

## Council Member and Other Compensation

Voting Council members who are not state, local or federal employees are entitled to receive compensation at the daily rate for GS-15, step 7 of the General Schedule, while actually engaged in the performance of Council duties including travel as assigned by the Council Chairman.

Compensation is paid on a full day basis. The time is compensatory because the individual member is required to expend a significant amount of personal effort that substantially disrupts his/her daily routine to the extent that a work day is lost to the member. Members will not receive compensation unless present at a meeting for at least ½ day. Homework time in preparation for formal Council meetings is not compensatory.

**Authorization** The Executive Director has extended blanket authority to compensate Council members for attendance at regular meetings of the Council and its oversight committees, as well as meetings of the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Compensation will not be paid for attendance at regular committee meetings if a member is not assigned to that specific committee, nor will compensation be paid to members attending public hearings.

Compensation is authorized if an eligible Council member chairs a public hearing, and when a committee chairman attends an authorized PDT or Advisory Panel meeting. Compensation is also authorized for the designated liaison to Mid-Atlantic Council to attend Mid-Atlantic Council and committee meetings.

Eligible Council members may be authorized for compensation for other activities such as working group sessions of species oversight and other regular committees of the Council, ad hoc committee meetings, and participation in meetings or Council-related work when members are assigned by the Council Chairman to such activities.

**Consultants** Compensation for experts and consultants retained by the Council shall be paid at the same rate as Council members unless a different rate is specifically negotiated. The Council Chairman must authorize the use of experts or consultants. Approval authority in this category may be delegated to the Executive Director at the Chairman's discretion. Requests for authorization of compensation for outside experts may be submitted directly to the Chairman or through the Executive Director.

**Limitations** Any requests for compensation for activities that were not properly authorized in advance will be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration before the Chairman makes a decision regarding payments.

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Council members are paid under a contractual arrangement; therefore, social security and federal and state income taxes are not withheld from the payment of compensation for services.

**Certification** Authorization for compensation will be indicated on the Travel Authorization issued for each meeting by placing an asterisk after the name of each person who is entitled to be compensated. To be eligible for compensation, authorized members must sign an attendance sheet which is provided at each meeting. To be paid, members must submit a *Travel Reimbursement Voucher* which covers claims for both travel and compensation.