

**SSC MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENT PROCESS EXCERPT FROM SOPPs**

**2.5.2 Members and Chair**

Members appointed by the Councils to the scientific and statistical committees shall be Federal employees, State employees, academicians, or independent experts and shall have strong scientific or technical credentials, and experience.

Members and officers of the SSC shall be appointed for a period of three years without term limits and may be reappointed at the pleasure of the Council. Membership on an SSC is determined by the Council during a closed session of its Council meetings and is based on the application provided by the applicant as well as the Council members' knowledge of the applicant. Consideration for appointment may include the appropriate interest, experience, and past performance as well as other factors such as a record of fishery violations. SSC members serve at the pleasure of the Council and may be removed at any time without cause. Appointment of new members may be made during any Council session.

Each member of the SSC shall be treated as an affected individual for purposes of financial interest disclosure and recusal provisions for SSC members as specified in the Act. Statements of Financial Interest (SOFI) disclosures for SSC members will be reviewed annually by the Council prior to appointment, and when updated by an SSC member reporting any substantial changes in financial interest. SOFI disclosures will be kept on file by the Regional Administrator.

A Chair and Vice Chair for the Standing SSC shall be elected by its members or may be designated by the Council at its discretion from the membership of the Standing SSC. The Chair or Vice Chair shall preside when the SSC is convened and will be responsible for summarizing committee consensus when advice is requested by the Council.

**2.5.3 Administrative Provisions**

The SSC Chair or their designee will, at the request of the Council Chair, attend Council meetings to report on the SSC recommendations and rationale. (The SSC should attend and meet with the Council to the extent practicable.)

The procedural guidelines of Section 302(i)(2) of the Act (as amended) shall apply to the conduct of business at the meetings of the Council, advisory panels (APs), and SSCs. The Council's SSCs will meet with the approval of the Executive Director.