

Taken from - PART 601—REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

§601.22

(d) Scientific and statistical committee. Each Council shall establish and maintain, and appoint the members of, a Scientific and Statistical Committee to assist it in the development, collection and evaluation of such statistical, biological, economic, social and other scientific information as is relevant to such Council's development or amendment of any fishery management plan. The Council is authorized to pay the actual expenses of such Committee members while engaged in Council business.

(1) Committee function. The Scientific and Statistical Committee provides expert scientific and technical advice to the Regional Council on the development of fishery management policy, on the preparation of fishery management plans, and on the effectiveness of such plans once in operation. The Committee aids the Council in identifying scientific resources available for the development of plans, in establishing the objectives of plans, in establishing criteria for judging plan effectiveness and in the review of plans.

(2) Committee organization. The members of the Committee and a Chairman are appointed by the Council. Membership shall be multidisciplinary, including both biological and social scientists from the Federal, State, and private scientific community who are knowledgeable about the fisheries to be managed. The size of the Committee is discretionary within the resources budgeted to the particular Council. The Committee shall meet in the area encompassed by the Council's constituent States, with the approval of the Chairman of the Council. No staff is assigned to this Committee but staff support may be requested from the Chairman of the Council or the Executive Director.

(e) Fishery advisory panels. Each Council is authorized to establish such other advisory panels as are necessary or appropriate to assist it in carrying out its functions under the Act. The Councils are authorized to pay the actual expenses of the members of such panels while engaged in the performance of Council business.

(1) Panel function. Fishery Advisory Panels are authorized principally to obtain the pragmatic advice and counsel of the people most affected by, or interested in, Council matters of fishery management policy; on the preparation of fishery management plans; on their review prior to submission to the Secretary; and on their effectiveness once in operation.

These Panels aid the Council in establishing both the goals and objectives of plans as well as the criteria for judging plan effectiveness, and serve as a communication link with those who must operate under the management regime.

(2) Panel organization. The members and a Chairman are appointed by the Council. The membership of each Panel shall be composed of a balanced representation of the interests of those who are either actually engaged in the harvest, processing or consumption of, or are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of, the applicable fishery or stock(s) of fish. The size of each Panel is discretionary within the resources available to the particular Council, but each panel must be of sufficient size and number to permit a balanced representation of interests. It is suggested for the purpose of minimizing administrative requirements that each Council establish one broad-based advisory panel. Subpanels may be used to provide advice on individual fisheries on unique fishery resources under Council consideration. The Panels shall meet in the area encompassed by the Council's constituent States as deemed necessary by the Council Chairman. No staff is assigned to these Panels, but staff support may be requested from the Chairman of the Council or the Executive Director.

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