

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

**SPORT FISHING AND BOATING PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL  
CHARTER**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** 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. § 1001 et seq.). 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. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** 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.
4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the Council 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.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Secretaries through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).
6. **Support.** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council are estimated to be \$472,000 per year, including all direct and indirect expenses by both the Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and 2.0 Federal staff years support.

8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Council Coordinator, who is a full-time Federal employee of the Service, appointed in accordance with agency procedures. The DFO approves or calls all Council and subcommittee meetings, prepares and approves all meeting agendas, attends all Council and subcommittee meetings, adjourns any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chairs meetings when directed to do so by the Secretaries.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet approximately twice annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council is subject to biennial review and will become inactive 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council may consist of no more than 19 members, including ex officio members.
  - (a) Non-voting ex officio members include:
    1. The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
    2. The Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and
    3. The President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
  - (b) Discretionary members are appointed by the Secretaries on a staggered term basis for terms not to exceed 3 years. Appointees will be selected from among, but not limited to, the following national interest groups:
    1. State fish and wildlife resource management agencies (two members, one a director of a coastal state and one a director of an inland state),
    2. Saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing organizations,
    3. Recreational boating organizations,
    4. Recreational fishing and boating industries,
    5. Recreational fishery resource conservation organizations,
    6. Tribal resource management organizations,
    7. Aquatic resource outreach and education organizations, and
    8. 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.

- (c) Vacancies on the Council may be filled in the same manner in which the original appointments were made.
- (d) Discretionary members may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Council members must attend at least one Council meeting annually and cannot miss two successive meetings. Council membership may be forfeited if an appointee does not meet these attendance requirements.
- (e) The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be chosen from among the Council members by the Secretaries or their designees.
- (f) Non-Federal members of the Council serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal members and subcommittee members engaged in Council or subcommittee business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem expenses in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government Service under 5 U.S.C. § 5703.
- (g) Members shall not reference or otherwise utilize their membership on the Council in connection with public statements made in their personal capacities without a disclaimer that the views expressed are their own and do not represent the views of the Council, the Service, the Department of the Interior, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Commerce, or the U.S. Government.

### **13. Ethics Responsibilities of Members.**

- (a) **Federal Members.** Members who are appointed to the Council in their official capacity as Federal employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions.
- (b) **Non-Federal Members.** Non-Federal members of the Council and subcommittees are appointed as representatives and therefore are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, no non-Federal Council or subcommittee members will participate in any Council or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Departments of the Interior or Commerce or their bureaus and offices, including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation, in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.

- 14. Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed to compile information or conduct research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the agencies. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
- 15. Recordkeeping.** The records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Council, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved agency records disposition schedules. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), records presented to or prepared for or by the Council are available for public inspection and copying.



Secretary of the Interior

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Date

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Date Filed