

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Situation: The Legislative Committee met Monday, June 14 to review federal legislative issues.

On April 20, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP) released their preliminary report. The deadline for comment on the preliminary report was June 4, 2004. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) response is in the briefing book (Exhibit B.4.a, Attachment 1). The USCOP Preliminary Report is part of a two-stage process. In the first stage, the report was available for review by the nation's governors and interested stakeholders. Stage two begins when the public comment period closes. At that point, the USCOP will take time for a comprehensive review of the comments received from the governors and others. Once all comments are considered, the USCOP will finalize its report and recommendations, which will be provided to the President and Congress.

Congressman Gilchrest has reiterated his request for input on draft legislation to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), Exhibit B.4.a, Attachment 2.

S. 2244, legislation to protect the public's ability to fish for sport, and for other purposes, was introduced by Senator Hutchison (Texas) in March 2004, Exhibit B.4.a, Attachment 3.

S. 2066, legislation to amend and reauthorize the MSA was introduced by Senator Snowe (Maine) on February 11, 2004. The Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, and Coast Guard held a hearing related to this bill on June 11, 2004.

The Legislative Committee will provide a summary report to the Council.

Council Action:

1. Consider recommendations of the Legislative Committee.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit B.4.a, Attachment 1: Response to US Commission on Ocean Policy.
2. Exhibit B.4.a, Attachment 2: Gilchrest Discussion Draft.
3. Exhibit B.4.a, Attachment 3: S2244 – "Freedom to Fish Act".
4. Exhibit B.4.a, Attachment 4: S2066.
5. Exhibit B.4.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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PFMC
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