

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CHARTER

THE SPORT FISHING AND BOATING PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

1. **Official Designation.** The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council).
2. **Purpose and Goals.** To conserve, restore, and enhance the quality, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of aquatic resources that support and increase recreational fishing opportunities nationwide, and to increase public awareness of the importance of aquatic resources and the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing and boating; the Department of the Interior (Department) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) believe that this can best be accomplished by seeking the advice of public and private sector entities through the establishment of an advisory committee. The advisory committee will be designated the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council) and will advise the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and the Director of the Service (Director) on issues that foster aquatic conservation endeavors to benefit recreational fishery resources and recreational boating, and that encourage partnerships between industry, the public, and government.
3. **Period of Time Necessary for the Council's Activities.** The Council is expected to exist into the foreseeable future. The Council will be rechartered every two years pursuant to, and in compliance with all requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
4. **Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Secretary through the Director.
5. **Support Services.** Support services for activities of the Council will be provided by the Service. A Coordinator for the Council will be an employee of the Service, appointed by the Director.
6. **Duties of the Council.** The Council's duties will include:
 - a. Assisting the Secretary to comply with the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j);
 - b. fulfilling responsibilities established by Executive Order 12962 of June 7, 1995, for Recreational Fisheries:
 1. monitoring specific Federal activities affecting aquatic systems and the recreational fisheries they support;
 2. reviewing and evaluating the relation of Federal policies and activities to the status and conditions of recreational fishery resources;
 3. preparing an annual report of its activities, findings, and recommendations for submission to the National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council;

- c. recommending policies or programs to increase public awareness and support for the Aquatic Resources (Wallop Breaux) Trust Fund;
- d. recommending policies or programs that foster stewardship and ethics in recreational fishing and boating;
- e. recommending policies or programs to stimulate angler and boater participation in the conservation and restoration of aquatic resources through outreach and education, and;
- f. fostering communication and coordination between government, industry, anglers, boaters, and the public.

7. **Estimated Operating Costs.** Annual operating costs of the Council are not to exceed \$400,000 for staff support, Council, delegate, and technical staff travel, meeting expenses, and products, and will be based on an annual work plan. Operating costs include two persons-years of staff support.

8. **Meetings.** The Council shall meet at the call of the Chair and at least twice annually from the date this charter is signed by the Secretary. Council meetings shall be open to the public. Notice of meetings and Council procedures shall conform to Section 10 of FACA.

A majority of the Council membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Meeting proceedings will be recorded and published.

9. **Composition of the Council.** The Council shall consist of no more than 18 members, or their designees, appointed by the Secretary. Two *ex officio* members will be automatically appointed:

- a. the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and;
- b. the President, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA).

The 16 remaining members will be appointed at the Secretary's discretion to achieve balanced representation for recreational fishing and boating interests. The membership will be comprised of senior-level representatives for recreational fishing, boating, and aquatic resource conservation. These appointees must have demonstrated expertise and experience in one or more of the following areas of national interest:

- c. the Director of a state agency responsible for the management of recreational fish and wildlife resources, selected from a coastal state if the President of IAFWA is from an inland state, or selected from an inland state if the President of IAFWA is from a coastal state.
- d. saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing;
- e. recreational boating;
- f. recreational fishing and boating industries;

- g. conservation of recreational fishery resources;
- h. aquatic resource outreach and education, and;
- i. tourism.

Vacancy. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the discretionary appointments, the Secretary may appoint a replacement pursuant to Paragraph 9, for the remainder of the applicable term.

Terms of Office. The term of office for discretionarily appointed members shall be two years. Council members may be reappointed. Council members must attend at least one Council meeting annually and cannot miss two successive meetings without being represented by a delegate at at least one of the meetings missed. Council membership will be forfeited if a discretionary appointee does not meet these attendance requirements.

Chairperson. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Council membership and shall serve two-year terms. Successive terms may be served. If the Chair becomes vacant for any reason, the Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair for the remainder of the term or until another Chair is elected by the Council.

Compensation. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation. Members or their delegates shall be allowed travel and per diem expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

- 10. **Subcommittees.** The Council may establish committees as deemed necessary. Such committees shall report to the Council.
- 11. **Designated Federal Officer.** The designated Federal officer shall be the Director or the Director's designee.
- 12. **Authority.** The Council is established in furtherance of 43 U.S.C. 1457 and the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a - 742j).



Secretary of the Interior

OCT 16 1997

Date Signed

Date Charter Filed