

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Legislative Committee met March 9, 2004. The committee reviewed several congressional bills and legislative-related matters. Indications are that fishery-related legislation will not move through Congress during 2004. This is due, in part, to competing legislative priorities and pending changes in Senate committee leadership. Hence, the Legislative Committee recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) direct staff to continue tracking legislative issues, but as a low priority relative to other workload.

The committee discussed Congressman Gilchrest's request (Exhibit B.2.a, Attachment 3) for comment about a draft bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Congressman Gilchrest also requested input on legislative-related fishery management matters, in general. To respond to Congressman Gilchrest's request, and in light of the pending report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, the Legislative Committee recommends the Council direct staff to draft a letter to Congressman Gilchrest that addresses several matters --

- summarize recent Council comments related to fishery-related legislation;
- request consideration of "grand fathering" in existing individual quota (IQ) programs and IQ-like programs (e.g., the Council's permit stacking program in the fixed-gear sablefish fishery);
- describe current Council work on development of an IQ program for the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery;
- provide information about the Council process for developing and using science in Council decision making, specifically, the role of the SSC and peer-review protocols that gird the Council's science development process;
- comment on the Office of Management and Budget's proposed peer review requirements for agency actions;
- convey funding concerns, for example, Council base funding is not adequate for current program areas required under the current Magnuson-Stevens Act and other mandates.

Finally, given little or no on-going fishery-related legislative business, the committee recommends Legislative Matters and a Legislative Committee meeting not be included in the Council's April 2004 agenda.

PFMC  
03/11/04