

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (Committee) will meet Monday, March 6 at 8:30 a.m. with a primary objective to review federal legislative issues.

The Committee meeting will focus on recent efforts in Congress to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The Committee last met on December 1, 2005 in a full day session. This full day meeting was scheduled by the Council in November 2005 at the request of the Committee primarily to allow adequate time for Committee deliberation of S. 2012, the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2005* introduced in the U. S. Senate by Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). The resulting Committee Report (Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 1) includes a detailed, section-by-section review of S. 2012 as well as preliminary recommendations and alternative position statements on S. 1195, the *National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005*.

The December 2005 Committee Report was approved by the Council via the between-meeting approval protocol and was sent to Senator Stevens and the cosponsors of S. 2012, U.S. Congressman Richard Pombo (R-California), U.S. Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (R-Maryland), as well as staff members of the U. S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the U.S. House Subcommittee for Fisheries, Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans. The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation met on December 15, 2005 where S. 2012 was revised by committee amendment. A staff working draft of the revised S. 2012 is included in the reference materials as Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 2. The Committee may review the revised draft bill and report to the Council. It is anticipated that a U.S. House of Representatives bill addressing reauthorization of MSA will be introduced soon but was unavailable in time for the March Council briefing book.

There has been discussion recently regarding amendment of the American Fisheries Act (AFA) via the U.S. Coast Guard Authorization Bill. The potential change to a nuance of the AFA may be considered by the Committee.

Informational Report 1, a letter and U.S. ocean policy report card to President George W. Bush, cosigned by the Chairs of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, is included in the March briefing book as an important matter relating to federal ocean policy and may be a topic for Committee discussion.

The Council is tasked with considering its Legislative Committee recommendations on these and other legislative matters and responding, as appropriate.

Council Action:

Consider recommendations of the Legislative Committee.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 1: December 12, 2005 letter from Dr. McIsaac to U.S. Senator Stevens including the December 2005 Legislative Committee Report.
2. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 2: S2012 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2005, Committee Amendment, Staff Working Draft.
3. Agenda Item B.3.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

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

PFMC
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