

REGIONAL COUNCIL AND NMFS CONFERENCE:  
MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT – THE FIRST 25 YEARS

Situation: The eight regional fishery management councils and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) convened a conference in Washington, DC during November 2003 to review 25 years of fishery management under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Conference goals included educating the public, policy makers, and media on the marine fishery management process; successful management examples by region, and current management and research initiatives; helping to bridge the gap between perception and reality regarding fisheries management; and providing a forum for information exchange and to solicit a wide range of perspectives on future management and marine research directions. Each regional council presented information on fisheries under their jurisdiction and described current issues and strategies for meeting U.S. fishery management mandates. Several panel discussions were convened to explore approaches and solutions to address issues such as bycatch, ecosystem management, rights-based management, and community interests.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) was well represented at the conference. Dr. Donald McIsaac presented a well-received presentation on the history of the Council and current issues and participated on the Bycatch Panel. Dr. Hans Radtke participated in the Rights-Based Management Panel. Mr. Phil Anderson participated in the Wrap-Up Panel, which closed the conference and provided a synthesis of the week's events. Mr. Dan Waldeck also prepared a report for the conference describing the Pacific Council process, in general; managed fisheries; current issues; and plans for the future (Exhibit B.5, Supplemental Attachment 1). Ms. Jennifer Gilden prepared an information booth, which contained a wide range of Council information including Fact Sheets and other Council documents.

The conference was perceived by all participants to be a great success, providing a unique opportunity to exchange philosophies and approaches to a wide range of fishery management issues and concerns. In part, because of this success, NMFS has tentatively scheduled a follow up conference for October 2004.

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Council to discuss the regional fishery management council conference.

**Council Task:**

**1. Discussion.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Exhibit B.5, Supplemental Attachment 1: The Council Family, Managed Fisheries, Current Issues, and Plans for the Future.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion

Dan Waldeck

PFMC  
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