

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (Committee) will meet Monday, April 4 with a primary objective to review federal legislative issues.

The 109th Congress is currently in session. It is anticipated that reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) will be addressed in this Congress in 2005. Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) input has been requested by U.S. Senators Ted Stevens (R, AK), Daniel Inouye (D, HI), Gordon Smith (R, OR), Olympia Snowe (R, ME), and U.S. Representative Wayne Gilchrest (R, MD). Reauthorization of the MSA will be discussed at the *2005 Council Chairs' and Executive Directors' Meeting* in Dana Point, California, April 25-29, 2005.

The Council and its Legislative Committee will review the current status of MSA reauthorization and discuss Council participation this important process. Key issues of interest to the Council addressed in previous versions of draft reauthorization legislation include individual quota programs, separation of conservation and allocation decisionmaking, ecosystem based management approaches, species rebuilding schedules, and overfishing definitions and responses. To promote the development of a Council position, Dr. Donald McIsaac presented a list of MSA issues for Council review in the March 2005 Committee Report (Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 1). Council staff will review Committee and Council statements on MSA reauthorization from previous years and present a more comprehensive list of issues and Council positions to the Committee. The Committee charge is to review, augment, and prioritize the list of MSA reauthorization issues and report to the Council. The Council is scheduled to adopt complete recommendations and priorities at the April meeting.

Acting on a request from the office of U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D, OR) (Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 2), the Committee reviewed Senate Bill 343, the Capitol Construction Fund Qualified Withdrawal Act of 2005 at the March 2005 meeting. The Council approved the Committee's recommendations on this matter, and Council staff will brief the Committee on the resulting response letter. Senator Wyden's office also requested funding estimates associated with the requirements of a vessel monitoring system. Council staff will work with National Marine Fisheries Service and report the final estimates, as provided to Senator Wyden, to the Committee.

Council Action:

Consider Recommendations of the Legislative Committee.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 1: Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Issues, Pacific Council Prioritization, and Positions.

2. Agenda Item J.2.a, Attachment 2: March 15, 2005 letter from U.S. Senator Ron Wyden to Mr. Donald K. Hansen regarding the Capitol Construction Fund Qualified Withdrawal Act of 2005 (Senate Bill 343).

Agenda Order:

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

Mike Burner
Dave Hanson

PFMC
03/22/05