

GET INVOLVED IN OUR COUNCIL PROCESS

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS to understand your engagement options is to **TALK TO PEOPLE** - introduce yourself to members of the Council, its staff or advisory bodies and **ASK QUESTIONS**.

1. PREPARE

LEARN about the background of your issue, the Magnuson Stevens Act and the National Standards, which are the backbone to the fishery ecosystem plans and amendments.

VISIT the Council website, review documents and look for previous Council actions on your issue. Agendas are posted in advance of the meetings and will help you prepare.

TALK to other interested parties and members of the Council, its staff and advisory bodies about new or existing issues.

SIGN UP for the Council email list to receive the latest news.

JOIN a group that represents your interests: trade organizations, fishing associations and boat clubs 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 prior to the meeting—at the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Advisory Panel and other advisory bodies. 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, your interest in the issue and if you represent a group, and 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 by regular mail or email during designated comment periods announced in the *Federal Register* and local ads.

TESTIMONY AT THE MEETING

- Plan your testimony ahead of time—you will have 3 minutes to speak.
- 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 its next steps. Give a clear and informed opinion.
- You may provide handouts or a digital slideshow to support your testimony (coordinate with staff).

OTHER WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- **APPLY FOR SEATS** on the Advisory Panel. Vacancies are announced on the Council website.
- **FOLLOW UP** with your issue. Find out what the Council did or what action it took.
- **IF A FISHERMAN**, provide data.



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