

MITCHELL ACT UPDATE

Situation: At its June meeting, the Council directed staff to prepare a letter to NMFS and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) recommending a two-step approach to developing adequate funding for Mitchell Act implementation in FY04 and beyond (Exhibit F.3, Attachment 1). The approach consists of (1) a meeting of technical personnel from all affected agencies to develop appropriate funding levels, and (2) a meeting of agency and tribal policy representatives and stakeholders to develop a strategy for communicating with appropriate administration and congressional representatives regarding needs and benefits of the Mitchell Act Program. Mr. Randy Fisher (PSMFC) responded affirmatively to the suggestion that PSMFC take the lead in the strategic meeting (Exhibit F.3 Attachment 2).

Mr. RZ Smith (NMFS) will report on the outcome of the technical meeting, including development of a base funding level budget necessary to fully fund current Mitchell Act programs and facilities (Exhibit F.3, Attachment 3). A report from the PSMFC Policy Group on the strategic meeting will follow.

Council Action:

1. Receive Information and provide guidance on Mitchell Act issues.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit F.3, Attachment 1: Letter from Dr. Don McIsaac to Mr. Randy Fisher (PSMFC).
2. Exhibit F.3, Attachment 2: Letter from Mr. Randy Fisher (PSMFC) to Dr. Don McIsaac.
3. Exhibit F.3, Attachment 3: Letter from Mr. RZ Smith (NMFS) to Mr. Dan Diggs (USFWS).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. PSMFC Policy Group Report
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Mitchell Act Issues

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PFMC
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