

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

SPORT FISHING AND BOATING PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP BALANCE PLAN

1. **Name.** Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is established as a non-discretionary committee, required by section 28001(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58), consistent with the goals of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. §§ 742a-742j), the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 777-777k), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 661-667e), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1801-1882). This Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (FACA) (5 U.S.C. Ch. 10). The role of the Council was expanded by Executive Order No. 12962 of June 7, 1995 (60 Fed. Reg. 30769, June 9, 1995), as amended by Executive Order No. 13474 of September 26, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 57229, October 1, 2008).
3. **Mission/Function.** The Council will advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce (Secretaries) on aquatic conservation and restoration endeavors in fresh, estuarine, and marine environments that benefit recreational fishery resources, enhance recreational boating, and encourage partnerships among industry, the public, and government to advance these efforts. The Council's duties are solely advisory and include duties such as:
 - (a) Providing advice that will assist the Secretaries in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and other applicable statutes;
 - (b) Fulfilling responsibilities established by Executive Order 12962, as modified by Executive Order 13474:
 1. Monitoring specific Federal activities affecting aquatic systems and the recreational fisheries they support, and
 2. Reviewing and evaluating the relation of Federal policies and activities to the status and conditions of recreational fishery resources;
 - (c) Providing advice that will assist the Secretaries in fulfilling responsibilities established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, including, but not limited to:
 1. Studying the impact of derelict vessels and identifying recyclable solutions for recreational vessels, and
 2. Reviewing the study from the Comptroller General of the United States that documents the impacts of nonmotorized vessels on waterway access points and the use of funding sources to improve access issues and provide nonmotorized boating safety programs, and identifying potential recommendations for the Secretaries based on that study;
 - (d) Recommending policies or programs to increase public awareness and support for the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund;

- (e) Recommending policies or programs that foster conservation, stewardship, and ethical practices in recreational fishing and boating;
- (f) Recommending policies or programs to address climate change and strengthen climate resilience by protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems and supporting biodiversity while maintaining or enhancing fishing and boating opportunities;
- (g) Recommending policies or programs to stimulate and expand angler and boater participation in the conservation and restoration of aquatic resources;
- (h) Recommending policies and programs to stimulate recreational fishing and boating opportunities for all Americans, and to remove barriers to access for youth, veterans, urban residents, and other underrepresented communities; and
- (i) Advising how the Secretaries can foster communication, education, and coordination among government, industry, anglers, boaters, and the public.

4. Points of View. Council membership, balance, and individual perspective and expertise are in large part dictated by the Council charter itself. To ensure balance, appointees will be selected from among, but not limited to, the following national interest groups:

- a. State fish and wildlife resource management agencies (two members, one a director of a coastal state and one a director of an inland state);
- b. Saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing organizations;
- c. Recreational boating organizations;
- d. Recreational fishing and boating industries;
- e. Recreational fishery resource conservation organizations;
- f. Tribal resource management organizations;
- g. Aquatic resource outreach and education organizations; and
- h. Recreational fishing and/or boating diversity-based organizations.

Appointed members will be senior-level representatives of their organizations and have the ability to represent their designated constituencies. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretaries. Discretionary members (i.e., those other than *ex officio* members) of the Council are appointed as representatives. Membership balance is not static and may change, depending on the work of the Council.

5. Other Balance Factors. The diverse membership of the Council assures perspectives and expertise reflecting the breadth of the Council's responsibilities, and, where possible, the Departments of the Interior and Commerce will also consider the ethnic, racial, and gender diversity and various abilities of the United States population.

6. Candidate Identification Process. We use a formal *Federal Register* notice; posting on agencies' websites; announcements in agencies' e-newsletters; widely circulated announcements, letters, and emails to relevant professional and trade associations, networks of partner and

stakeholder organizations, existing and former members, social media, and to partner agencies to solicit nominations for members and to ensure a robust and diverse pool of applicants.

The Council's charter describes very specific interests to be represented and explains that members will be senior-level members of their organizations and demonstrate professional or personal qualifications and experience relevant to the functions and tasks to be performed.

The Council may consist of no more than 19 members, including ex officio members. Discretionary members are appointed on a staggered term basis for terms not to exceed 3 years and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies on the Council may be filled in the same manner in which the original appointments were made.

7. **Subcommittee Balance.** All subcommittees report back to the Council and do not provide advice or work products directly to the Service, Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Department of Commerce. Although we will strive to achieve membership balance on subcommittees, they are not strictly subject to the same membership balance as the parent committee.
8. **Other.** None.
9. **Date Prepared.** 03/27/2023
10. **Name of Preparer.**
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