

**MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT REAUTHORIZATION PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED AT THE
 SEPTEMBER 2013 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

At the September Council meeting, the Council discussed priority matters for potential legislative change in the reauthorization of the current Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). In general, the Council felt the current MSA was working reasonably well and was not in need of any major changes, while also believing there was room for positive refinement in certain areas.

At this early stage in considering changes, the Council identified topical areas of potential improvement only. The Council identified 17 topics as priority matters worthy of further evaluation. These are listed in the table below, organized by the Managing Our Nation’s Fisheries 3 (MONF3) conference sessions and an additional category for matters not discussed at the national conference.

It is notable that not all Council advisory bodies were able to submit statements regarding these priorities at the September, 2013 Council meeting. Given this, and the insufficient period of time the Legislative Committee spent reviewing the 128 MONF3 findings, the priorities below should be viewed as a tentative list at this time.

These priorities were passed along to the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting in October, for consideration by the other seven Regional Fishery Management Councils in their development of consensus CCC national priorities.

	Topic for MSA Reauthorization	Relevant MSA Section
MONF3 Session 1 – Improving Fishery Management Essentials: Annual Catch Limit Science and Implementation Issues, Including Managing “Data-Limited” Stocks; Rebuilding Program Requirements and Timelines; International Fisheries Management: Leveling the Playing Field		
1	Revise rebuilding time requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fix the ten-year rebuilding requirement dilemma b) “Don’t chase noise” in rebuilding plans c) Address “rebuilding as soon as possible” problems 	MSA Section 304(e) (4)(A)(ii) (3)(A) (4)(A)(i)
2	Stocks later determined never overfished should not be held to rebuilding provisions	MSA Section 304 (e)
3	Include a viable mixed stock exception	
4	Clarify criteria regarding needs of fishing communities	MSA Section 304(e) (4)(A)(i)
5	Include a carryover exception to allow ACLs to be exceeded in order to carry over surplus and deficit harvest from one year to the next, provided there is a finding from the SSC that such a carryover provision will have negligible biological impacts	MSA Section 303(a)

6	Explore more flexibility for data-poor species where the precautionary approach limits information on stock performance under higher catch rates	MSA Section 303
7	Implement stricter imported seafood labeling requirements in the US market	
MONF3 Session 2 – Advancing Ecosystem-Based Management, Assessing Ecosystem Effects and Integrating to Climate Change; Forage Fish Management; Integrating Habitat Considerations: Opportunities and Impediments		
8	Address rebuilding requirements when environmental conditions may be a predominant factor in a stock’s decline	MSA Section 304(e)
9	Consider a national standard for habitat: “Minimize adverse impacts on essential fish habitat to the extent practicable”	MSA Section 301(a)
MONF3 Session 3 - Providing Fishing Community Stability: Recreational and Subsistence Fishery Connections; Integrating Community Protection, Jobs Emphasis, and Domestic Seafood Quality Assurance; Assessment and Integration of Social and Economic Tradeoffs		
10	Explore options to improve access to currently confidential harvest or processing information for purposes of enhanced socioeconomic analysis	MSA Section 402
Other Topics Not Addressed at the MONF3 Conference		
11	Make a consistent distinction between “overfishing” (a measure of fishing rate) and “overfished” (a measure of abundance)	
12	Replace the term “overfished” with “depleted” to account for non-fishing causes of stock size below MMST	MSA Section 3 (34)
13	Amend MSA to change “vessels” to “vessel” in the IUU certification section	MSA Section 609 (d)
14	Designate one Commissioner seat on IATTC Commission for PFMC	
15	Address social and economic issues by changing “possible” to “practicable.” (This may duplicate priority 1.)	MSA Section 304(e)(4)(A)(i)
16	Better align and streamline the National Environmental Policy Act & MSA section 304(i)	MSA Section 304(i)
17	Provide flexibility in requirements and qualifications for observers.	MSA Section 401