



# Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

3 Fort Wetherill Road Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

(401) 423-1920 Fax: (401) 423-1925

## Administrative Policies and Procedures of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

Adopted December 1, 2025

### A. Powers and duties of the Council

Pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §20-3-2 “Powers and duties”](#), the RI Marine Fisheries Council (council) shall serve in an advisory capacity only to the state and agencies of the state regarding marine fisheries issues and shall have the power and duty to advise the director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) in the exercise of his or her authority under this title for the planning, management, and regulation of marine fisheries on matters (except emergency rules adopted pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §42-35-2.10](#)), including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The manner of taking marine species from the waters of the state.
2. The legal size limits of marine species to be taken or possessed.
3. The seasons and hours during which marine species may be taken or possessed.
4. The numbers or quantities of marine species which may be taken or possessed.
5. The opening and closing of areas within the coastal waters to the taking of any and all types of marine species.
6. Marine fisheries licensing, including commercial, recreational and for-hire fisheries sectors.
7. Reviewing applications to the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) for permits to conduct aquaculture, and provide recommendations to CRMC on all such applications, in accordance with [R.I. Gen. Laws §20-10-5\(b\)](#).
8. Advise the director in the development of the rulemaking agenda for marine fisheries pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §42-35-5.1 “Rulemaking agenda”](#).

### B. Advice of the marine fisheries council

Pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-1-5.1 “Advice of the marine fisheries council”](#), the Director, in exercising authority under this title for the planning, management, and regulation of marine fisheries, shall request and consider in the record as applicable the advice of the council, and shall provide a written response to such advice.

### C. Quorum

A quorum shall comprise a simple majority of the active membership. A quorum is required for voting to take place. If a quorum is not present, the chair shall decide whether to cancel the meeting or hold the meeting for informational purposes only. No voting may take place

in instances of early departures that result in the loss of the quorum. The chair shall not be considered part of the active membership.

#### **D. Chair**

1. The Council chair shall be the DEM Director, or the Director's designee, pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-3-1](#).
2. The chair's principal role is to manage the agenda for the meeting and provide for an orderly flow of the meeting. The chair shall follow codes of parliamentary procedure (such as Robert's Rules of Order or the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure) to the extent necessary and appropriate.
3. The chair shall assure that a quorum is present at each meeting, call meetings to order, and manage the dialogue by the Council and comments from the public.
4. The chair shall inform the discussion only, and shall not advocate a position or vote.
5. The chair may excuse any person(s) deemed disruptive and, in the case of serious disorder or some other emergency, adjourn a meeting prior to completion.

#### **E. Vice-chair**

The Council shall elect a vice-chair, who shall serve as acting chair when the chair is unable to attend all or part of a Council meeting. When serving as chair, the vice-chair shall still be considered part of the active membership and retain the ability to vote at their discretion.

#### **F. Matters subject to a closed session**

Any disciplinary matters or panel membership decisions to come before the Council will be addressed during a closed session. Closed session participation shall be limited to the Council, relevant DEM staff, and any person(s) subject to disciplinary matters. Members of the public will not be admitted to a closed session and no public record will be documented.

#### **G. Meeting agenda/materials**

1. Agendas shall be developed by the chair in consultation with the Division of Marine Fisheries (Division).
2. Each agenda shall include approval of the agenda and past meeting minutes.
3. Each agenda shall provide for public comment on marine fisheries matters not on the agenda for that meeting. The Council may respond to any such comments and may elect to address the matter at a subsequent meeting, but shall not vote on the matter raised.
4. Meeting dates shall be noticed on the Division's listserv and calendar a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the meeting date. Meeting materials shall be provided in electronic format ("ePacket") and provided a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting. If shorter than two (2) weeks, the Council shall be notified and provided with as much information as possible prior to receiving the ePacket.
5. All Council meetings are open to the public. Announcement of meetings and agendas shall be noticed with the Office of the RI Secretary of State in accordance with [R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-6 "Open Meetings"](#), as well the Division's listserv and website. Paper copies of the agenda are posted at a minimum of two (2) locations.

## **H. Meeting preparation**

1. Council members shall respond in a timely manner to correspondence relating to the Council, including meetings, information requests, and industry feedback.
2. Council members are expected to attend Council meetings well prepared, including reading the ePacket, conferring with constituents at their discretion through the end of the public comment period, and forming opinions and positions on matters on the agenda in advance of the meeting.
3. Council members are encouraged to attend workshops, advisory panel meetings, public hearings, and any public meetings to aid them in forming opinions and positions on matters on the agenda. It should be noted that many of the items heard before the Council are presented, rationalized, discussed, and edited at the workshops and could provide insight for Council members in forming their positions.
4. Council members are encouraged to provide motions and supporting rationale to the chair in advance of the meeting.
5. Council members are expected to vote on the items heard before them, except in instances where a conflict of interest or other need for abstention or recusal may occur.

## **I. Role of the Division of Marine Fisheries**

1. The Division of Marine Fisheries (Division) shall provide administrative support to the chair and Council. Such support shall include, but not be limited to, the scheduling of meetings, preparing agendas and meeting materials, meeting announcements, preparing meeting minutes, data gathering and analysis, and preparing and presenting presentations.
2. Division staff shall assist Council members with drafting motions in advance of, and during meetings, in the best interest of efficiency. Pre-drafted motions reduce the chances of errors and allows Council members to focus on the intent of the motion.
3. The Division shall be provided opportunity for comment on all agenda items.
4. The Division, on behalf of and in coordination with the Director, is responsible for conducting the regulatory process pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35 “Administrative Procedures”](#) for all Division regulations.
5. The Division shall prepare the Council’s Annual Report pursuant to section (N) of this policy, and provide a draft for review and approval at a regularly scheduled meeting.
6. Division staff shall monitor advisory panel member attendance.
7. Division staff may make recommendations to the Council regarding member removal based on disruptive behavior, poor attendance, or other reasons as appropriate.

## **J. Rulemaking Processes Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35 “Administrative Procedures”**

The Division of Marine Fisheries, on behalf of and in coordination with the Director, is responsible for conducting the regulatory process pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35 “Administrative Procedures”](#) for DMF regulations. The following are the different regulatory processes utilized by the Division to adopt rules:

1. Regular rulemaking with a public hearing: Regular rulemaking with a public hearing is the most common method of rulemaking utilized by the Division, as follows:
  - a. A workshop and/or advisory panel meeting, as appropriate, is scheduled prior to publicly noticing proposed rules to solicit the public's feedback on regulatory proposals being considered by the Division, or proposals that have been provided by the public or industry in advance of the meeting. Meetings shall be announced on the Division's listserv a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date. The Division shall provide for agenda revisions to allow for additional proposals to be received and considered at the workshop.
  - b. Upon conclusion of the advisory panel meeting or workshop, the Division will provide additional time, not to exceed five (5) days, for the public or industry to submit additional proposals to be considered for the public notice. The Division shall consider all proposals discussed at the workshop, and received subsequent to the workshop, and determine which proposals will be publicly noticed. The Division is not bound to noticing any proposal made. If a proposal is not noticed, the proposer shall be notified by Division staff with rationale provided.
  - c. Upon noticing a proposed rule, the public notice is announced to advise the public of proposed regulatory action, including the thirty (30) day public comment period and hearing date.
  - d. Council members are encouraged to attend the public hearing; however, members are dissuaded from commenting at the hearing due to their subsequent role in deliberating on and providing advice to the Director on the same matter(s) being considered. Members who feel compelled to provide comment on a matter at a public hearing may do so, provided they recuse themselves from the subsequent Council deliberation and vote on the matter.
  - e. Council members shall refrain from communicating with, or considering oral or written comments offered by, members of the public after the close of the public comment period.
  - f. A Council meeting is scheduled approximately two (2) weeks after the close of the public comment period.
  - g. At the discretion of the chair, public comment on proposed rules at Council meetings shall be limited to the following circumstances:
    - i. A Council member's request.
    - ii. New and/or additional information has become available to the Department after issuance of the public notice.
    - iii. When a motion being considered by the Council includes rulemaking action different from the public notice.
    - iv. To provide the public opportunity to offer clarification on a motion being considered by the Council.
  - h. After the Council meeting, the Director renders the final decision, considering public comments, the Council recommendation, and staff recommendations. The Director's decision shall be provided in writing and made available to the public consistent with [R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-1-5.1 "Advice of the marine fisheries council"](#).

- i. Final regulations are filed with the RI Secretary of State, taking effect twenty (20) days from the date of the Director’s signature.
  - j. Lastly, a listserv is provided announcing the filing of the final rules.
2. Regular rulemaking without a public hearing: In limited instances, the Division may elect not to hold a public hearing, generally when timeliness is not critical and objections are not anticipated. The process is the same as regular rulemaking with a public hearing, however no hearing is held. A public hearing shall always be held if specifically requested by twenty-five (25) or more persons or an entity representing at least twenty-five (25) persons pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §42-35-2.8 “Public participation”](#) if requested within ten (10) days of the date of the notice.
3. Direct Final Rule: A Direct Final Rule (DFR) filed pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §42-35-2.11 “Direct final rule”](#) is an alternative to regular rulemaking, used in limited circumstances when matters are considered to be non-controversial or necessary for FMP compliance where timeliness to adopt the rule is important:
  - a. Public meetings (i.e., workshop, hearing, Council) are not held; however the proposed rules are publicly noticed including a 30-day public comment period, same as regular rulemaking. If during the comment period there is an objection made to the proposed rule, the DFR process is terminated, and the regular rulemaking process shall be initiated. In instances where an objection is received, the Division may elect to discuss the matter with the objector with the goal of withdrawal of the objection.
  - b. The proposed rule is noticed and the public is notified via the Division’s listserv. The Council is provided a separate notification (email) to assure they are aware of the proposed rule.
  - c. If no objection is received and upheld during the 30-day comment period, the rule is filed and becomes effective on the last day of the comment period (i.e., no additional 20 day “wait” period as with regular rulemaking). In lieu of a Council meeting and memo by the Director addressing the Council recommendations, the concise regulatory statement filed at the time of filing the final rule shall indicate that the Council did not object to the proposed rule.
4. Emergency rules: Pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §42-35-2.10 “Emergency rule”](#), the Director may file an emergency rule if the agency finds that “an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare or the loss of federal funding.”
  - a. Emergency rules must be first approved by the Governor’s Office.
  - b. The Council shall be notified of all emergency rules filed on or before their effective date, pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §20-2.1-9\(1\)\(vi\)](#).
  - c. An emergency rule may be effective for a period not exceeding one hundred (120) days; renewable once for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days. If the rule is to be maintained beyond one hundred eighty (180) days, regular or DFR rulemaking must be initiated.

5. Rulemaking exempted from R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35 “Administrative Procedures”:
  - a. Pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §42-17.1-2\(38\)\(i\)](#), the Director has the authority to adopt rules and regulations in Shellfish and Marine Life Management Areas *“addressing restrictions on the quantities, types, or sizes of marine species which may be taken in any individual management area, the times during which marine species may be taken, the manner or manners in which marine species may be taken, the closure of such areas to the taking of marine species, or any other specific restriction deemed necessary.”* Such rulemaking is exempted from R.I. Gen. Laws §[42-35-2.7 “Notice of Proposed Rulemaking”](#), [42-35-2.8 “Public Participation”](#), and [42-35.2.9 “Regulatory Analysis”](#), meaning there is no public noticing of proposed rules or official public comment period. Note that initial designation of any such area is by rule subject to Chapter 42-35; it is only subsequent rulemaking in the designated area that is exempt.
  - b. As no hearing or public comment period is provided for such proposed rules, opportunity for public comment shall be provided at the advisory panel and/or Council meeting. The chair may limit such public comment at their discretion.
  - c. After the Council meeting, the Director considers all public comments, the Council recommendation, and staff recommendations and renders a decision on the final rules to be filed. The Director’s decision shall be provided in writing and made available to the public pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §20-1-5.1 “Advice of the marine fisheries council”](#).
  - d. Final regulations are filed with the RI Secretary of State, taking effect twenty (20) days from the date of the Director’s signature.
  - e. Lastly, a listserve is provided announcing the filing of the final rules.

## K. Code of Ethics

1. Recusals: As a [state appointed official](#), Council members are subject to the provisions [R.I. Gen. Laws §36-14-7 “Interest in conflict with discharge of duties”](#). As such, a member may occasionally determine that he or she should recuse themselves from voting on and otherwise participating in the Council's consideration or disposition of a matter pending before the Council.
  - a. Council members shall recuse themselves when it has been determined that the member or any person within the member’s family or any business associate of the member *“has an interest which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties or employment in the public interest and of his or her responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, if he or she has reason to believe or expect that he or she or any person within his or her family or any business associate, or any business by which the person is employed or which the person represents will derive a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct monetary loss, as the case may be, by reason of his or her official activity”*. This section of the law outlines when such *“substantial conflict”* occurs and does not occur.
  - b. Class Exception: A Council member is not required to recuse him/herself if the subject matter/regulation impacts the Council member solely as a member

of a large group (or as a member of any significant class of persons within a group), and all persons within that group are impacted in the same way. For example, a Council member who is a commercial fisher and harvests summer flounder may participate and vote on a matter involving the regulation of summer flounder, as long as the provisions under consideration apply equally to all summer flounder harvesters. However, if the provisions under consideration affect the Council member's interest in a manner that is different from the rest of the group, then the exception doesn't apply, and the Council member should recuse him/herself. If a member is uncertain as to whether a given matter/regulation poses a potential conflict of interest, he/she should seek advice from the Council's legal counsel and exercise their best judgment in accordance with that advice.

- c. If a Council member deems it appropriate to recuse him/herself, the member must notify the Chair prior to Council consideration of the matter, ideally in advance of the start of the Council meeting, and in consultation with the Council's legal counsel.
  - d. During the meeting, when the agenda item is reached, the member should note, for the record, that he/she is recusing him/herself and will not vote on or otherwise participate in the Council's consideration or disposition of the matter.
  - e. If the Council member wishes to provide public comment on the matter, they may join the public in the audience and, at the behest of the Chair, may be recognized and offer public comment.
  - f. A Rhode Island Ethics Commission recusal form must be submitted within twenty-four (24) hours of the recusal, hand delivered or mailed to the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, with a copy to the Chair. The recusal form may be obtained from the Council's legal counsel or downloaded from the Rhode Island Ethics Commission's website.
  - g. A Council member recusal shall not affect the quorum of the meeting.
2. Financial statements required: Council members shall file with the Ethics Commission a financial statement complying with the requirements of [R.I. Gen. Laws §§36-14-16 "Financial statement to be filed"](#) and [36-14-17 "Content of financial statement"](#). Council members should receive notification directly from the Office of the RI Secretary of State when such statements are required to be provided.
  3. Prohibited activities: Council members are required to comply with [R.I. Gen. Laws §36-14-5 "Prohibited Activities"](#), which outlines those activities prohibited by Council members in the discharge of their duties as Council members.
  4. Disclosure of regulated business interests: Council members are required to comply with [R.I. Gen. Laws §36-14-18 "Disclosure of regulated business interests"](#).

## L. Advisory Panels

1. General:
  - a. Pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §20-3-8 "Establishment of advisory committees"](#), the Council may establish advisory panels as deemed appropriate to fulfill its responsibilities.

- b. Advisory panels may be established as long term committees, or ad-hoc, as determined to be necessary.
  - c. Panels shall consist of a minimum of six (6) and maximum of fifteen (15) members.
  - d. Penalties: No person may serve on an advisory panel if assessed a marine fisheries criminal or administrative penalty in the past three (3) years or has more than one marine fisheries violation (including any suspension or revocation of a commercial or recreational fishing license or permit or dealer's license, or any fine, donation, probation, imprisonment, or other filing, imposed administratively or by a court of law).
  - e. Meeting agenda/materials:
    - i. Meeting dates shall be noticed on the Division's listserv and calendar a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the meeting date. Meeting materials shall be provided in electronic format and provided a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting. If shorter than two (2) weeks, the panel members shall be notified and provided with as much information as soon as possible. Meeting materials shall be posted to the Division's website to be made available to the public.
    - ii. Advisory panel meetings are open to the public. Announcement of meetings and agendas shall be noticed with the Office of the RI Secretary of State in accordance with [R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-6 "Open Meetings"](#), with hard copies posted at a minimum of two (2) locations, and also noticed via the Division's listserv and website.
  - f. A quorum shall comprise a simple majority of the active membership. A quorum is required for voting to take place. If a quorum is not present, the chair shall decide whether to cancel the meeting or hold the meeting for informational purposes only. No voting may take place in instances of early departures that result in the loss of the quorum.
2. Panel Membership:
- a. The Council may appoint membership composed of recreational and commercial fishermen, dealers, individuals from recognized fisheries organizations or user groups, or individuals from other organizations that represent the public interest.
  - b. Council members shall not be eligible to serve as active membership on an advisory panel.
  - c. Population of the Advisory Panel:
    - i. Application required: Persons interested in membership on an advisory panel shall submit application to the Division on forms prescribed by the Director.
    - ii. For any advisory panel opening, a solicitation for advisory panel membership will be announced.
    - iii. No application shall be considered by the Council unless a solicitation is announced.
    - iv. A closed session of the Council will be held to approve advisory panel membership.
    - v. All advisory panel members shall be notified of their appointment within thirty (30) days of membership approval.

- vi. Alternate members: Advisory panel members may select an alternate member to serve in their stead when unable to attend a meeting. Interested persons seeking membership as an alternate shall provide application to the Division on forms prescribed by the Director. Applications shall be forwarded to the Council for their consideration during a closed session at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
  - vii. The Division may interview prospective applicants with the goal of providing a recommendation to the Council.
  - d. Attendance and communication: Advisory panel members are expected to attend each meeting unless unable to attend. Members shall be informed of prospective meeting dates a minimum of three (3) weeks in advance of the meeting. Members shall notify the chair in a timely manner if attending or not.
  - e. Meeting preparation:
    - i. Panel members shall seek to be knowledgeable on the agenda items in advance of the meeting, and form opinions and positions prior to the meeting, drawing upon input sought from a broad cross-section of interests from the fisheries sector or user group they represent.
    - ii. Panel members shall read meeting materials in advance of the meeting scheduled, with the goal of forming opinions and positions on matters on the agenda. Panel members are encouraged to confer with constituents in preparation of meetings and forming opinions and positions ahead of the meeting.
    - iii. Panel members are encouraged to provide motions and supporting rationale to the chair in advance of the meeting.
  - f. Removal from panel: Members may be removed from the panel by vote of the Council, for failure to appear at two (2) or more meetings without due cause and prior notification, for failure to appear at three (3) or more consecutive meetings, or for disruptive behavior.
3. Panel chair:
- a. The Council shall appoint one of its members to serve as the panel chair. If no Council member is able to serve, the Council Chair or a member of the panel may serve as the chair. If no Council member, Council chair, or panel member is able to serve, the Council may direct the Division to appoint a staff or other person, as appropriate, as the panel chair, in consultation with the Council. When Division staff are appointed as panel chair, they will only serve in this role until the position can be filled by a Council member, the Council Chair, or a panel member.
  - b. The panel chair's principal role is to manage the agenda for the meeting and provide for an orderly flow of the meeting. The chair shall follow codes of parliamentary procedure (such as Robert's Rules of Order or the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure) to the extent necessary and appropriate.
  - c. The panel chair shall assure that a quorum is present at each meeting, call meetings to order, and manage the dialogue and comments from the public.
  - d. The panel chair shall attend all Council meetings and provide a summary of the meeting minutes.

- e. The panel chair may excuse any person(s) deemed disruptive and, in the case of serious disorder or some other emergency, adjourn a meeting prior to completion.
  - f. Panel chair voting: The panel chair may inform the discussion, but shall not advocate a position, or vote.
  - g. Panel chair term limit: On an annual basis, the Council will review the panel chair position. The Council may choose to:
    - i. Maintain the current panel chair.
    - ii. Appoint another Council member to serve as panel chair if the current Council member serving as panel chair is no longer able or willing to serve as panel chair.
  - h. Panel chair alternate: When the panel chair is a Council member, and the panel chair is unable to attend a given meeting, the panel chair shall call upon another Council member to serve as an alternate. When serving as panel chair, the panel chair alternate may inform the discussion, but shall not advocate a position, or vote.
4. Role of the Division:
- a. The Division shall provide administrative support to the Advisory Panel consistent with that of administrative support to the Council pursuant to section (H) of this policy.
  - b. Division staff shall assist members with drafting motions in advance of, and during meetings, in the best interest of efficiency. Pre-drafted motions reduce the chances of errors and allows members to focus on the intent of the motion.
  - c. The Division shall be provided opportunity for comment on all agenda items.
  - d. Meeting minutes: Draft meeting minutes of each advisory panel meeting shall be reviewed by the Council at a subsequent meeting. Minutes shall be subject to modification to ensure accuracy and shall be subject to approval by the Council. Division staff shall post approved minutes to the Office of the RI Secretary of State in accordance with [RI Gen. Laws §42-46-6 “Open Meetings”](#).
5. Shellfish Advisory Panel:
- a. The Shellfish Advisory Panel (SAP) is an advisory panel established for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Council on all shellfish-related matters and regulations brought before the panel for consideration.

## **M. Aquaculture application review**

1. In accordance with [R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-10-5\(d\)](#), the Council is responsible for the review of publicly noticed aquaculture lease applications before the RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) for the purpose of providing a recommendation to the CRMC as to *“whether the aquaculture activities proposed in each application are consistent with competing uses engaged in the exploitation of the marine fisheries”*. No application shall be approved by the CRMC without consideration of recommendations by both the Director and the Council.
2. Prior to publicly noticing the application, CRMC staff will conduct a Preliminary Determination (PD) meeting to identify information needs and key issues to be addressed by the applicant. The Division, Council members, and SAP members

- should make every effort to review, and submit comment as deemed appropriate, to the draft proposal during the PD process.
3. Applications shall be brought before the SAP and Council upon conclusion of the publicly noticed comment period. Materials to be provided to the SAP and Council necessary to render a recommendation include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - a. The publicly noticed application.
    - b. A survey quantifying the biological resources and habitat information using a methodology approved by the CRMC staff and Division staff, in consultation with the Council.
    - c. Public comments received.
    - d. Any other relevant information as the SAP or Council may require.
  4. Prior to the Council's review and recommendation, all shellfish aquaculture applications before the CRMC shall be first presented to the SAP for review and recommendation. SAP recommendations shall be provided to the Council and the Council shall provide a recommendation to the CRMC.
    - a. The SAP and Council are not obligated to render a recommendation without the prerequisite information and may defer recommendation until such time that the information is provided.
  5. The CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator shall be informed of the Council's recommendation via written correspondence within fourteen (14) days of the date of the meeting where the recommendation was made.

## **N. Annual Report**

Pursuant to [R.I. Gen. Laws §20-3-2 "Powers and duties"](#), the council shall report annually by April 1 to the governor, the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, the chairperson of the house committee on environment and natural resources, the chairperson of the senate committee on environment and agriculture, and to the house oversight committee and the senate committee on government oversight, for the preceding calendar year regarding:

1. The advice it has given to state agencies, including specifically the DEM, on marine fisheries issues.
2. The response it received to the advice it gave.
3. Any findings or position it may have regarding the status and/or condition of marine fisheries; and
4. Any recommendations it may have for maintaining, improving, or changing laws, regulations, or management programs for marine fisheries.