

MANAGING OUR NATION’S FISHERIES 3 (MONF3) CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UPS AND UNRELATED LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (LC) will meet Wednesday, September 11 to conduct two items of business: to identify and prioritize issues to consider in amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and to review legislative matters of interest to the Council.

Managing Our Nation’s Fisheries 3 Conference Follow-up

At the Managing Our Nation’s Fisheries 3 (MONF3) conference, attendees developed 128 “findings” regarding advancements to fisheries management. A finding is a legislative, regulatory, or policy change, or an idea for improvement identified by session participants as a priority for advancing fishery management and sustainability. The findings were not intended to reflect or imply consensus among the panelists.

At the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting immediately following MONF3, the CCC discussed ways to move ahead with the 128 conference findings. The CCC asked Pacific Council staff to assign the findings into categories of (1) changes of a statutory nature, particularly associated with reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA); (2) changes of a regulatory nature, including (a) revision of National Standard Guidelines and (b) revisions to other regulations; and (3) changes that require a policy change without regulatory or statutory changes. This categorization of the findings has been completed and is attached as Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1.

The CCC also established a CCC Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Subcommittee, comprised of one representative to be designated from each Council, to develop recommendations on MONF3 findings for consideration by the full CCC during a webinar to be held on October 23-24. Regional Councils are expected to provide input to the Subcommittee. The Council’s task today is to identify which findings are most important to the Pacific Council.

Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 2 contains suggestions regarding topics for consideration by the Legislative Committee. These suggestions are based on what the Council staff perceives to be Council priorities for revision of the MSA, as discussed in Council meetings since 2007; for example, revising rebuilding time requirements.

Current Legislation

Council staff has provided a summary of legislation introduced in the 113th U.S. Congress (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 3) for potential review at the September Council meeting. Four bills in particular deserve attention.

- **HR 2646/S. 1275: the Revitalizing the Economy of Fisheries (REFI) in the Pacific Act**, essentially a resubmittal of a bill that the Council commented on during the last Congressional session (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 4).
- **HR 3063: Healthy Fisheries through Better Science Act**, a potential MSA reauthorization act aimed at improving the collection of scientific information used in fisheries management.

- **S 269: International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act; and H.R. 69: Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2013.** Both of these bills strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention (the revised IATTC Convention), and make other changes. However, they address the Antigua Convention in different ways; and **S. 269** would add a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council to the IATTC Commission (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 5; **available electronically only**).

Council Action:

1. **Identify legislative priorities with regard to MSA Reauthorization.**
2. **Consider Legislative Committee recommendations.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1: Matrix of Findings from the Managing Our Nations Fisheries 3 Conference.
2. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 2: Preliminary Staff Compilation of Possible Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Priorities for Consideration by the Pacific Council.
3. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 3: September 2013 Staff Summary of Federal Legislation.
4. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 4: Comparison of 2012 and 2013 version of REFI Act.
5. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 5: S 269 Original with notations (**electronic only**)
6. Agenda Item H.1.b, Supplemental Legislative Committee Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Legislative Committee
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Identify Priorities for Consideration in Amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and Consider Legislative Committee Recommendations

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