

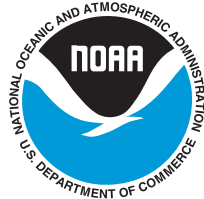
NMFS Northwest Fisheries Management Branch

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NMFS Southwest Fisheries Management Branch

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Long Beach, CA 90802-4213
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Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Who is Responsible for Managing Our Marine Fish?



There are four basic agencies involved in the management of our marine fish:

Departments: DFW/G - State Management and Enforcement
Council: PFMC – Develops and Authorizes Management Plans
Fisheries Service: NMFS - Federal Management Oversight
Commission: PSMFC- Data Gathering and Reporting

You may encounter personnel from one of these agencies, but they may be unaware of the other agencies and how they work together. There are thousands of people employed by these agencies, but only a few directly participate in the management process. This information is provided to all persons who want to know more about who is involved in management so that they may interact with them in a constructive way.

Who are the agencies involved?

Departments - State Departments of Fish and Wildlife/Game (DFW/G's) are primarily responsible for management of fishery resources within state waters. Each state fish agency formulates general state programs and policies concerning management and conservation of fish resources and establishes seasons, methods and limits for harvest. In most states this is done in concert with a governor-appointed commission. The states are required to carry out their own plans as well as those under the authority of the Council (PFMC).

Council - The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) was authorized by an act of Congress to develop fishery management plans. Membership on the Council is set by law to include government and industry leaders and a host of fishing industry advisors. The Council coordinates an interactive planning process involving technical teams, an independent scientific committee, constituent advisory panels, enforcement officials, legal counsel, management agencies, and the public to develop federal fishing regulations in the 200 mile United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Fisheries Service - The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required by several acts of Congress to provide scientific and technical services and products to support the marine fisheries management and conservation operations of the United States. The Fisheries Service carries out federal fishery acts by coordinating and approving fishery management plans, implementing regulations and promoting other activities that conserve and protect the marine resources within the 200-mile United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Commission - The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) was authorized by an act of Congress and includes the Pacific coastal states from Alaska to California. Membership in the Commission is set by law to include government and industry leaders and a host of fishing industry advisors from each state. The Commission has no management authority. It coordinates data collection, research, funding and addresses issues of concern regarding fisheries amongst its member states. The Commission provides project coordination for catch monitoring of both sport and commercial fisheries.

Who will listen to me?

To whom you should talk depends on what level of government control your issue concerns. Overall, the best place to make yourself heard on management issues is through the Council process. The Council offers several public meetings as well as opportunities to provide public testimony in writing. Each of the state departments and commissions also accepts public testimony in person at meetings and in writing. You may also work indirectly through one of many public membership organiza-

tions who represent various public concerns at these meetings and through letter writing. Remember that these people are not faceless bureaucrats. They are people just like you who will respect you and listen to you if approached in a reasonable way.

How do I contact these fish management agencies?

Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 Ambassador Pl. , Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Tel: 503-820-2280 Toll free: 866-806-7204
Fax: 503-820-2299
www.pcouncil.org
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California Department of Fish and Game - Marine Region

20 Lower Ragsdale Dr., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940
Tel: 831-649-2870
Fax: 831-649-2894
www.dfg.ca.gov
Contact: askmarine@dfg.ca.gov



Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife - Marine Resources

2040 SE Marine Science Dr
Newport, Oregon 97365
Tel: 541-867-4741
Fax: 541-867-0311
www.dfw.state.or.us
Contact: odfw.mrp-os2@state.or.us



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Fish Program

600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Tel: 360 902-2700
Fax: 360 902-2183
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