

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Situation: The Legislative Committee will meet October 28, 2002 to review several federal legislative issues currently being considered by Congress. Provisions for individual fishing quota (IFQ) programs have received a great deal of attention recently. The current moratorium on developing new IFQ programs ended on September 30, 2002. It is uncertain whether legislation will be introduced to extend the moratorium. Senators from Oregon, Washington, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida have sent a letter to the Senate Commerce Committee opposing efforts to extend the moratorium nationwide (Exhibit H.1, Attachment 1). It is also uncertain if legislation will be introduced that would provide for development and implementation of IFQ programs.

The Fisheries Research Improvement Act (S. 2972) was introduced on September 19, 2002. This bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act would establish peer review of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) stock assessment data collection procedures; establish a national cooperative research program among fishing industry participants, states, and NMFS; and provide for extending the rebuilding time period at Section 304(e)(4)(A)(ii) of the act.

The Legislative Committee will provide a summary report to the Council, which might include recommendations for Council actions.

Council Action:

1. Consider Council response to legislative issues.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit H.1, Attachment 1.
2. Exhibit H.1.b, Supplemental Legislative Committee Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Legislative Committee Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Council Response to Legislative Issues

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