

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (Committee) will meet Monday, June 13 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.

Reauthorization of the MSA was discussed at length at the *2005 Council Chairs and Executive Directors (CCED) Meeting* in Dana Point, California, April 26-29, 2005. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) presented a list of 37 items that were potential topics to be addressed in the reauthorization process; the list was divided into primary and secondary priorities (Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 1). The CCEDs addressed nine of those issues at this year's meeting (Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 2). The CCEDs reaffirmed and updated their positions on a number of the remaining issues, which were addressed at the 2001 and 2002 CCED meetings (Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 2, Appendices A and B). The CCEDs used the positions developed at the April Pacific Council meeting as a basis for their discussions, and although some modifications were made to address the needs of other Regional Councils, the Pacific Council positions were generally accepted. A summary of changes to Pacific Council positions resulting from the CCED meeting is included in Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 3.

Other subjects covered at the CCED meeting included ecosystem management approaches, the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, Council member training, budget issues, and future CCED meetings (Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 4)

The Council and its Legislative Committee will review the positions on MSA reauthorization developed at the CCED meeting, discuss any conflicting positions, and address any outstanding issues. If a draft reauthorization bill is available at the Legislative Committee meeting, additional guidance on specific provisions will be requested.

Council Action:

Consider recommendations of the Legislative Committee.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 1: Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Issues Preliminary Draft of Working Considerations for an Administration Position.
2. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 2: Positions of the Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs on Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
3. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 3: Summary Of Substantive Differences Between Pacific Council And Council Chairs And Executive Directors Positions For Reauthorization Of The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation And Management Act.

4. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 4: Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs and Executive Directors Meeting April 26-29, 2005 Decisions Summary.
5. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 5: News article, "Bush Urges U.S. Senate to Ratify Pacific Tuna, Swordfish Treaty.

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

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