

Fact Sheet

FY 2007 Budget and Funding the Regional Fishery Management Councils at \$25 M

U.S. Marine Fisheries generate economic activity valued at \$60 billion.

- The Regional Fishery Management Councils are charged with front line management responsibility to develop federal fishing regulations to conserve fish stocks and manage these offshore commercial and sport fisheries to sustain strong long-term economic viability.

The Magnuson – Stevens Act is expected to be reauthorized in this Congress.

- The Regional Fishery Management Councils need to be properly funded to meet this responsibility.

The Regional Fishery Management Councils line item needs to be funded at the \$25 M level for FY 2007.

- \$25 M in dedicated funding will allow the Regional Fishery Management Councils to implement existing Fishery Management Plans, including initiation of such matters as ecosystem management and improved control programs for commercial fisheries.
 - \$25 M is 0.04% of value of generated economic activity.
- \$33 M was identified in the NOAA Budget Preparation Process as the amount needed for Regional Fishery Management Councils to fully meet all requirements of the current Magnuson Stevens Act.¹
- \$25 M represents the same level of funding to the Regional Fishery Management Councils as provided in FY 2004, increased by 2% per year since 2004.
 - Recent year funding was provided by Congress via \$15 M in the Regional Fishery Management Councils line item and the balance from relevant line items within the National Marine Fisheries Service budget.
 - It is important the Regional Fishery Management Councils line item be set at \$25 M to insure that the Councils receive adequate funding.
- The President's 2007 Request Budget lists the Regional Fishery Management Councils line item at \$18 M.
 - While \$18 M is an increase over the \$15 M in this line item from the FY 2006 enacted amount, it is \$7 M less than the Councils need to adequately implement the current Fishery Management Plans currently in place.

¹ *Regional Fishery Management Council Requirements Analysis*. July 2004. A report prepared under NOAA Fisheries contract using the NOAA Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution System for the NOAA FY 2007 – 2011 budget submission process. 32 pages plus appendices.