

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a report by Ms. Jennifer Gilden and offers the following comments on legislative matters.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) Reauthorization

The GAP understands it's unlikely that any MSFCMA reauthorization will move forward in this session, but can provide comments in November if needed.

REFI Pacific Act (S. 1275)

Ms. Gilden noted S. 1275 has moved out of committee and is making progress in the Senate. However, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the enactment of S. 1275 would require an offset of \$7 million – the amount of revenue the government anticipates losing if the loan is refinanced – and must be found in the current budget. This amount could be made without a subsequent appropriation, but it must be found within the current budget. Given the Council's support of the REFI Pacific Act in the past, the GAP requests the Council continue to support it and that the entire Council family, including National Marine Fisheries Service, work to find an offset for the \$7 million cost.

Improved National Monument Designation Process Act (S. 2608)

The GAP briefly discussed this proposed legislation and supports the Legislative Committee's recommendation that any fishing regulations within any marine national monuments fall under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Furthermore, we also agree that Regional Fishery Management Councils must be consulted to review proposed monuments within their respective areas prior to designation.

PFMC
09/14/14