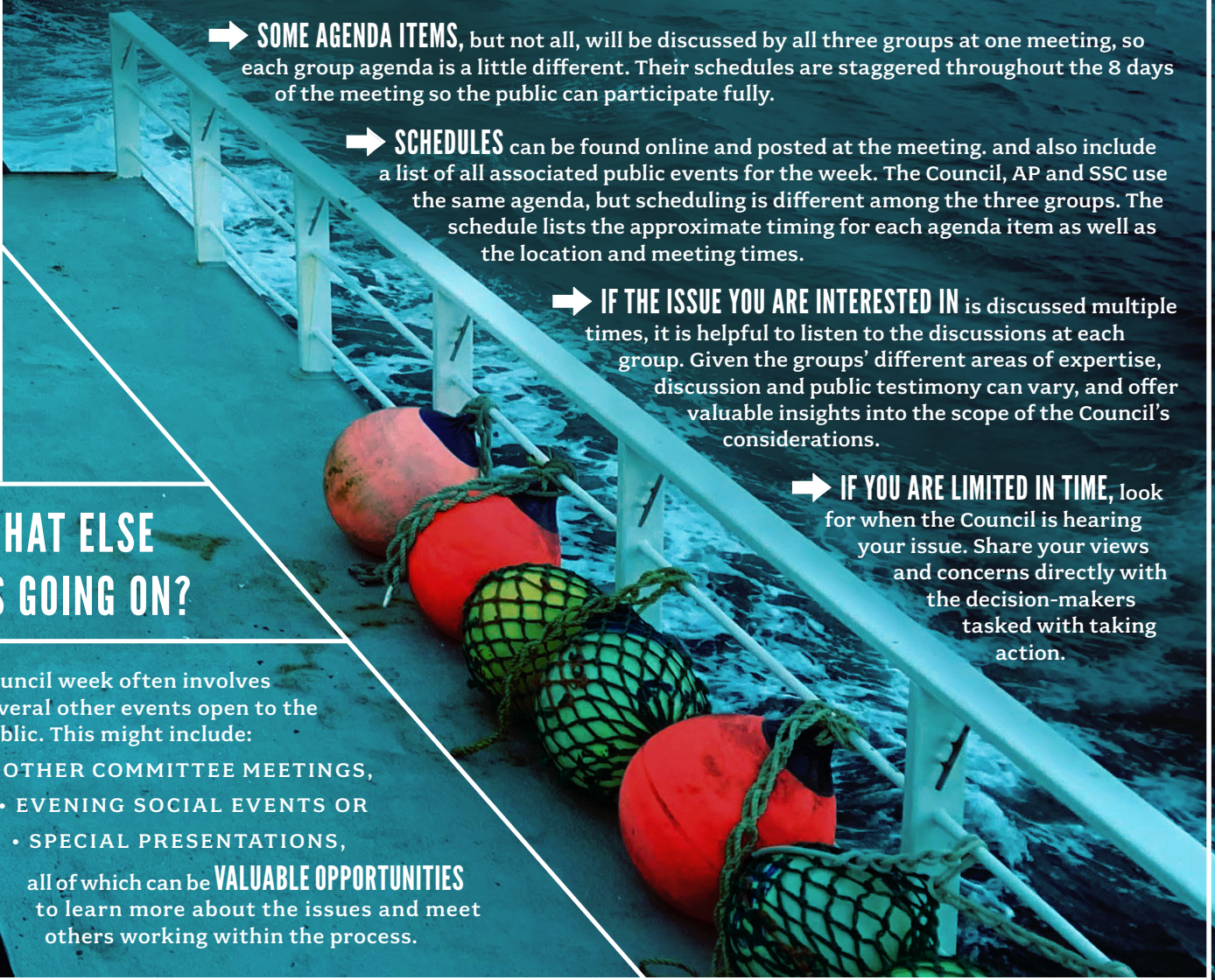
➔ **IF YOU ARE LIMITED IN TIME**, look for when the Council is hearing your issue. Share your views and concerns directly with the decision-makers tasked with taking action.

## WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

Council week often involves several other events open to the public. This might include:

- OTHER COMMITTEE MEETINGS,
- EVENING SOCIAL EVENTS OR
- SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS,

all of which can be **VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES** to learn more about the issues and meet others working within the process.





# FROM AN IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION

## THE COUNCIL PROCESS

is guided by federal laws and policies.

.....  
**IT TAKES MANY STEPS** to get from an **IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION**.

Each issue is reviewed at several meetings,  
and some issues are more complex and take longer.

**1** Most **IDEAS** can be brought to the Council during public testimony or through an advisory body. New issues are often raised up during Staff Tasking at the end of the meeting.

**2** **DISCUSSION PAPER** / Expanded Discussion Paper: The staff prepares a discussion paper to explore the scope of an issue and can help the Council develop alternative solutions. For very complex issues, several discussion papers may be needed to explore all components of an issue. Based on the discussion paper and public input, the Council adopts a problem statement and identifies several distinct alternatives for **ANALYSIS**. (Simpler issues may go directly to analysis and initial review.)

**3** **INITIAL REVIEW:** Staff prepares a draft analysis incorporating applicable laws, public input and development from earlier stages. Depending on feedback from the SSC, stakeholder advisory bodies and the public, the Council will determine whether the analysis is ready to advance to final action or needs more development.

**4** **FINAL ACTION:** Staff revises the analysis based on advisory body and Council recommendations. The public provides comment, and the AP makes a recommendation to the Council regarding a preferred alternative. The Council makes a final decision.

*The ability to comment is available at every stage.*

## APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

The National Marine Fisheries Service **PREPARES REGULATIONS BASED ON COUNCIL ACTION** and after a comment period and approval, new regulations take effect and are enforced.





# GET INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL PROCESS

## PUBLIC INPUT

One of the best ways to understand your engagement options is to **TALK TO PEOPLE** – introduce yourself to staff and members of the Council or advisory bodies and ask questions.

### 1 PREPARE

**VISIT** the Council website and look for your issues. The “Three Meeting Outlook” offers a long-term view of what’s ahead, while the posted agenda and schedule will help you prepare for an upcoming meeting.

**LEARN** the background of your issue. Read the review documents, and contact staff or members of the Council and advisory bodies with questions.

**TALK** to other stakeholders, managers, Council and advisory body members.

**SIGN UP** for Council newsletters and read about previous Council actions on your issue.

**JOIN** a group that represents your interests: trade organizations and gear groups are great ways to learn about, stay informed on and participate in the Council process.

### 2 SHOW UP

**ATTEND** a Council meeting in person or follow online.

**YOUR ISSUE** may be reviewed 1-3 times during a meeting: at the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Advisory Panel and the Council. Listening to an earlier discussion, including the staff reports and public testimony, can help you fully understand an issue.



### 3 PROVIDE COMMENTS

#### WRITTEN COMMENT

- ➔ Address your letter to the Council Chair or Executive Director.
- ➔ Identify who you are and your interest in the issue, then state a clear opinion and reasoning. Describe the next steps you’d like to see the Council take.
- ➔ Be concise, and generally stick to one subject per letter.
- ➔ Submit your comment through the e-portal on the Council website or mail it in before the deadline.

#### TESTIMONY AT THE MEETING

- ➔ Plan your testimony ahead of time — *individuals or companies get 3 minutes, organizations or associations get 6 minutes.*
- ➔ Start your testimony with your name and affiliation, if you have one, and how you are impacted by the issue.
- ➔ Know what stage the Council is at on this issue, and comment on their next steps. Give a clear and informed opinion.
- ➔ You may provide handouts or a power point to support your testimony (*coordinate with staff*).

## OTHER WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- ➔ **APPLY FOR SEATS** on committees or advisory groups. *Vacancies are announced in the Council newsletter.*
- ➔ **FOLLOW UP** with your issue. Find out what the Council did or what action they took.

