

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Situation: The Legislative Committee will meet Monday, March 8, 2004 to review federal legislative issues.

Two bills related to reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act will be discussed. S. 2066 was introduced February 11, 2004 by Senator Snowe (Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 1). The second bill is a discussion draft distributed by Congressman Gilchrest (Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 2). Both bills approach reauthorization broadly and contain provisions related to essential fish habitat, individual fishing quotas, peer review of management science, and rebuilding time horizons, among other things. Congressman Gilchrest has invited input from the regional councils about his discussion draft (Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 3).

S. 1953, legislation to protect deep sea corals, was introduced by Senator Lautenberg in November 2003 (Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 4).

In October 2003, the Council requested guidance from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) about a Department of Justice finding on the issue of processor quota shares in the North Pacific crab fishery. NMFS responded on December 16, 2003. The response letter is included as Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 5.

HR 2654 (Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 6) deals with artificial reefs in Southern California, and is relevant to Agendum G.3.

Other issues could arise after the advance briefing book deadline, such as further congressional activity on fishing quota-related matters and the report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

The Legislative Committee will provide a summary report to the Council, which might include recommendations for Council actions.

Council Action:

1. Consider recommendations of the Legislative Committee.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 1, S. 2066.
2. Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 2, Gilchrest Discussion Draft.
3. Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 3, Gilchrest Request.
4. Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 4, S.1953.
5. Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 5, NMFS Response Letter.
6. Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 6, HR 2654.
7. Exhibit B.2.b, Supplemental Legislative Committee Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Legislative Committee Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Recommendations of the Legislative Committee

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