



Cover Story

Vol. 6 (2): December 2003

PLUNDERING THE PACIFIC

Paul Koberstein




Editor of [Cascadia Times](#)

[The cats who run the fishhouse](#)
[Who runs the Pacific Ocean?](#)
[Western Pacific council pushes plan to quash historic coral reserve](#)
[Marine animal casualties](#)
[How to speak "fisheries"](#)
[Science Friction](#)

Who runs the Pacific Ocean?

The 1996 Magnuson-Stevens Act established eight regional councils, including three in the Pacific, comprised of "individuals who, by reason of their occupational or other experience, scientific expertise, or training, are knowledgeable regarding conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest, of the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned."

Among the 38 members of the three councils that govern the Pacific, 22 represent commercial or recreational fishing interests, or about 58 percent. Another 15 represent state, federal or tribal agencies. The law does not require any of the members to represent conservation interests, and none do.

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council	Pacific Fishery Management Council	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Headquarters: Honolulu, Hawai'i	Headquarters: Portland, Oregon	Headquarters: Anchorage, Alaska
Jurisdiction: 200 miles surrounding Hawai'i, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands; and Palmyra Atoll, Kingman Reef and Midway, Johnston, Wake, Jarvis, Howland and Baker Islands; high seas	Jurisdiction: 200 miles off California, Oregon and Washington; high seas	Jurisdiction: 200 miles off Alaska in the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea; high seas
VOTING MEMBERS: Of 13 council members, 8 represent commercial or recreational fishing.	VOTING MEMBERS: Of 14 council members, 8 represent commercial or recreational fishing.	VOTING MEMBERS: Of 11 council members, 6 represent commercial fishing.
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal: 1 member Commercial Fishing: 4 members Recreational Fishing: 4 members State: 4 members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal: 1 member Commercial Fishing: 2 members Recreational Fishing: 6 members State: 4 members Tribal: 1 member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal: 1 member Commercial Fishing: 6 members State: 3 members Other: 1 member
Note: State members are from Hawai'i, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.	Note: State members are from California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.	Note: State members are from Alaska, Washington and Oregon.

