

## STATUS OF LEGISLATION

Situation: This discussion agenda item is separated into two components: (1) Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization issues and (2) other current legislation.

Regarding of the reauthorization Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), several things have occurred that may warrant the Council considering taking a position on specific issues. Recall that the Briefing Book for the June Council meeting contained a list from the 2001 Council Chairmen's meeting of 23 recommendations for changes to the existing Magnuson-Stevens Act. Since that time, Representative Sam Farr, has introduced a bill with changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, a NMFS Task Force has developed draft recommendations for reauthorization changes, and a meeting occurred between Council Executive Directors and selected NMFS staff to compare the two aforementioned sets of recommendations. During this agenda item, the Council should consider how they want to participate in further considerations in the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization process. As an example, the Legislative Overview Committee could be assigned the task of developing recommendations for consideration by the full Council.

Regarding the second item, <sup>Dr.</sup> Dave Hanson <sup>is</sup> expected to provide an update of other legislation relevant to Council activities. ✓ ✓

### Council Task:

1. **Discussion of the role, approach, and any positions the Council should take in the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization process, and how to go about organizing achievement of the direction the Council chooses to take.**
2. **Discussion of other current relevant legislation.**

### Reference Materials:

1. H.R. 2570, "The Fisheries Recovery Act of 2001" (Exhibit I.1, Attachment 1).
2. NOAA/NMFS Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Task Force Recommendations (Exhibit I.1, Attachment 2).
3. Draft Fishery Management Council Executive Directors-NMFS Session on Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization (Exhibit I.1, Attachment 3).

### Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The Executive Summary of the GFSP states as the first of seven recommendations under Council Process Recommendations (page 12), "Encourage long term thinking so the Council can suggest creative solutions to Congress and NMFS during the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization process." Pages 52 and 53 of the GFSP details certain specific ideas for changes in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as well as ideas for effective Congressional interaction on this issue.

Proceeding no further with Council input opportunities on Magnuson-Stevens Act issues would be inconsistent with the GFSP.

PFMC  
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4. ms bill info. (Exhibit I.1, Supplemental Attachment 4)