

## MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT REAUTHORIZATION PRIORITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (LC) will meet Friday, March 7 to discuss a draft version of a Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) reauthorization bill, and to review recent relevant legislation.

### MSA Reauthorization Status

In December, the Representative Doc Hastings released a House Natural Resources Committee (HNRC) discussion draft of an MSA reauthorization bill (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1). Council staff has compared the discussion draft to the priorities developed by the Council, and the 128 findings from the Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 conference, in Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 2.

The Council Coordination Committee will meet February 19 and 20 in Washington, D.C., and will discuss the HNRC draft bill; results of their discussions will be available at the March Council meeting. Perspective from the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council on the discussion draft are provided here (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 3).

On January 30, 2014, Council Executive Director Donald McIsaac provided testimony before the Senate (U.S. Senate Committee Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard), which is developing a separate MSA bill. Dr. McIsaac's verbal and written testimony are attached (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachments 4 and 5). Senate staff indicate that a discussion draft of the Senate bill may be released in early spring.

Additional reference materials include a November 12, 2013 letter from the Executive Director to Rep. Doc Hastings and Senator Mark Begich with the Council's priorities regarding MSA reauthorization, as directed by the Council (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 6).

At the Council's November meeting, the Council discussed the content of detailed fact sheets on the Council's top six MSA reauthorization priorities. Due to staff workload, these fact sheets are targeted for completion in June.

Regarding Council action on MSA reauthorization at this meeting, there does not appear to be an immediate need for the Council's position on the HNRC draft bill at the time of briefing book preparation. The LC and the Council are scheduled to discuss the House and Senate draft MSA bills in June, when both bills are likely to be available for comparison.

### Current Legislation

Council staff has provided a summary of legislation introduced in the 113<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 7) for potential review at this meeting. The Council has currently not received any request for comment on these bills.

**Council Action:**

**1. Consider the Legislative Committee report and recommendations.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1: House MSA Reauthorization Bill Discussion Draft.
2. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 2: Staff Analysis of House Discussion Draft.
3. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 3: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Perspectives on Discussion Draft.
4. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 4: Verbal Testimony of Dr. Donald McIsaac.
5. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 5: Written Testimony of Dr. Donald McIsaac.
6. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 6: Letter to Congress on Council MSA priorities.
7. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 7: March 2014 Staff Summary of Federal Legislation.
8. Agenda Item J.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:** Consider the Report and Recommendations of the Legislative Committee
- Jennifer Gilden  
Dave Hanson

PFMC  
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