

# WHO ARE THE DECISION MAKERS?

## COUNCIL = DECISION MAKERS

Council members balance  
**COMPLEX SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION & DIVERSE PUBLIC INTERESTS**  
 while making decisions for the overall benefit of the nation.

### 16 COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### 3 NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- US Coast Guard
- US Department of State
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

### 13 VOTING MEMBERS

#### 8 APPOINTED SEATS

(AT LEAST 1 MEMBER FROM EACH ISLAND AREA: AMERICAN SAMOA, CNMI, GUAM, HAWAII')

Private citizens with fishery and marine ecosystem knowledge. Nominated by American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and Hawai'i Governors and appointed by the US Secretary of Commerce.

## HOW DOES THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WORK?

The Council hires staff and appoints advisory groups to review analyses, hear public input and make recommendations.

### STAFF

The Council's executive director carries out the tasks assigned by the Council and, with the senior scientists and program officer, directs and oversees the technical and support staff. Technical staff prepare regulatory and management analyses, focusing on biology, economics, social science, ecosystems and habitat. All staff engage in education and outreach activities to encourage participation in the Council's process.

### SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

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

### PLAN TEAMS

Scientists, managers and industry representatives who review stock assessments of the region's bottomfish and seamount groundfish, coral reef ecosystem, crustaceans, pelagic and precious coral fisheries.

### ADVISORY PANEL

A diverse representation of fishing industry and community groups who provide stakeholder views on each issue.

### FISHING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commercial fishing and seafood industry representatives who assist in developing fishery management plans.

### OTHER ADVISORY GROUPS

Ad hoc groups, such as committees on education, fisheries data collection and research, and social science, that provide comments on relevant issues being considered by the Council and bring up new topics for consideration.



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