

## Statement of Financial Interests For Regional Fishery Management Council Voting Members, Nominees and Members of a Scientific and Statistical Committee

### Who needs to file a financial disclosure?

You, because you were nominated by the Governor of a state or appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to serve as a voting member of a Regional Fishery Management Council (Council); or you are a nominee to or a member of a Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

### What is the purpose of a financial disclosure?

The duties and responsibilities of your position require you to file the Statement of Financial Interests to fulfill the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The purpose of this report is to assist you and NMFS in avoiding conflicts between official duties and private financial interests or affiliations. You may not vote on any Council decision that would have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest disclosed in your report. Under penalty of law, please ensure that the information you provide is complete and accurate.

### What must I disclose on this form?

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the disclosure of any financial interest in harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity that is being, or will be, undertaken within any fishery over which a Council has jurisdiction. This also includes employment with an entity that provides consulting, legal, or representational services relating to harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activities. You must disclose such financial interest held by yourself; your spouse, minor child, business partner; or any organization (other than the Council) in which you are serving as an officer, director, trustee, business partner, or employee. This does not include financial interests in entities engaging in scientific fisheries research.

### When do I need to file my financial disclosure?

**Nominees:** This form must be filed by each nominee for Secretarial appointment with the Assistant Administrator by April 15 or, if nominated after March 15, 1 month after nomination by the Governor.

**Members:** A seated voting member appointed by the Secretary must file this form with the Executive Director of the appropriate Council within 45 days of taking office; and must file an update with the Executive Director of the appropriate Council within 30 days of the time any such financial interest is acquired or substantially changed. All Council members must file this form annually by February 1<sup>st</sup> regardless of whether any information on the form has changed.

**SSC Nominees and Members:** Nominees to an SSC must file this form with the Regional Administrator for the geographic area concerned within 45 prior to appointment; and must file an update with the Regional Administrator for the geographic area concerned within 30 days of the time any such financial interest is acquired or substantially changed. All SSC members must file this form annually by February 1<sup>st</sup> regardless of whether any information on the form has changed.

### Questions?

If you have any questions about how to complete this form, please contact your Council Executive Director, NMFS Regional Office or the NOAA General Counsel for your Council.

## PENALTIES

Knowing and willful falsification of information required to be reported may subject you to criminal prosecution or subject you to civil penalties. It is unlawful for an affected individual to knowingly and willfully fail to disclose, or to falsely disclose, any financial interest as required by the Magnuson Stevens Act, or to knowingly vote on a Council decision in violation of this Act. In addition to the criminal penalties applicable, a violation of this provision may result in removal from Council or SSC membership.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

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Nominee or Member's Name (*Print last, first, middle initial*) Walker, EdwardName of Council or Council Committee Gulf CouncilType of Appointment (list Nominee or Member) MemberType of Filing:  Annual       Supplemental       Nominee

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**Instructions**

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1. Carefully read the questions for Parts 1-3 on the following pages.
2. In Part 1, you must answer "yes" or "no" for each question provided. If you select "Yes," check the box by any applicable financial interest from the list below the question and provide the appropriate detail explaining your selection. If you need more room to provide detail, please attach those pages to this form.
3. In Part 2, you must answer "yes" or "no" for each question provided. If you select "Yes," check the box by any applicable financial interest from the list below the question and provide the appropriate detail explaining your selection. If you need more space to provide detail, please attach those pages to this form.
4. In Part 2, if you select "I have no spouse, business partner, or minor children," you may skip the rest of Part 2 and move to Part 3. Answer Part 3, if necessary.
5. After you have completed the form, sign and date the form on the last page.
6. Submit the completed form to NMFS for Council nominees; to your Council Executive Director for seated Council members; or to the Regional Administrator for the geographic area concerned for SSC members or nominees.

**Paperwork Reduction Act**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The public reporting burden for this information, on this NOAA Form 88-195, is estimated to average 35 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of the Chief Information Officer (F/CIO), 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC #3, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

**Public Access to Information**

This form, as completed by seated members of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, will be retained by the Council, made available on the Council's websites, and made available for public review at reasonable hours at the Council's Office and at each public hearing or public meeting.