

## LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (Committee) will meet Monday, June 12 at 1:00 p.m. with a primary objective to review federal legislative issues regarding reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

The Committee last met on April 28, 2006 in a full day session in lieu of a meeting at the April 2006 Council meeting. This full day meeting was scheduled by the Council in March 2006 at the request of the Committee primarily to allow adequate time for Committee deliberation of H.R. 5018, the *American Fisheries Management and Marine Life Enhancement Act* introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives by Congressman Richard Pombo (R-California) along with Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska). The meeting was comprehensive and productive given the lack of time constraints that can happen when the Committee meets in conjunction with Council meetings.

Due to considerable congressional activity in May 2006 regarding H.R. 5018, there was insufficient time for full Council review of the Committee's comments. To facilitate timely consideration of Committee comments during this legislative process, the Committee recommended and the Chair approved, Council Executive Director, Dr. Donald McIsaac providing written (Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 1) and verbal comments (Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 2) conveying Committee positions at a May 3, 2006 hearing regarding H.R. 5018 held by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources. Mr. Rod Moore also provided testimony at the hearing, but qualified his testimony as not being in his capacity as a Council member. The Committee's comments were conveyed in a letter (Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 3) sent to Congressman Pombo and the cosponsors of H.R. 5018, other key members of Congress working on MSA reauthorization, 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 in advance of a May 17, 2006 work session of the U.S. House Committee on Resources to review and revise the bill. At the June Council meeting, the Committee will review and discuss any amended version of H.R. 5018 that may arise from this session.

The Committee also reviewed an amended version 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 Committee noted several key issues previously raised by the Council which have not been addressed in the current version of S. 2012. Additionally, in response to Council deliberations and public testimony at the March 2006 Council meeting, the Committee reviewed and commented on two new issues; 1) removal of term limits for the Council Tribal Obligatory seat, and 2) S. 2012 provisions for U.S. representation on the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Central and Western Pacific Ocean in accordance with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention. Committee comments were sent in a letter from Dr. McIsaac (Agenda Item B.3.a., Attachment 4) to Senator Stevens and the same distribution list as aforementioned letter regarding H.R. 5018.

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: May 3, 2006 written testimony of Dr. McIsaac to U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Resources regarding Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
2. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 2: May 3, 2006 verbal testimony of Dr. McIsaac to U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Resources regarding H.R. 5018 and H.R. 1431.
3. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 3: May 15, 2006 letter from Dr. McIsaac to U.S. Congressman Pombo regarding Legislative Committee comments on H.R. 5018.
4. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 4: May 15, 2006 letter from Dr. McIsaac to U.S. Senator Stevens regarding Legislative Committee comments on S. 2012.

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. <b>Council Action:</b> Consider Recommendations of the Legislative Committee |             |

PFMC  
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