

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Legislative Committee (Committee) met April 4, 2005. The Committee discussed congressional and legislative-related matters, including Senate Bill 343, the Capitol Construction Fund Qualified Withdrawal Act of 2005; potential future legislation addressing compensation for fishery observers and aquaculture matters; and HR 1431, the Fisheries Science and Management Enhancement Act of 2005. However, the primary discussion item was reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

The Committee reviewed the current status of MSA reauthorization and anticipated it will be addressed in this Congress in 2005 or 2006. Working from the draft list of MSA reauthorization issues included in the April 2005 Briefing Book (Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 1) and concepts developed at the March 2005 forum, *Managing Our Nations Fisheries II, Focus on the Future* in Washington, DC, the Committee focused on the key issues of individual quota programs, the integration of science and management, and competing statutes, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). The Committee briefly discussed funding security for Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC) and representation of appointed RFMC seats. A detailed list of prioritized issues and position statements are presented in Agenda Item J.2.b, Supplemental Attachment 1.

The Committee recommends Council input on this initial effort to develop formal positions on the various MSA reauthorization issues. The adopted Council position on these matters will serve to convey recommendations to legislators, the public, state and federal agencies, and other RFMCs. This input by the Council will facilitate discussion at meetings, such as the *2005 Council Chairs and Executive Directors Meeting* in Dana Point, California, April 25-29, 2005, that may yield joint RFMC positions on relevant issues. Additional positions on potential issues can take place at the June or later Council meetings as the reauthorization process runs its course.

### **Committee Recommendations:**

#### **1. Review and adopt a Council position on MSA Reauthorization Issues.**

PFMC  
04/08/05