



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Donald K. Hansen, Chairman Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

October 5, 2007

Honorable Don Young
Ranking Republican Member, Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL COMMENTS ON H.R. 21

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your request for comments on H.R. 21 the *Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act*. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) considered your request and reviewed H.R. 21 at our September 10-14, 2007 meeting in Portland, Oregon. The Pacific Council supports the shared position of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils conveyed to you in the enclosed September 18, 2007 letter on H.R. 21 and also wishes to express a few unique additional comments.

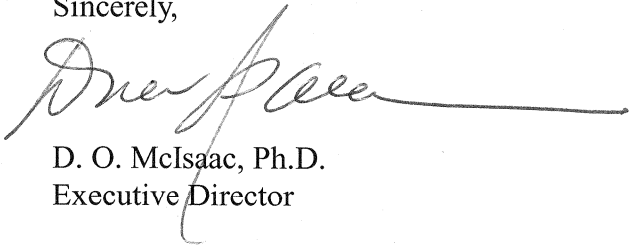
In concert with many of the provisions of H.R. 21, the Pacific Council is supportive of furthering ecosystem-based principles in fishery management. In November 2006, the Pacific Council initiated funding contingent on development of an Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (EFMP) that will incorporate ecosystem-based fishery management by serving as an "umbrella" plan over our four existing fishery management plans. The Pacific Council envisions the EFMP helping with coast-wide research planning and policy guidance, and creating a framework for status reports on the health of the West Coast's California Current Ecosystem. The plan envisioned by the Pacific Council would advance fishery management by introducing new theories, new scientific findings, and new authorities to the current process without creating additional bureaucracies. In undertaking this endeavor, the Pacific Council is building partnerships with existing authorities including the West Coast States, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Pacific Council notes that H.R. 21, like the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), imposes higher standards on the monitoring, management, and conservation of internationally-managed species than many foreign fisheries are held to. Revising international fishery management was a focal point of the *Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006*. The Pacific Council is currently working hard to implement theses and other new provisions of the MSA and feels it is under this authority that international fishery issues are best addressed. The Pacific Council feels duplicity and possible confusion in this area should be actively avoided by H.R. 21.

As you are aware, the lack of adequate funding is a frequent problem in managing our ocean resources and meeting the mandates of our existing laws governing our nation's marine resources. The Pacific Council recommends the U.S. Congress fully fund existing mandates under the MSA before funding the provisions in H.R. 21 that have been identified in the enclosed letter as potential conflicts with MSA.

Thank you again for providing the Pacific Council an opportunity to provide comments on H.R. 21. If you or your staff have any questions about this letter, please contact me or Mr. Mike Burner, the lead Staff Officer on this matter at 503-820-2280.

Sincerely,



D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosure

MDB:rdd

- c U.S. Congressman Joe Baca, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Howard L. Berman, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer, (D-OR)
- U.S. Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, (D-GU)
- U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Jim Costa, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Susan A. Davis, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Peter A. DeFazio, (D-OR)
- U.S. Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Sam Farr, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Bob Filner, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Elton Gallegly, (R-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Michael M. Honda, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Jay Inslee, (D-WA)
- U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Jerry McNerney, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman George Miller, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano, (D-CA)
- U.S. Congressman Kevin McCarthy, (R-CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, (R-WA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, (D-CA)

U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, (D-CA)
U.S. Congressman Bill Sali, (R-ID)
U.S. Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, (D-CA)
U.S. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, (D-CA)
U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman, (D-CA)
U.S. Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis, (D-CA)
U.S. Congressman Fortney Pete Stark, (D-CA)
U.S. Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, (D-CA)
U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson, (D-CA)
U.S. Congressman Henry A. Waxman, (D-CA)
U.S. Congresswoman Lynn C. Woolsey, (D-CA)
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, (D-CA)
U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, (D-WA)
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, (D-CA)
U.S. Senator Patty Murray, (D-WA)
U.S. Senator Gordon H. Smith, (R-OR)
U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, (D-OR)
Pacific Fishery Management Council Members
Regional Fishery Management Council Executive Directors