

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman, Dr. David Hanson, called the Legislative Committee to order at 10:07 a.m., Monday, October 28th. The Committee discussed current legislation and related congressional activities. Members of the West Coast congressional delegation have conscientiously worked on fisheries issues, including development of legislative language for removing the individual fishing quota (IFQ) moratorium and West Coast buyback. In addition, members of the West Coast delegation were instrumental in drafting a letter expressing concern about continuation of the IFQ moratorium and strong support for the ability for certain councils to use IFQs in their fisheries (Exhibit H.1, Attachment 1), this letter was signed by 11 senators.

Despite this congressional activity, it is anticipated that specific fishery-related legislation or Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization will not move through Congress in 2002. However, legislative provisions for IFQ programs and West Coast buyback might be included in omnibus legislation, which will likely also include appropriations for fiscal year 2003. The Committee recommends the Council instruct the Executive Director to draft a letter expressing continued strong support for the ability to use IFQs in West Coast fisheries, that there is no express need for IFQ program standards, and to continue strong support for congressionally-supported West Coast buyback.

The Committee also recommends the Council direct staff to continue to track fisheries-related legislation and provide input to congressional staff, as appropriate.

PFMC
10/31/02