

STAFF SUMMARY OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN THE 114TH U.S. CONGRESS

A summary of recent Federal legislation is attached. This summary is intended as a general overview for discussion purposes. Full text of these bills, with background information and current status, can be found at the Library of Congress website (<http://thomas.gov>) or at <http://govtrack.us>. These summaries are primarily from the GovTrack.us website, further summarized by Council staff. See the attached report for a summary of other bills in the current Congress.

Status of MSA Reauthorization

HR 1335: Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act

- **Introduced by** Don Young (D-AK) on March 4.
- **Status:** Passed the House on June 1.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 15%

HR 1335 is addressed in detail in Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachments 2, 3 and 4.

The Obama Administration has issued a policy statement saying that it strongly opposes HR 1335 “because it would impose arbitrary and unnecessary requirements that would harm the environment and the economy” (Agenda Item F.1., Attachment 9). The main reasons for the opposition are the claims that:

- H.R. 1335 would undermine the use of science-based actions to end and prevent overfishing by setting rebuilding targets that are not based on sound, credible science, and that unnecessarily extend the time to rebuild fisheries, introducing ambiguous provisions that could improperly extend rebuilding periods.
- H.R. 1335 would exempt fishery management actions from the requirements for environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act and replace them with a new set of standards. The statement reads that “This provision is unnecessary, as the regional fishery management councils have integrated environmental analyses into an overall framework that is both timely and effective.”
- The provisions regarding the Endangered Species Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and the Antiquities Act are unnecessary and likely to give rise to confusion, delay, and the potential for litigation.

The statement notes that NOAA’s revised National Standard guidelines would ameliorate many of the concerns that H.R. 1335 seeks to address.

S 1403: Florida Fisheries Improvement Act

- **Introduced by** Marco Rubio (R-FL) on May 20.
- **Status:** Introduced and referred to committee.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 8%

Despite its title, S 1403 is a broad MSA reauthorization bill that would affect all Councils. The bill is addressed in detail in Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachments 3 (revised), 4 (revised), and 10. The bill draws from the previous Begich/Rubio discussion draft introduced in the 113th Congress.

Among other provisions, the bill adjusts rebuilding timelines, requires stock assessments for all FMP stocks (unless specifically exempted by the Secretary), creates exceptions for ACL requirements, and calls for greater incorporation of data from non-governmental sources.

HR 1826: Fishing Economy Improvement Act

- **Introduced by** Gregorio Sablan (Guam) on April 15.
- **Status:** Introduced but superseded by HR 1335.

This bill to reauthorize the MSA has been superseded by HR 1335; however, since these themes may reappear in a future MSA reauthorization bill, they are included here. The bill would:

- Define artisanal fishing and marine aquaculture.
- Ensure participation of U.S. territories in managing highly migratory species.
- Create shoreside fishing support grants as in HR 2012.
- Call for Councils to minimize staff travel as much as possible through the use of electronic communication (webinars), including for voting.
- Require the Secretary to determine that a fishery resource disaster exists for fisheries originating within California's Central Valley.
- Create essentially the same cooperative research program and A/V reporting requirements as HR 1335.
- Require Commerce, EPA and other agencies to submit report detailing a framework for permitting and regulating marine aquaculture, and recommending ways to ensure that such operations do not harm fisheries or ecosystems.
- Name the Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund after Zeke Grader.
- Amend the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act to ensure representation of the U.S. Pacific territories, and make other changes aimed at increasing the influence of U.S. Pacific territories.
- Require a report on the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council accounting for all grant money received and distributed for the last 10 years, and involvement of Council staff in submitting petition to remove green sea turtle protections under the Endangered Species Act.
- Retain state management of Dungeness crab authority.
- Require Commerce to work with the U.S. Digital Service to modernize and streamline NMFS' fishery data collection, processing, storage, etc.

HR 1207: Healthy Fisheries through Better Science Act

- **Introduced by** Robert Wittman (R-VA) on March 2.
- **Status:** Introduced; superceded in House by HR 1335; similar provisions included in S 1403

This bill would amend the MSA to require stock assessments on all fish managed under a Federal fishery management plan within 3-5 years, unless the Secretary determines such a stock assessment is not necessary. Includes measures to broaden the scope of data used in managing fisheries. Requires a cost reduction report from each Council identifying program goals and methods and discussing their cost-effectiveness.

HR 2012: To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to authorize competitive grants to support programs that address needs of fishing communities.

- **Introduced by** William Keating (D-MA) on April 23.
- **Status:** Introduced but superceded by HR 1335.

This bill would create a competitive grant program to address the needs of fishing communities by providing health promotion and disease prevention services, financial planning education, supporting positive community response to tragedies at sea, and workforce development training. Any entity that provides shoreside support would be eligible. Requires the Secretary to conduct a demographic survey of commercial fishermen and their families to identify needs of fishing communities that can be addressed through the program.

Observer Harassment and MSA Language

Recently, staff from the National Observer Program talked with Council staff about a recent case in which a deck boss was accused of assaulting, impeding and interfering with a West Coast Groundfish Observer Program observer. A judge in the U.S. District Court in Portland heard the case and ruled that while the deckboss did berate the observer and jabbed him with his finger, his actions did not rise to the force sufficient under the MSA.

The judge's ruling raised concern both for observer safety and for the quality of observer data if crews are allowed to interfere with the sampling. Observer Program staff indicated that removing the word "forcibly" from MSA language (Sec. 307(b)) in the next reauthorization would eliminate this case from being a precedent in future harassment cases. Council staff recommended this issue be brought before the Legislative Committee and other Council advisory bodies for discussion.

Other Noteworthy Congressional Action since March

HR 1060: Sacramento Valley Water Storage and Restoration Act

- **Introduced by** Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) on February 25.
- **Status:** Referred to committee.

- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 3%

This bill would accelerate the completion of a feasibility study of Sites Reservoir and authorize the project should it be found feasible. Located in Colusa and Glenn counties, Sites Reservoir is a proposed off-stream reservoir that would store as much as 1.8 million acre feet of water. The project is currently waiting for the California Water commission to allocate funding from last year's California water bond. The Sites Reservoir could store water during the winter and spring, when high flows from stream and tributaries below Shasta Dam often escape into the ocean. The stored water could be used to supplement Lake Shasta deliveries to keep its cold water in storage for use later in the summer, when water temperatures rise, or could release water to flush the Delta of saltwater when river flows dwindle. A portion of the project's water, up to 340,000 acre-feet, would also be used for agricultural, municipal and industrial water deliveries. Opponents say the project is too costly and would increase the state's water supply by only a fraction while harming fish populations and the environment. The Sacramento River Trust has expressed concerns, saying its water would go to the highest bidder, and not necessarily to the best (or most local) use.

HR 564: Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act

- **Introduced by** Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-WA) on April 23.
- **Status:** Referred to committee.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 6%

This bill, a reintroduction of a Hastings bill in the 113th Congress, amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species. The bill is the subject of a letter developed by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (see agenda item F.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 11).

HR 1140: Federal Water Quality Protection Act

- **Introduced by** John Barrasso (R-WY) on April 30.
- **Status:** Referred to committee.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 10%

This bill would result in revising the definition of the term “waters of the United States.” The EPA and the Corps of Engineers have proposed expanding the scope of Federal authority over land and water to encompass all water in a flood plain, manmade water management systems, and water that infiltrates into the ground or moves overland, and any water with a “significant nexus” to downstream water used by animals, insects, birds, and water storage. This would shift the focus of the Clean Water Act to habitat and water supply. HR 1140 would put a halt to this process and limit the Clean Water Act to traditional navigable waters and interstate waters, certain streams, and certain wetlands. Groundwater, isolated ponds, stormwater, wastewater, municipal water, agricultural water, converted cropland, certain small streams, and some restored areas would not be included. The bill is opposed by many major environmental groups.

HR 1987: Coast Guard Reauthorization Act

- **Introduced by** Duncan Hunter (R-CA) on January 27.
- **Status:** Passed House unanimously on May 18, 2015; referred to Senate committee.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 24%

In addition to many Coast Guard-related actions, HR 1987:

- Extends funding for the Newport helicopter indefinitely.
- Bars specified Federal shipping laws from establishing maritime liens on state or federal fishing permits. The bill specifies that a “fishing permit” shall not be treated as part of a vessel, or as an appurtenance or intangible of a vessel, for any purpose under Federal law. (Critics say this weakens the security of fishing industry creditors when the value of a vessel lies primarily in its permits)
- Requires the Secretary to establish a voluntary alternative safety compliance program for fishing vessels or fish tender vessels (or both) that are at least 50 feet overall in length, and not more than 79 feet overall in length, and built after July 1, 2013.

HR 2106: Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act

- **Introduced by** Rep. Frank Guinta (R-NH) on April 29, 2015; one cosponsor
- **Status:** Introduced and referred to committee.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 6%

This bill would amend the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act to create an annual competitive grant program for fisheries-related projects, and require each Council to create “Fishery Investment Committees.” These committees would develop regional fishery investment plans, review grant applications and projects to implement their plans, and make recommendations to the Council on grants and projects to implement. Membership would be similar to the makeup of the Council.

The Fishery Investment Plan would identify critical research, conservation, and management needs and corresponding actions to facilitate rebuilding and maintaining healthy fish populations, consistent with the Council’s research and data needs plans. Areas of investment might include stock surveys and assessments, cooperative research, electronic monitoring, data collection in recreational fisheries, socioeconomic impacts of fishery management decisions, financial assistance and investment in fishermen and fishing communities, capacity reduction, buybacks, investments in community fishing associations, improving value of fish landed, conservation engineering technologies, habitat restoration, and other areas. Plans would be updated and submitted to the Secretary of Commerce every five years.

HR 2168 and S 1143: West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act

- **Introduced by** Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-WA) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) on April 30, 2015.
- **Status:** Introduced and referred to committee.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 3-6%

These identical bills would make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent.

S 1334 and HR 774: Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015

- **Introduced by** Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Madeleine Bordallo (Del-Guam) on May 13 and Feb. 5, 2015, respectively.
- **Status:** Both bills have been reported by committee.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 26%, 24%

The Legislative Committee and Council discussed HR 774 in March, 2015, resulting in a March 24 letter from the Council to the chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on Natural Resources. The letter commented on the Council's support for the provisions in HR 774 addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fisheries, the recommendation to appoint a Pacific Council member to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and provisions implementing the Antigua convention.

S. 1334 was slightly changed in committee. It now contains a section that would allow the Secretary to deny port privileges or prohibit imports from Commission members who do not comply with the Commission's conservation and management measures. It also contains transparency requirements for the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee.

Hydropower Bills

A suite of bills to streamline the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process have been introduced or are being discussed. Proponents say the bills would allow faster licensing for needed hydropower projects; opponents say they open the way for a hydropower free-for-all that would dam up rivers despite the needs of fish, recreation and other river uses.

Hydropower Regulatory Modernization Act (Discussion Draft)

Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) released this discussion draft on April 24. The bill strengthens FERC's authority over hydropower in general, streamlines the FERC process and environmental review of projects, and accelerates FERC licensing for existing and new development by not requiring a license for projects smaller than five megawatts. It also makes the FERC timeline more rigid, with less likelihood of flexibility for other Federal and state involvement. It requires regulators to consider the need for fish pathways on par with energy policy, flooding and other environmental concerns; but it also makes current environmental conditions the baseline when assessing impacts of certain projects. The bill emphasizes the use of existing data and restricts collection of new data in certain circumstances. It allows extension of licenses for another 70 years if there is a major investment in construction, environmental upgrades or capacity, and allows informal meetings with FERC staff without public notice.

Environmental NGOs are concerned about the bill, claiming it would encourage more development of hydropower at the expense of fish, recreation, and other river uses. There are concerns that the bill would reduce environmental flows, remove fish passage and minimum instream flow requirements for aquatic species, and prevent the removal of obsolete dams. They

also say it would provide special treatment and incentives for hydropower that are not enjoyed by any other energy sector. The bill comes after the Department of Energy set a goal last year to double hydropower production by 2030.

A similar bill has been introduced in the House by Fred Upton (R-MI); and the Small Hydro Act of 2015 (S 1338) expedites or exempts permitting for small hydro projects under five megawatts or located at non-power dams, but does not include the other provisions of the Rodgers discussion draft.

S 1236: Hydropower Improvement Act

- **Introduced by** Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on May 6
- **Status:** Referred to committee.
- **GovTrack chance of passage:** 30%

This brief bill, which was part of a package of small energy bills introduced by Senator Murkowski, streamlines the regulatory processes for licensing hydropower projects. The bill designates FERC as the lead agency to set a binding schedule and coordinate all needed Federal authorizations; requires a resource agency's conditions to pertain to the actual hydropower project; designates FERC Administrative Law Judges to hear trial-type hearings, and make a number of changes to the hearing process. The bill also directs FERC to compile and make public a comprehensive collection of studies and data and to use existing studies if practicable.

Fishery Bills in the 114th Congress (and Selected State Bills)

Tracked for their relevance to MSA reauthorization, precedent-setting potential, or indirect impact on Council-managed fisheries.

| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| California state bill | | | | |
| AB 226 | Pacific to Plate | Makes it easier for commercial fishermen to sell fish at farmers' markets. Allows fishermen's markets to operate as food facilities; allows fresh fish to be cleaned for direct sale; streamlines permitting process. | Toni Atkins (Cal Assembly) | |
| Introduced | 2/3/2015 | | Last updated | 5/21/2015 |
| Status | Referred by committee; in California senate. | | Priority | C |
| House | | | | |
| HR 291 | Water in the 21st Century Act (W21) (see also S 176) | Sets up \$1.95 billion in loans and grants over 5 years for water recycling, storm water capture and treatment, ground water management and water infrastructure projects. Sets aside \$6 million to study the feasibility of desalination. | Grace Napolitano (D-CA) | 1% |
| Introduced | 1/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced | | Priority | C |
| HR 330 | Marine Access and State Transparency (see also HR 900, S 437, S 228) | Requires congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for declaration of marine national monuments. | Don Young (R-AK) | 10% |
| Introduced | 1/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Referred to House Natural Resources Committee | | Priority | C |
| HR 337 | Maritime Lien Reform Act (included in HR 1987) | Limits maritime liens on fishing permits. (Included in Coast Guard Reauthorization Act). | Don Young (R-AK) | 2% |
| Introduced | 1/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced (HR 1147, 113th) | | Priority | A |

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| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|---------------|--|--|--|----------|
| HR 393 | Untitled (Labeling of GMO fish) | Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling of genetically engineered fish. | Don Young (R-AK) | 2% |
| Introduced | 1/14/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced | | Priority | D |
| HR 394 | Prevention of Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United States Act | Resubmittal of HR 1667, discussed in June 2013. Adds DeFazio as a co-sponsor. | Don Young (R-AK) | 9% |
| Introduced | 1/14/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced | | Priority | C |
| HR 528 | Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act | Directs Federal public land management officials to exercise their authority under existing law to facilitate use of and access to Federal public lands for fishing, sport hunting, and recreational shooting. | Dan Benishek (R-MI) | 12% |
| Introduced | 1/26/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced | | Priority | D |
| HR 564 | Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act | Amends the MMPA to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species, and for other purposes. Identical to Hastings bill submitted in 113th Congress. | Kurt Schraeder (D-OR) & Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-WA) | 9% |
| Introduced | 1/27/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced (formerly HR 1308, Hastings) | | Priority | A |
| HR 774 | Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015 (see instead S 1334) | Enhances authority to regulate illegal fishing. Increases capacity for inspection, ID, and monitoring of illegal foreign vessels. Directs Commerce to enforce High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act. Implements Antigua Convention. | Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam) | 24% |
| Introduced | 2/5/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced (formerly HR 69, Bordallo) | | Priority | A |

| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|----------------|--|--|-----------------------|----------|
| HR 900 | National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act (see also HR 330, S 228, S 437) | Requires congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments. | Raul Labrador (R-ID) | 21% |
| Introduced | 2/11/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Referred to House Natural Resources Committee | | Priority | C |
| HR 980 | Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (see instead S 373) | Makes vessel discharge exception permanent. See S 373 instead. | Duncan Hunter (R-CA) | 5% |
| Introduced | 2/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reported by committee 2/26/15. | | Priority | A |
| HR 981 | Red Snapper Regulatory Reform Act | Amends the MSA in regard to Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper management. | Bradley Byrne (R-AK) | 12% |
| Introduced | 2/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | F |
| HR 1060 | Sacramento Valley Water Storage and Restoration Act of 2015 | Directs Interior to support non-Federal investments in water infrastructure improvements in the Sacramento Valley, specifically the Sites Reservoir. | Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) | 3% |
| Introduced | 2/25/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | C |
| HR 1207 | Healthy Fisheries Through Better Science Act (see S 1403) | Amends the MSA to require Commerce to develop a plan to conduct stock assessments for all stocks of fish for which a fishery management plan is in effect. | Robert Wittman (R-VA) | 4% |
| Introduced | 3/2/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | New | | Priority | B |

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| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|----------------|---|---|------------------------------|----------|
| HR 1276 | Coastal State Climate Change Planning Act | Amends the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation planning and response program. | Lois Capps (D-CA) | 1% |
| Introduced | 3/4/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | C |
| HR 1277 | Ocean Acidification Research Partnerships Act | Provides for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities. | Lois Capps (D-CA) | 2% |
| Introduced | 3/4/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | C |
| HR 1335 | Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act | Amends the MSA with the purpose of providing flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen. | Don Young (R-AK) | 15% |
| Introduced | 3/4/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Passed House on 6/1/2015 | | Priority | A |
| HR 1826 | Fishing Economy Improvement Act | Reauthorizes the MSA. | Gregorio Sablan (Guam - Ind) | 4% |
| Introduced | 4/15/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced; superceded; "dead" | | Priority | A |
| HR 1869 | Environmental Compliance Cost Transparency Act | Provides for transparency and reporting related to costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration and other power authorities related to compliance with Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife. | Paul Gosar (R-AZ) | 3% |
| Introduced | 4/16/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | D |

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| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|----------------|---|---|------------------------------|----------|
| HR 1987 | Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 | Authorizes appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Funds Newport helicopter. Incorporates HR 337 on maritime liens. | Duncan Hunter (R-CA) | 24% |
| Introduced | 4/23/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Passed House 5/18/2015 | | Priority | C |
| HR 2040 | Striped Bass American Heritage Act | Designates the Atlantic striped bass as the National Fish of the United States. | Tom MacArthur (R-NJ) | 3% |
| Introduced | 4/28/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | D |
| HR 2106 | Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act of 2015 | Provides funding to support fisheries and the communities that rely upon them, to clear unnecessary regulatory burdens and streamline Federal fisheries management. Amends S-K Act. | Frank Guinta (R-NH) | 6% |
| Introduced | 4/29/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | A |
| HR 2168 | West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act (see also S 1143) | Makes the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent. | Jaime Herrera Beutler (D-WA) | 6% |
| Introduced | 4/30/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | A |
| HR 2541 | Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act (see also S 1414) | Amends the MSA to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. | Jim Langevin (D-RI) | 1% |
| Introduced | 5/21/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | D |
| Senate | | | | |
| S 132 | Oregon and California Land Grant Act | A bill to improve timber management on O&C grant land, and for other purposes. Increases some harvest, protects other forests. | Ron Wyden (D-OR) | 21% |
| Introduced | 1/8/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced | | Priority | D |

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| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|--------------|--|---|----------------------|----------|
| S 133 | Klamath Basin Water Recovery and Economic Restoration Act | A bill to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin, etc. Discussed by LC in June 2014. | Ron Wyden (D-OR) | 21% |
| Introduced | 1/8/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced (formerly S 2727) | | Priority | B |
| S 176 | Water in the 21st Century Act (W21) (see also HR 291) | A bill to advance integrated water management and development through innovation, resiliency, conservation, and efficiency in the 21st century. | Barbara Boxer (D-CA) | 1% |
| Introduced | 1/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced | | Priority | C |
| S 190 | Imported Seafood Safety Standards Act | Prohibits imports of seafood from a foreign country unless certified compliant with U.S. standards. Yearly inspection of foreign export facilities and 20% of all imported seafood. Foreign seafood could only be imported at ports with trained personnel. | David Vitter (R-LA) | 15% |
| Introduced | 1/20/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | B |
| S 225 | Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act (see also S 405) | Amends the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the EPA with respect to lead bullets and fishing tackle. Exempts those articles from a definition under that Act. | John Thune (R-SD) | 1% |
| Introduced | 1/21/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced | | Priority | D |
| S 228 | National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act (see also S 556, HR 900, S 437, HR 330) | Requires congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments. | Michael Crapo (R-ID) | 20% |
| Introduced | 1/21/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Referred to Senate Energy & Natural Resources | | Priority | C |

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| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|--------------|--|---|-----------------------|----------|
| S 373 | Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (see also HR 980) | Establishes nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. (Makes current NPDES exemption permanent). | Marco Rubio (R-FL) | 38% |
| Introduced | 2/4/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced (formerly S 3570, Rubio). Reported by committee 2/26/15 | | Priority | A |
| S 405 | Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 (see instead S 659, HR 556) | A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes. | Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) | 38% |
| Introduced | 2/5/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced. Formerly S 1335, Murkowski. Reported by committee 2/9 | | Priority | D |
| S 437 | Improved National Monument Designation Process Act (see also HR 900, S 228, HR 330) | Requires congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, and establishes requirements for the declaration of marine national monuments. | Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) | 16% |
| Introduced | 2/10/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced. | | Priority | C |
| S 556 | Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 (see also HR 225, S 405) | A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes | Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) | 30% |
| Introduced | 2/25/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reintroduced (formerly S 1335, Murkowski) | | Priority | D |
| S 659 | Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 | A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes | Dan Sullivan (R-AK) | 5% |
| Introduced | 3/4/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | D |

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| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|---------------|---|--|-----------------------|----------|
| S 738 | Genetically Engineered Salmon Risk Reduction Act | To reduce the risks associated with genetically altered salmon in the United States | Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) | 8% |
| Introduced | 3/12/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | C |
| S 1140 | Federal Water Quality Protection Act | Revises the definition of the term "waters of the United States." Halts an ongoing COE/EPA rulemaking to clarify and restore Clean Water Act protections for certain water bodies. | John Barrasso (R-WY) | 10% |
| Introduced | 4/30/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced. Hearing held 5/19. | | Priority | C |
| S 1143 | West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act (see also HR 2168) | Makes the authority of States of Washington, Oregon, and California to manage the Dungeness crab fishery permanent. | Maria Cantwell (D-WA) | 3% |
| Introduced | 4/30/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | A |
| S 1236 | Hydropower Improvement Act of 2015 | Amends the Federal Power Act to modify certain requirements relating to license applications before FERC. Aimed at streamlining process for small projects. | Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) | 30% |
| Introduced | 5/6/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | B |
| S 1334 | Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015 (see also HR 774) | Strengthens enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and amends the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention. The Council has commented on this and similar legislation. | Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) | 26% |
| Introduced | 5/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reported by committee 5/20/15 | | Priority | A |

*According to Govtrack.us. Note re priority ratings: A, B, C = immediately relevant (in decreasing importance) to Pacific Council fisheries or having to do with major changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. D, F = Interesting for other reasons, such as setting a precedent or indirectly affecting Council-managed fisheries.

| Bill No | Title | Summary or Title | Introduced by | Chance* |
|---------------|---|--|---------------------|----------|
| S 1335 | North Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act | Implements the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the North Pacific Ocean. | Dan Sullivan (R-AK) | 39% |
| Introduced | 5/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reported by committee 5/20/15 | | Priority | C |
| S 1336 | South Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act | Implements the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean. | Brian Schatz (D-HI) | 39% |
| Introduced | 5/13/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Reported by committee 5/20/15. | | Priority | C |
| S 1338 | Small Hydro Act of 2015 | Amends the Federal Power Act to provide licensing procedures for certain types of hydro projects under 5 megawatts. | Angus King (Ind-ME) | 7% |
| Introduced | 4/14/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | C |
| S 1403 | Florida Fisheries Improvement Act | Amends the MSA to promote sustainable conservation and management for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on them. | Marco Rubio (R-FL) | 3% |
| Introduced | 5/20/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced (formerly S 2824) | | Priority | C |
| S 1414 | Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act (see also HR 2541) | Amends the MSA to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. | Jack Reed (D-RI) | 1% |
| Introduced | 5/21/2015 | | Last updated | 6/2/2015 |
| Status | Introduced | | Priority | D |

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