

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PLANNING

The primary purpose of this agenda item is to provide initial information to Council Members early in the Council meeting to facilitate planning for future meeting agendas. This is especially important at the March meeting since the April Agenda must be finalized on Friday for submission to the *Federal Register*.

The Executive Director will review a work planning schematic for Council action on the groundfish trawl rationalization environmental impact statements (EIS), initial drafts of the three-meeting outlook and the April Council meeting agenda, and respond to any questions the Council may have regarding these initial planning documents. This agenda item is essentially informational in nature; however, after hearing any reports and comments from advisory bodies or the public, the Council may wish to provide guidance to staff at this time for use in preparing for Agenda Item D.6, Council Three-Meeting Outlook and April 2007 Council Meeting Agenda, which is scheduled for later in the week.

To the extent possible, the proposed April agenda tries to maintain Monday free for advisory body deliberations.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Receive information on potential agenda topics for the next three Council meetings.**
- 2. Receive information on an initial draft agenda for the April Council meeting.**
- 3. Provide guidance on the development of materials for Agenda Item D.6 (April agenda and three-meeting outlook).**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 1: Work Planning Schematic for Groundfish Trawl Rationalization EIS.
2. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 2: Preliminary Draft Three-Meeting Outlook for the Pacific Council.
3. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 3: Preliminary Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, April 1-6, 2007, Seattle, Washington.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion of Future Council Meeting Agenda Topics

Don McIsaac

PFCM
2/21/07

Work Planning Schematic for Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Environmental Impact Statements

Council Meeting	November 2006 Plan		Current Planning		2009-10 Biennial Specifications
	IQ Alternatives EIS	Intersector Allocation EIS	IQ Alternatives EIS	Intersector Allocation EIS	
March, 2007	Refine Alternatives		Refine Alternatives		
April, 2007		<i>{Refine Alternatives}</i>			
June, 2007	Refine Alternatives	Adopt EIS Alternatives	Refine Alternatives	Adopt EIS Alternatives	
September, 2007					Adopt selected Stock Assessments
November, 2007	Select Preferred Alternative	Select Preferred Alternative	Adopt EIS Alternatives	Prelim. DEIS; Adopt Preferred Alternative	Adopt remaining Stock Assessments, Prelim ABC/OYs, and Mgmt Measures
March, 2008					
April, 2008	Final Council Action (Option 1)	Final Council Action (Option 1)		Final Council Action	Adopt ABC/OYs and Refined Mgmt. Measures
June, 2008	Final Council Action (Option 2)	Final Council Action (Option 2)	Prelim. DEIS; Adopt Preferred Alternative		Adopt Final ABC/OYs & Mgmt Measures
September, 2008					
November, 2008			Final Council Action		

Preliminary Draft Three Meeting Outlook for the Pacific Council

(Contingent Items are Shaded and Counted in Time Estimate; Changes from November Attachment in Dashed Boxes)

April Seattle, WA 4/1-4/6/2007 Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 109%	June Foster City, CA 6/10-6/17/07 Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 102%	September Undetermined (9/9-9/14/07) Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 83%
<u>Administrative</u> Closed Session; Open Session Call to Order; Min. Legislative Committee Report Interim Appointments to Advisory Bodies MSA Reauthorization Implementation 3 Mtg Outlook, Draft June Agenda, Workload (2 sessions) Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Res. & Data Needs: Set Process for Next Cycle Ecosystem Based Mgmt Umbrella FMP: Preliminary Planning & Consideration of FMP Structure	<u>Administrative</u> Closed Session; Open Session Call to Order; Min. Legislative Committee Report Fiscal Matters Interim Appointments to Advisory Bodies MSA Reauthorization Implementation 3 Mtg Outlook, Draft September Agenda, Workload Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Refine Operations Regulatory Streamlining ROA: Review Draft Agreement COP for RFMO Procedures: Adopt Final	<u>Administrative</u> Closed Session; Open Session Call to Order; Min. Legislative Committee Report Fiscal Matters Interim Appointments to Advisory Bodies MSA Reauthorization Implementation 3 Mtg Outlook, Draft April Agenda, Workload Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
<u>Coastal Pelagic Species</u>	<u>Coastal Pelagic Species</u> NMFS Rpt Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline for 2007-2008	<u>Coastal Pelagic Species</u>
<u>Enforcement Issues</u> USCG Annual Fishery Enforcement Report	<u>Enforcement Issues</u>	<u>Enforcement Issues</u>
<u>Groundfish</u> NMFS Report 2007 Inseason Management (2 Sessions)	<u>Groundfish</u> NMFS Report 2007 Inseason Mgmt (2 Sessions) Trawl IQ: Further Refinement of Alts. Intersector Allocation EIS: Adopt Alts. for Analysis	<u>Groundfish</u> NMFS Report 2007 Inseason Management (2 Sessions) Trawl IQ: Adopt Alts. For Analysis
Open Access Limitation: Next Steps Shoreside Whiting Monitoring Program: Adopt Final	?? Open Access Limitation: Next Steps Biennial Mgmt Spx (2009-2010): Adopt Sched & Process	New Stock Assessments: Adopt for 2009-2010
FMP A-15 (AFA): Mgmt Alts for Analysis & Pub Rev (DEA)	FMP A-15 (AFA): Final Council Action EFPs for 2008: Preliminary Rev & comment	
<u>Habitat Issues</u> Habitat Committee Report	<u>Habitat Issues</u> Habitat Committee Report	<u>Habitat Issues</u> Habitat Committee Report

Agenda Item D.1.a
 Attachment 2
 March 2007

Preliminary Draft Three Meeting Outlook for the Pacific Council

(Contingent Items are Shaded and Counted in Time Estimate; Changes from November Attachment in Dashed Boxes)

April Seattle, WA 4/1-4/6/2007 Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 109%	June Foster City, CA 6/10-6/17/07 Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 102%	September Undetermined (9/9-9/14/07) Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 83%
<u>Highly Migratory Species</u> NMFS Rpt Longline EFP: Adopt Final Preferred Alt. Albacore Effort Update Ref. Points for OF Determinations: Preliminary Alts. Yellowfin Overfishing: Prelim Planning for Alts. COP for RFMO Procedures: Adopt for Pub Rev	<u>Highly Migratory Species</u> NMFS Rpt New EFPs for 2008: Adopt for Pub Rev Routine Mgmt Measures: Update and Draft SAFE Rpt (note: final adoption of COP for RFMO in Admin Agenda)	<u>Highly Migratory Species</u> NMFS Rpt New EFPs for 2008: Adopt for Pub Rev Routine Mgmt Meas: Draft Reg Anal & Final SAFE Rpt Yellowfin Overfishing: Adopt Alts. for Pub Rev
<u>Marine Protected Areas</u> CINMS Research Reserves & State Regs.	<u>Marine Protected Areas</u>	<u>Marine Protected Areas</u>
<u>Pacific Halibut</u> Incidental Catch Regs for 2007: Adopt Final	<u>Pacific Halibut</u>	<u>Pacific Halibut</u> Changes to 2008 CSP & Regs: Adopt for Pub Rev Halibut Bycatch Est for IPHC: review
<u>Salmon</u> 2007 Management Options: Final Adoption 2007 Methodology Review: Establish Process & Preliminary Priorities	<u>Salmon</u> Mitchell Act EIS: Comments within Comment Period	<u>Salmon</u> 2007 Methodology Review: Select Final Review Priorities
<u>Information Reports</u> Mass Marking	<u>Information Reports</u> Salmon Fishery Update HMS Draft SAFE Rpt New GF Stock Assessments for SSC Rev	<u>Information Reports</u> Salmon Fishery Update New Stock Assessments for SSC Rev
<u>Special Sessions</u>	<u>Special Sessions</u>	<u>Special Sessions</u> Joint Session Monday for New Stock Ass. Rev

1 hr =3%

PRELIMINARY PROPOSED COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA, APRIL 1-6, 2007, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

	Sun, Apr 1	Mon, Apr 2	Tues, Apr 3	Wed, Apr 4	Thurs, Apr 5	Fri, Apr 6
Day-Time Council Floor Matters		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CLOSED SESSION</u> 2:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CALL TO ORDER</u> 3:00 pm (15 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ENFORCEMENT ISSUES</u> B. 1 USCG Annual Fishery Enforcement Rpt (1 hr)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C.1 Future Agenda Planning (15 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT</u> D.1 Comments on Non-Agenda Items (30 min)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C.2 MSA Reauthorization Implementation (3 hr)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>HABITAT</u> E.1 Current Issues (45 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PACIFIC HALIBUT</u> F.1 Incidental Catch Regs (30 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SALMON</u> G.1 Tentative Adoption of 2007 Mgmt (3 hr 30 min)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C.3 Ecosystem FMP Planning (2 hr) C.4 Interim Appointments (30 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>GROUNDFISH</u> H.1 NMFS Report (1 hr) H.2 Final Approval Shoreside Whiting Monitoring (2 hr 30 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SALMON</u> G.2 Methodology Rev (45 min) G.3 Clarify 2007 Mgmt Meas if Necessary (1 hr)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C.5 Minutes (15 min)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GROUNDFISH</u> H.3 Amendment 15 (AFA) (3 hr) H.4 Inseason Adjustments (2 hr)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SALMON</u> G.4 Adopt Final 2007 Mgmt Meas. (3 hr)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>HIGHLY MIGRATORY</u> I.1 NMFS Report (30 min)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SALMON</u> G.5 Clarify Final Action if Nec (30 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>HIGHLY MIGRATORY</u> I.2 Longline EFP (2 hr) I.3 Albacore Effort (1 hr 15 min) I.4 Yellowfin OF (45 min) I.5 Initial Guidance for IATTC Mtg (30 min) I.6 COP for RFMO Proc. (30 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>GROUNDFISH</u> H.5 Final Inseason Adjustments (1 hr)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C.6 Legislative Matters (30 min) C.7 3-Meeting Outlook, April Agenda (30 min)</p>
		3 hr	7 hr 45 min	8 hr	8 hr 30 min	7 hr 30 min
Committees		8:00 am GAP 8:00 am GMT 8:00 am SAS 8:00 am STT 8:00 am SSC 9:00 am HC 9:30 am LC 1:00 pm MEW 4:30 pm EC	8:00 am EC 8:00 am GAP 8:00 am GMT 8:00 am SAS 8:00 am STT 8:00 am SSC	8:00 am EC 8:00 am GAP 8:00 am GMT 8:00 am SAS 8:00 am STT 1:00 pm HMSAS 1:00 pm HMSMT	8:00 am EC 8:00 am GAP 8:00 am GMT 8:00 am HMSAS 8:00 am HMSMT 8:00 am SAS 8:00 am STT	8:00 am EC 8:00 am STT 8:00 am SAS
						Agenda Item D.1.a Attachment 3 March 2007

There are no Council-sponsored evening sessions scheduled at this time.

2/21/2007 2:38 PM

REVIEW AND PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW REQUIREMENTS RESULTING FROM REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT

On January 12, 2007, President Bush signed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1, *full text on CD*). United States Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) was the primary sponsor of the bill which approved by Congress in December 2006.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) as amended (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 2) retains key feature of the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 while strengthening the Regional Fishery Management Councils, improving fishery management decision making through improved processes and an increased role of science, and increasing U.S. leadership in international fishery management and conservation issues.

General highlights of the reauthorized MSA include:

- Clarifying the role of the Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs), particularly in regard to establishing annual catch limits shall not be exceeded.
- Mandating the use of allowable catch levels that do not exceed the levels recommended by the SSCs.
- Formulating accountability measures to prevent overfishing and preserve sustainable harvests.
- Setting national guidelines for Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPP, the new term for such programs as Individual Fishing Quota Programs).
- Mandating a new Environmental Review Process that aligns fishery management actions better than current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures.
- Initiating a study on the state of science for the integration of ecosystem consideration in fishery management.
- Requiring immediate action to end international overfishing and to achieve better controls on illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities on the high seas.
- Establishing a Council training program for new members and clarifying conflict of interest, disclosure of financial interest, and recusal requirements.

For a summary of new MSA provisions with an emphasis on matters associated with Pacific Council activities, see Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 3.

Implementing the new provisions of the MSA was the focus of a January 2007 meeting of the Council Chairs and Executive Directors (CCED) in Washington D.C. Reference materials provided at the meeting included a presentation on implementation of international provisions (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 4) and a table of tasks required by the new MSA organized by their respective legislative deadlines (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 5). Listed tasks of particular interest to the Council include development of a proposal for a rationalization program for the Pacific groundfish and whiting trawl fisheries within two years, proposed revision of NMFS procedures for compliance with NEPA within six months with promulgation of final procedures within one year, and establishment of mechanisms for specifying annual catch limits and accountability consequences within three years. It is implied that this latter matter may include the need for amendments to the Council's FMPs.

In a February 8, 2007 memorandum, Mr. Alan Risenhoover, Director of the NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries, presented a list of follow-up tasks for Regional Fishery Management Councils and their staffs (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 6). Council staff has been working to complete the listed assignments in a timely fashion and will include available response materials in a supplemental report to the Council at the March meeting. Of note, the memo highlights the release of a Notice of Intent to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze alternative guidelines for annual catch limits and accountability measures. This notice (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 7) was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2007 and includes a public comment period ending April 2, 2007.

The Council is tasked with reviewing the available materials and considering plans for completing required actions for timely implementation of all new MSA provisions. Additionally, the Council may wish to consider a formal response to the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS regarding guidelines for annual catch limits and accountability measures. Finally, NMFS has requested time on the April Council meeting in Seattle, Washington with particular reference to the total catch accountability and revised NEPA procedures issues (see Agenda Item D.1a, Attachment 2).

Council Tasks:

- 1. Direct planning and action on new MSA requirements as needed for implementation.**
- 2. Consider a response to the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for alternative guidelines for annual catch limits and accountability measures and plan for review of NEPA compliance procedures in April.**
- 3. Consider any necessities for the requested April Council meeting agenda item.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1: ***CD copy of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006.***
2. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 2: Draft of the MSA as amended by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006.
3. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 3: Council staff summary of MSA provisions.
4. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 4: NMFS presentation to the January 2007 CCED meeting regarding international provision in the new MSA.
5. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 5: Table of tasks for implementing the reauthorized MSA as presented at the CCED meeting in January 2007.
6. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 6, February 8, 2007 memorandum from Mr. Risenhoover regarding Council follow-up tasks from the January CCED meeting.
7. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 7: February 14, 2007 Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare and EIS to analyze alternative guidelines for annual catch limits and accountability measures.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Direct Planning and Action on New Requirements as Needed for Timely Implementation

Mike Burner

PFMC

02/21/07

One Hundred Ninth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the third day of January, two thousand and six*

An Act

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to authorize activities to promote improved monitoring and compliance for high seas fisheries, or fisheries governed by international fishery management agreements, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Amendment of Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
- Sec. 3. Changes in findings and definitions.
- Sec. 4. Highly migratory species.
- Sec. 5. Total allowable level of foreign fishing.
- Sec. 6. Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Sec. 101. Cumulative impacts.
- Sec. 102. Caribbean Council jurisdiction.
- Sec. 103. Regional fishery management councils.
- Sec. 104. Fishery management plan requirements.
- Sec. 105. Fishery management plan discretionary provisions.
- Sec. 106. Limited access privilege programs.
- Sec. 107. Environmental review process.
- Sec. 108. Emergency regulations.
- Sec. 109. Western Pacific and North Pacific community development.
- Sec. 110. Secretarial action on State groundfish fishing.
- Sec. 111. Joint enforcement agreements.
- Sec. 112. Transition to sustainable fisheries.
- Sec. 113. Regional coastal disaster assistance, transition, and recovery program.
- Sec. 114. Fishery finance program hurricane assistance.
- Sec. 115. Fisheries hurricane assistance program.
- Sec. 116. Bycatch reduction engineering program.
- Sec. 117. Community-based restoration program for fishery and coastal habitats.
- Sec. 118. Prohibited acts.
- Sec. 119. Shark feeding.
- Sec. 120. Clarification of flexibility.
- Sec. 121. Southeast Alaska fisheries communities capacity reduction.
- Sec. 122. Conversion to catcher/processor shares.

TITLE II—INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

- Sec. 201. Recreational fisheries information.
- Sec. 202. Collection of information.
- Sec. 203. Access to certain information.
- Sec. 204. Cooperative research and management program.

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- Sec. 205. Herring study.
- Sec. 206. Restoration study.
- Sec. 207. Western Pacific fishery demonstration projects.
- Sec. 208. Fisheries conservation and management fund.
- Sec. 209. Use of fishery finance program for sustainable purposes.
- Sec. 210. Regional ecosystem research.
- Sec. 211. Deep sea coral research and technology program.
- Sec. 212. Impact of turtle excluder devices on shrimping.
- Sec. 213. Hurricane effects on commercial and recreational fishery habitats.
- Sec. 214. North Pacific Fisheries Convention.
- Sec. 215. New England groundfish fishery.
- Sec. 216. Report on council management coordination.
- Sec. 217. Study of shortage in the number of individuals with post- baccalaureate degrees in subjects related to fishery science.
- Sec. 218. Gulf of Alaska Rockfish demonstration program.

TITLE III—OTHER FISHERIES STATUTES

- Sec. 301. Amendments to Northern Pacific Halibut Act.
- Sec. 302. Reauthorization of other fisheries Acts.

TITLE IV—INTERNATIONAL

- Sec. 401. International monitoring and compliance.
- Sec. 402. Finding with respect to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
- Sec. 403. Action to end illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing and reduce by-catch of protected marine species.
- Sec. 404. Monitoring of Pacific insular area fisheries.
- Sec. 405. Reauthorization of Atlantic Tunas Convention Act.
- Sec. 406. International overfishing and domestic equity.
- Sec. 407. United States catch history.
- Sec. 408. Secretarial representative for international fisheries.

TITLE V—IMPLEMENTATION OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION

- Sec. 501. Short title.
- Sec. 502. Definitions.
- Sec. 503. Appointment of United States commissioners.
- Sec. 504. Authority and responsibility of the Secretary of State.
- Sec. 505. Rulemaking authority of the Secretary of Commerce.
- Sec. 506. Enforcement.
- Sec. 507. Prohibited acts.
- Sec. 508. Cooperation in carrying out convention.
- Sec. 509. Territorial participation.
- Sec. 510. Exclusive economic zone notification.
- Sec. 511. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VI—PACIFIC WHITING

- Sec. 601. Short title.
- Sec. 602. Definitions.
- Sec. 603. United States representation on joint management committee.
- Sec. 604. United States representation on the scientific review group.
- Sec. 605. United States representation on joint technical committee.
- Sec. 606. United States representation on advisory panel.
- Sec. 607. Responsibilities of the secretary.
- Sec. 608. Rulemaking.
- Sec. 609. Administrative matters.
- Sec. 610. Enforcement.
- Sec. 611. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 701. Study of the acidification of the oceans and effect on fisheries.
- Sec. 702. Puget Sound regional shellfish settlement.

TITLE VIII—TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION

- Sec. 801. Short title.
- Sec. 802. Definitions.
- Sec. 803. Purposes.
- Sec. 804. Tsunami forecasting and warning program.
- Sec. 805. National tsunami hazard mitigation program.
- Sec. 806. Tsunami research program.
- Sec. 807. Global tsunami warning and mitigation network.

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Sec. 808. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IX—POLAR BEARS

Sec. 901. Short title.

Sec. 902. Amendment of Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

SEC. 3. CHANGES IN FINDINGS AND DEFINITIONS.

(a) ECOSYSTEMS.—Section 2(a) (16 U.S.C. 1801(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(11) A number of the Fishery Management Councils have demonstrated significant progress in integrating ecosystem considerations in fisheries management using the existing authorities provided under this Act.”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 (16 U.S.C. 1802) is amended—

(1) by inserting after paragraph (13) the following:

“(13A) The term ‘regional fishery association’ means an association formed for the mutual benefit of members—

“(A) to meet social and economic needs in a region or subregion; and

“(B) comprised of persons engaging in the harvest or processing of fishery resources in that specific region or subregion or who otherwise own or operate businesses substantially dependent upon a fishery.”;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (20) the following:

“(20A) The term ‘import’—

“(A) means to land on, bring into, or introduce into, or attempt to land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, whether or not such landing, bringing, or introduction constitutes an importation within the meaning of the customs laws of the United States; but

“(B) does not include any activity described in subparagraph (A) with respect to fish caught in the exclusive economic zone or by a vessel of the United States.”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (23) the following:

“(23A) The term ‘limited access privilege’—

“(A) means a Federal permit, issued as part of a limited access system under section 303A to harvest a quantity of fish expressed by a unit or units representing a portion of the total allowable catch of the fishery that may be received or held for exclusive use by a person; and

“(B) includes an individual fishing quota; but

“(C) does not include community development quotas as described in section 305(i).

“(23B) The term ‘limited access system’ means a system that limits participation in a fishery to those satisfying certain eligibility criteria or requirements contained in a fishery management plan or associated regulation.”; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (27) the following:

“(27A) The term ‘observer information’ means any information collected, observed, retrieved, or created by an observer or electronic monitoring system pursuant to authorization by the Secretary, or collected as part of a cooperative research initiative, including fish harvest or processing observations, fish sampling or weighing data, vessel logbook data, vessel or processor-specific information (including any safety, location, or operating condition observations), and video, audio, photographic, or written documents.”.

(c) REDESIGNATION.—Paragraphs (1) through (45) of section 3 (16 U.S.C. 1802), as amended by subsection (a), are redesignated as paragraphs (1) through (50), respectively.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The following provisions of the Act are amended by striking “an individual fishing quota” and inserting “a limited access privilege”:

(A) Section 402(b)(1)(D) (16 U.S.C. 1881a(b)(1)(D)).

(B) Section 407(a)(1)(D) and (c)(1) (16 U.S.C. 1883(a)(1)(D) and (c)(1)).

(2) The following provisions of the Act are amended by striking “individual fishing quota” and inserting “limited access privilege”:

(A) Section 304(c)(3) (16 U.S.C. 1854(c)(3)).

(B) Section 304(d)(2)(A)(i) (16 U.S.C. 1854(d)(2)(A)(i)).

(3) Section 305(h)(1) (16 U.S.C. 1855(h)(1)) is amended by striking “individual fishing quotas,” and inserting “limited access privileges.”.

SEC. 4. HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES.

Section 102 (16 U.S.C. 1812) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before “The”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) TRADITIONAL PARTICIPATION.—In managing any fisheries under an international fisheries agreement to which the United States is a party, the appropriate Council or Secretary shall take into account the traditional participation in the fishery, relative to other nations, by fishermen of the United States on fishing vessels of the United States.

“(c) PROMOTION OF STOCK MANAGEMENT.—If a relevant international fisheries organization does not have a process for developing a formal plan to rebuild a depleted stock, an overfished stock, or a stock that is approaching a condition of being overfished, the provisions of this Act in this regard shall be communicated to and promoted by the United States in the international or regional fisheries organization.”.

SEC. 5. TOTAL ALLOWABLE LEVEL OF FOREIGN FISHING.

Section 201(d) (16 U.S.C. 1821(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking “shall be” and inserting “is”;

(2) by striking “will not” and inserting “cannot, or will not,”; and

(3) by inserting after “Act.” the following: “Allocations of the total allowable level of foreign fishing are discretionary, except that the total allowable level shall be zero for fisheries determined by the Secretary to have adequate or excess domestic harvest capacity.”.

SEC. 6. WESTERN PACIFIC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FUND.

Section 204(e) (16 U.S.C. 1824(e)(7)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and any funds or contributions received in support of conservation and management objectives under a marine conservation plan” after “agreement” in paragraph (7); and

(2) by inserting after “paragraph (4).” in paragraph (8) the following: “In the case of violations by foreign vessels occurring within the exclusive economic zones off Midway Atoll, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Jarvis, Howland, Baker, and Wake Islands, amounts received by the Secretary attributable to fines and penalties imposed under this Act, shall be deposited into the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund established under paragraph (7) of this subsection.”.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 4 (16 U.S.C. 1803) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the provisions of this Act—

“(1) \$337,844,000 for fiscal year 2007;

“(2) \$347,684,000 for fiscal year 2008;

“(3) \$357,524,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(4) \$367,364,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(5) \$377,204,000 for fiscal year 2011;

“(6) \$387,044,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

“(7) \$396,875,000 for fiscal year 2013.”.

TITLE I—CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

SEC. 101. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS.

(a) NATIONAL STANDARDS.—Section 301(a)(8) (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(8)) is amended by inserting “by utilizing economic and social data that meet the requirements of paragraph (2),” after “fishing communities”.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLANS.—Section 303(a)(9) (16 U.S.C. 1853(a)(9)) is amended by striking “describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on—” and inserting “analyze the likely effects, if any, including the cumulative conservation, economic, and social impacts, of the conservation and management measures on, and possible mitigation measures for—”.

SEC. 102. CARIBBEAN COUNCIL JURISDICTION.

Section 302(a)(1)(D) (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)(D)) is amended by inserting “and of commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States in the Caribbean Sea” after “seaward of such States”.

SEC. 103. REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS.

(a) TRIBAL ALTERNATE ON PACIFIC COUNCIL.—Section 302(b)(5) (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(5)) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(D) The tribal representative appointed under subparagraph (A) may designate as an alternate, during the period of the representative’s term, an individual knowledgeable concerning tribal rights, tribal law, and the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned.”.

(b) SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEES.—Section 302(g) (16 U.S.C. 1852(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking so much of subsection (g) as precedes paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(g) COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY PANELS.—

“(1)(A) Each Council shall establish, maintain, and appoint the members of a scientific and statistical committee to assist it in the development, collection, evaluation, and peer review of such statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information as is relevant to such Council’s development and amendment of any fishery management plan.

“(B) Each scientific and statistical committee shall provide its Council ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, including recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum sustainable yield, and achieving rebuilding targets, and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat status, social and economic impacts of management measures, and sustainability of fishing practices.

“(C) Members appointed by the Councils to the scientific and statistical committees shall be Federal employees, State employees, academicians, or independent experts and shall have strong scientific or technical credentials and experience.

“(D) Each member of a scientific and statistical committee shall be treated as an affected individual for purposes of paragraphs (2), (3)(B), (4), and (5)(A) of subsection (j). The Secretary shall keep disclosures made pursuant to this subparagraph on file.

“(E) The Secretary and each Council may establish a peer review process for that Council for scientific information used to advise the Council about the conservation and management of the fishery. The review process, which may include existing committees or panels, is deemed to satisfy the requirements of the guidelines issued pursuant to section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal year 2001 (Public Law 106–554—Appendix C; 114 Stat. 2763A–153).

“(F) In addition to the provisions of section 302(f)(7), the Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, pay a stipend to members of the scientific and statistical committees or advisory panels who are not employed by the Federal Government or a State marine fisheries agency.

“(G) A science and statistical committee shall hold its meetings in conjunction with the meeting of the Council, to the extent practicable.”.

(2) by striking “other” in paragraph (2); and

(3) by resetting the left margin of paragraphs (2) through (5) 2 ems from the left.

(c) COUNCIL FUNCTIONS.—Section 302(h) (16 U.S.C. 1852(h)) is amended—

(1) by striking “authority, and” in paragraph (5) and inserting “authority;”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) develop annual catch limits for each of its managed fisheries that may not exceed the fishing level recommendations of its scientific and statistical committee or the peer review process established under subsection (g); and”.

(d) SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES.—Section 302(h) (16 U.S.C. 1852(h)), as amended by subsection (c), is further amended—

(1) by striking “(g); and” in paragraph (6) and inserting “(g);”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (7), as redesignated by subsection (c)(2), as paragraph (8);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) develop, in conjunction with the scientific and statistical committee, multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes, that shall—

“(A) establish priorities for 5-year periods;

“(B) be updated as necessary; and

“(C) be submitted to the Secretary and the regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service for their consideration in developing research priorities and budgets for the region of the Council; and”.

(e) REGULAR AND EMERGENCY MEETINGS.—Section 302(i)(2)(C) (16 U.S.C. 1852(i)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “published in local newspapers in the major fishing ports of the region (and in other major fishing ports having a direct interest in the affected fishery) and such notice may be given by such other means as will result in wide publicity.” and inserting “provided by any means that will result in wide publicity in the major fishing ports of the region (and in other major fishing ports having a direct interest in the affected fishery), except that e-mail notification and website postings alone are not sufficient.”.

(f) CLOSED MEETINGS.—Section 302(i)(3)(B) (16 U.S.C. 1852(i)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “notify local newspapers in the major fishing ports within its region (and in other major, affected fishing ports,” and inserting “provide notice by any means that will result in wide publicity in the major fishing ports of the region (and in other major fishing ports having a direct interest in the affected fishery), except that e-mail notification and website postings alone are not sufficient,”.

(g) TRAINING.—Section 302 (16 U.S.C. 1852) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) COUNCIL TRAINING PROGRAM.—

“(1) TRAINING COURSE.—Within 6 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils and the National Sea Grant College Program, shall develop a training course for newly appointed Council members. The course may cover a variety of topics relevant to matters before the Councils, including—

“(A) fishery science and basic stock assessment methods;

“(B) fishery management techniques, data needs, and Council procedures;

“(C) social science and fishery economics;

“(D) tribal treaty rights and native customs, access, and other rights related to Western Pacific indigenous communities;

“(E) legal requirements of this Act, including conflict of interest and disclosure provisions of this section and related policies;

“(F) other relevant legal and regulatory requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

“(G) public process for development of fishery management plans;

“(H) other topics suggested by the Council; and

“(I) recreational and commercial fishing information, including fish harvesting techniques, gear types, fishing vessel types, and economics for the fisheries within each Council’s jurisdiction.

“(2) MEMBER TRAINING.—The training course shall be available to both new and existing Council members, staff from the regional offices and regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and may be made available to committee or advisory panel members as resources allow.

“(3) REQUIRED TRAINING.—Council members appointed after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall complete a training course that meets the requirements of this section not later than 1 year after the date on which they were appointed. Any Council member who has completed a training course within 24 months before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall be considered to have met the training requirement of this paragraph.

“(l) COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE.—The Councils may establish a Council coordination committee consisting of the chairs, vice chairs, and executive directors of each of the 8 Councils described in subsection (a)(1), or other Council members or staff, in order to discuss issues of relevance to all Councils, including issues related to the implementation of this Act.”.

(h) PROCEDURAL MATTERS.—Section 302(i) (16 U.S.C. 1852(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking “to the Councils or to the scientific and statistical committees or advisory panels established under subsection (g).” in paragraph (1) and inserting “to the Councils, the Council coordination committee established under subsection (l), or to the scientific and statistical committees or other committees or advisory panels established under subsection (g).”;

(2) by striking “of a Council, and of the scientific and statistical committee and advisory panels established under subsection (g):” in paragraph (2) and inserting “of a Council, of the Council coordination committee established under subsection (l), and of the scientific and statistical committees or other committees or advisory panels established under subsection (g):”; and

(3) by inserting “the Council Coordination Committee established under subsection (l),” in paragraph (3)(A) after “Council,”; and

(4) by inserting “other committees,” in paragraph (3)(A) after “committee,”.

(i) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Section 302(j) (16 U.S.C. 1852(j)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “lobbying, advocacy,” after “processing,” in paragraph (2);

(2) by striking “jurisdiction.” in paragraph (2) and inserting “jurisdiction, or with respect to an individual or organization with a financial interest in such activity.”;

(3) by striking subparagraph (B) of paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(B) be kept on file by the Council and made available on the Internet and for public inspection at the Council offices during reasonable hours; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) On January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on action taken by the Secretary and the Councils to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of this subsection, including identification of any conflict of interest problems with respect to the Councils and scientific and statistical committees and recommendations for addressing any such problems.”.

(j) GULF OF MEXICO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.—Section 302(b)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D)(i) The Governor of a State submitting a list of names of individuals for appointment by the Secretary of Commerce to the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council under subparagraph (C) shall include—

“(I) at least 1 nominee each from the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

“(II) at least 1 other individual who is knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of fisheries resources in the jurisdiction of the Council.

“(ii) Notwithstanding the requirements of subparagraph (C), if the Secretary determines that the list of names submitted by the Governor does not meet the requirements of clause (i) the Secretary shall—

“(I) publish a notice in the Federal Register asking the residents of that State to submit the names and pertinent biographical data of individuals who would meet the requirement not met for appointment to the Council; and

“(II) add the name of any qualified individual submitted by the public who meets the unmet requirement to the list of names submitted by the Governor.

“(iii) For purposes of clause (i) an individual who owns or operates a fish farm outside of the United States shall not be considered to be a representative of the commercial or recreational fishing sector.

“(iv) The requirements of this subparagraph shall expire at the end of fiscal year 2012.”.

SEC. 104. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a) (16 U.S.C. 1853(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and charter fishing” in paragraph (5) and inserting “charter fishing, and fish processing”;

(2) by inserting “economic information necessary to meet the requirements of this Act,” in paragraph (5) after “number of hauls,”;

(3) by striking “and” after the semicolon in paragraph (9)(A);

(4) by inserting “and” after the semicolon in paragraph (9)(B);

(5) by inserting after paragraph (9)(B) the following:

“(C) the safety of human life at sea, including whether and to what extent such measures may affect the safety of participants in the fishery,”;

(6) by striking “fishery” the first place it appears in paragraph (13) and inserting “fishery, including its economic impact,”;

(7) by striking “and” after the semicolon in paragraph (13);

(8) by striking “allocate” in paragraph (14) and inserting “allocate, taking into consideration the economic impact of the harvest restrictions or recovery benefits on the fishery participants in each sector,”;

(9) by striking “fishery.” in paragraph (14) and inserting “fishery and,”; and

(10) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICATION TO CERTAIN SPECIES.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(10)—

(1) shall, unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates, take effect—

(A) in fishing year 2010 for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to overfishing; and

(B) in fishing year 2011 for all other fisheries; and

(2) shall not apply to a fishery for species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species; and

(3) shall not limit or otherwise affect the requirements of section 301(a)(1) or 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1) or 1854(e), respectively).

(c) CLARIFICATION OF REBUILDING PROVISION.—Section 304(e) (16 U.S.C. 1854(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “one year of” in paragraph (3) and inserting “2 years after”;

(2) by inserting “and implement” after “prepare” in paragraph (3);

(3) by inserting “immediately” after “overfishing” in paragraph (3)(A);

(4) by striking “ending overfishing and” in paragraph (4)(A); and

(5) by striking “one-year” in paragraph (5) and inserting “2-year”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE FOR SUBSECTION (c).—The amendments made by subsection (c) shall take effect 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 105. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.

Section 303(b) (16 U.S.C. 1853(b)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(A)” after “(2)” in paragraph (2);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(B) designate such zones in areas where deep sea corals are identified under section 408, to protect deep sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep sea corals, after considering long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in such areas; and

“(C) with respect to any closure of an area under this Act that prohibits all fishing, ensure that such closure—

“(i) is based on the best scientific information available;

“(ii) includes criteria to assess the conservation benefit of the closed area;

“(iii) establishes a timetable for review of the closed area’s performance that is consistent with the purposes of the closed area; and

“(iv) is based on an assessment of the benefits and impacts of the closure, including its size, in relation to other management measures (either alone or in combination with such measures), including the benefits and impacts of limiting access to: users of the area, overall fishing activity, fishery science, and fishery and marine conservation;”;

(3) by striking “fishery,” in paragraph (5) and inserting “fishery and take into account the different circumstances affecting fisheries from different States and ports, including distances to fishing grounds and proximity to time and area closures;”;

(4) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account—

“(A) present participation in the fishery;

“(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;

“(C) the economics of the fishery;

“(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries;

“(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities;

“(F) the fair and equitable distribution of access privileges in the fishery; and

“(G) any other relevant considerations;”;

(5) by striking “(other than economic data)” in paragraph (7);

(6) by striking “and” after the semicolon in paragraph (11); and

(7) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (14) and inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) include management measures in the plan to conserve target and non-target species and habitats, considering the variety of ecological factors affecting fishery populations; and”.

SEC. 106. LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) is amended—
(1) by striking section 303(d); and
(2) by inserting after section 303 the following:

“SEC. 303A. LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAMS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—After the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, a Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve, for a fishery that is managed under a limited access system, a limited access privilege program to harvest fish if the program meets the requirements of this section.

“(b) NO CREATION OF RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST.—Limited access privilege, quota share, or other limited access system authorization established, implemented, or managed under this Act—

“(1) shall be considered a permit for the purposes of sections 307, 308, and 309;

“(2) may be revoked, limited, or modified at any time in accordance with this Act, including revocation if the system is found to have jeopardized the sustainability of the stock or the safety of fishermen;

“(3) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder of such limited access privilege, quota share, or other such limited access system authorization if it is revoked, limited, or modified;

“(4) shall not create, or be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested by the holder; and

“(5) shall be considered a grant of permission to the holder of the limited access privilege or quota share to engage in activities permitted by such limited access privilege or quota share.

“(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any limited access privilege program to harvest fish submitted by a Council or approved by the Secretary under this section shall—

“(A) if established in a fishery that is overfished or subject to a rebuilding plan, assist in its rebuilding;

“(B) if established in a fishery that is determined by the Secretary or the Council to have over-capacity, contribute to reducing capacity;

“(C) promote—

“(i) fishing safety;

“(ii) fishery conservation and management; and

“(iii) social and economic benefits;

“(D) prohibit any person other than a United States citizen, a corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or a permanent resident alien, that meets the eligibility and participation requirements established in the program from acquiring a privilege to harvest fish, including any

person that acquires a limited access privilege solely for the purpose of perfecting or realizing on a security interest in such privilege;

“(E) require that all fish harvested under a limited access privilege program be processed on vessels of the United States or on United States soil (including any territory of the United States);

“(F) specify the goals of the program;

“(G) include provisions for the regular monitoring and review by the Council and the Secretary of the operations of the program, including determining progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act, and any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals, with a formal and detailed review 5 years after the implementation of the program and thereafter to coincide with scheduled Council review of the relevant fishery management plan (but no less frequently than once every 7 years);

“(H) include an effective system for enforcement, monitoring, and management of the program, including the use of observers or electronic monitoring systems;

“(I) include an appeals process for administrative review of the Secretary’s decisions regarding initial allocation of limited access privileges;

“(J) provide for the establishment by the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, for an information collection and review process to provide any additional information needed to determine whether any illegal acts of anti-competition, anti-trust, price collusion, or price fixing have occurred among regional fishery associations or persons receiving limited access privileges under the program; and

“(K) provide for the revocation by the Secretary of limited access privileges held by any person found to have violated the antitrust laws of the United States.

“(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of paragraph (1)(E) if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) the fishery has historically processed the fish outside of the United States; and

“(B) the United States has a seafood safety equivalency agreement with the country where processing will occur.

“(3) FISHING COMMUNITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in a limited access privilege program to harvest fish, a fishing community shall—

“(I) be located within the management area of the relevant Council;

“(II) meet criteria developed by the relevant Council, approved by the Secretary, and published in the Federal Register;

“(III) consist of residents who conduct commercial or recreational fishing, processing, or fishery-dependent support businesses within the Council’s management area; and

“(IV) develop and submit a community sustainability plan to the Council and the Secretary that demonstrates how the plan will address the social

and economic development needs of coastal communities, including those that have not historically had the resources to participate in the fishery, for approval based on criteria developed by the Council that have been approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register.

“(ii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PLAN.—The Secretary shall deny or revoke limited access privileges granted under this section for any person who fails to comply with the requirements of the community sustainability plan. Any limited access privileges denied or revoked under this section may be reallocated to other eligible members of the fishing community.

“(B) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA.—In developing participation criteria for eligible communities under this paragraph, a Council shall consider—

“(i) traditional fishing or processing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;

“(ii) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery;

“(iii) economic barriers to access to fishery;

“(iv) the existence and severity of projected economic and social impacts associated with implementation of limited access privilege programs on harvesters, captains, crew, processors, and other businesses substantially dependent upon the fishery in the region or subregion;

“(v) the expected effectiveness, operational transparency, and equitability of the community sustainability plan; and

“(vi) the potential for improving economic conditions in remote coastal communities lacking resources to participate in harvesting or processing activities in the fishery.

“(4) REGIONAL FISHERY ASSOCIATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate in a limited access privilege program to harvest fish, a regional fishery association shall—

“(i) be located within the management area of the relevant Council;

“(ii) meet criteria developed by the relevant Council, approved by the Secretary, and published in the Federal Register;

“(iii) be a voluntary association with established by-laws and operating procedures;

“(iv) consist of participants in the fishery who hold quota share that are designated for use in the specific region or subregion covered by the regional fishery association, including commercial or recreational fishing, processing, fishery-dependent support businesses, or fishing communities;

“(v) not be eligible to receive an initial allocation of a limited access privilege but may acquire such privileges after the initial allocation, and may hold the annual fishing privileges of any limited access privileges it holds or the annual fishing privileges that its members contribute; and

“(vi) develop and submit a regional fishery association plan to the Council and the Secretary for approval based on criteria developed by the Council that have been approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register.

“(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PLAN.—The Secretary shall deny or revoke limited access privileges granted under this section to any person participating in a regional fishery association who fails to comply with the requirements of the regional fishery association plan.

“(C) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA.—In developing participation criteria for eligible regional fishery associations under this paragraph, a Council shall consider—

“(i) traditional fishing or processing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;

“(ii) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery;

“(iii) economic barriers to access to fishery;

“(iv) the existence and severity of projected economic and social impacts associated with implementation of limited access privilege programs on harvesters, captains, crew, processors, and other businesses substantially dependent upon the fishery in the region or subregion;

“(v) the administrative and fiduciary soundness of the association; and

“(vi) the expected effectiveness, operational transparency, and equitability of the fishery association plan.

“(5) ALLOCATION.—In developing a limited access privilege program to harvest fish a Council or the Secretary shall—

“(A) establish procedures to ensure fair and equitable initial allocations, including consideration of—

“(i) current and historical harvests;

“(ii) employment in the harvesting and processing sectors;

“(iii) investments in, and dependence upon, the fishery; and

“(iv) the current and historical participation of fishing communities;

“(B) consider the basic cultural and social framework of the fishery, especially through—

“(i) the development of policies to promote the sustained participation of small owner-operated fishing vessels and fishing communities that depend on the fisheries, including regional or port-specific landing or delivery requirements; and

“(ii) procedures to address concerns over excessive geographic or other consolidation in the harvesting or processing sectors of the fishery;

“(C) include measures to assist, when necessary and appropriate, entry-level and small vessel owner-operators, captains, crew, and fishing communities through set-asides of harvesting allocations, including providing privileges, which may include set-asides or allocations of harvesting privileges, or economic assistance in the purchase of limited access privileges;

“(D) ensure that limited access privilege holders do not acquire an excessive share of the total limited access privileges in the program by—

“(i) establishing a maximum share, expressed as a percentage of the total limited access privileges, that a limited access privilege holder is permitted to hold, acquire, or use; and

“(ii) establishing any other limitations or measures necessary to prevent an inequitable concentration of limited access privileges; and

“(E) authorize limited access privileges to harvest fish to be held, acquired, used by, or issued under the system to persons who substantially participate in the fishery, including in a specific sector of such fishery, as specified by the Council.

“(6) PROGRAM INITIATION.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), a Council may initiate a fishery management plan or amendment to establish a limited access privilege program to harvest fish on its own initiative or if the Secretary has certified an appropriate petition.

“(B) PETITION.—A group of fishermen constituting more than 50 percent of the permit holders, or holding more than 50 percent of the allocation, in the fishery for which a limited access privilege program to harvest fish is sought, may submit a petition to the Secretary requesting that the relevant Council or Councils with authority over the fishery be authorized to initiate the development of the program. Any such petition shall clearly state the fishery to which the limited access privilege program would apply. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, only those participants who have substantially fished the species proposed to be included in the limited access program shall be eligible to sign a petition for such a program and shall serve as the basis for determining the percentage described in the first sentence of this subparagraph.

“(C) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Upon the receipt of any such petition, the Secretary shall review all of the signatures on the petition and, if the Secretary determines that the signatures on the petition represent more than 50 percent of the permit holders, or holders of more than 50 percent of the allocation in the fishery, as described by subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall certify the petition to the appropriate Council or Councils.

“(D) NEW ENGLAND AND GULF REFERENDUM.—

“(i) Except as provided in clause (iii) for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery, the New England and Gulf Councils may not submit, and the Secretary may not approve or implement, a fishery management plan or amendment that creates an individual fishing quota program, including a Secretarial plan, unless such a system, as ultimately developed, has been approved by more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of those voting in a referendum among eligible permit holders, or other persons described in clause (v), with respect to the New England Council, and by a majority of those voting in the referendum among eligible permit holders with

respect to the Gulf Council. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, only those participants who have substantially fished the species proposed to be included in the individual fishing quota program shall be eligible to vote in such a referendum. If an individual fishing quota program fails to be approved by the requisite number of those voting, it may be revised and submitted for approval in a subsequent referendum.

“(ii) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum under this subparagraph, including notifying all persons eligible to participate in the referendum and making available to them information concerning the schedule, procedures, and eligibility requirements for the referendum process and the proposed individual fishing quota program. Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall publish guidelines and procedures to determine procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda and to conduct such referenda in a fair and equitable manner.

“(iii) The provisions of section 407(c) of this Act shall apply in lieu of this subparagraph for an individual fishing quota program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery.

“(iv) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, (commonly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act) does not apply to the referenda conducted under this subparagraph.

“(v) The Secretary shall promulgate criteria for determining whether additional fishery participants are eligible to vote in the New England referendum described in clause (i) in order to ensure that crew members who derive a significant percentage of their total income from the fishery under the proposed program are eligible to vote in the referendum.

“(vi) In this subparagraph, the term ‘individual fishing quota’ does not include a sector allocation.

“(7) TRANSFERABILITY.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall—

“(A) establish a policy and criteria for the transferability of limited access privileges (through sale or lease), that is consistent with the policies adopted by the Council for the fishery under paragraph (5); and

“(B) establish, in coordination with the Secretary, a process for monitoring of transfers (including sales and leases) of limited access privileges.

“(8) PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SECRETARIAL PLANS.—This subsection also applies to a plan prepared and implemented by the Secretary under section 304(c) or 304(g).

“(9) ANTITRUST SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the operation of any of the antitrust laws. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘antitrust laws’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act, except that such term includes section 5 of the Federal Trade

Commission Act to the extent that such section 5 applies to unfair methods of competition.

“(d) AUCTION AND OTHER PROGRAMS.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall consider, and may provide, if appropriate, an auction system or other program to collect royalties for the initial, or any subsequent, distribution of allocations in a limited access privilege program if—

“(1) the system or program is administered in such a way that the resulting distribution of limited access privilege shares meets the program requirements of this section; and

“(2) revenues generated through such a royalty program are deposited in the Limited Access System Administration Fund established by section 305(h)(5)(B) and available subject to annual appropriations.

“(e) COST RECOVERY.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall—

“(1) develop a methodology and the means to identify and assess the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement programs that are directly related to and in support of the program; and

“(2) provide, under section 304(d)(2), for a program of fees paid by limited access privilege holders that will cover the costs of management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement activities.

“(f) CHARACTERISTICS.—A limited access privilege established after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 is a permit issued for a period of not more than 10 years that—

“(1) will be renewed before the end of that period, unless it has been revoked, limited, or modified as provided in this subsection;

“(2) will be revoked, limited, or modified if the holder is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have failed to comply with any term of the plan identified in the plan as cause for revocation, limitation, or modification of a permit, which may include conservation requirements established under the plan;

“(3) may be revoked, limited, or modified if the holder is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have committed an act prohibited by section 307 of this Act; and

“(4) may be acquired, or reacquired, by participants in the program under a mechanism established by the Council if it has been revoked, limited, or modified under paragraph (2) or (3).

“(g) LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE ASSISTED PURCHASE PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve and implement, a program which reserves up to 25 percent of any fees collected from a fishery under section 304(d)(2) to be used, pursuant to section 53706(a)(7) of title 46, United States Code, to issue obligations that aid in financing—

“(A) the purchase of limited access privileges in that fishery by fishermen who fish from small vessels; and

“(B) the first-time purchase of limited access privileges in that fishery by entry level fishermen.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—A Council making a submission under paragraph (1) shall recommend criteria, consistent with the provisions of this Act, that a fisherman must meet to qualify for guarantees under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) and the portion of funds to be allocated for guarantees under each subparagraph.

“(h) EFFECT ON CERTAIN EXISTING SHARES AND PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, shall be construed to require a reallocation or a reevaluation of individual quota shares, processor quota shares, cooperative programs, or other quota programs, including sector allocation in effect before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006.

“(i) TRANSITION RULES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this section shall not apply to any quota program, including any individual quota program, cooperative program, or sector allocation for which a Council has taken final action or which has been submitted by a Council to the Secretary, or approved by the Secretary, within 6 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, except that—

“(A) the requirements of section 303(d) of this Act in effect on the day before the date of enactment of that Act shall apply to any such program;

“(B) the program shall be subject to review under subsection (c)(1)(G) of this section not later than 5 years after the program implementation; and

“(C) nothing in this subsection precludes a Council from incorporating criteria contained in this section into any such plans.

“(2) PACIFIC GROUND FISH PROPOSALS.—The requirements of this section, other than subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (c)(1) and subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall not apply to any proposal authorized under section 302(f) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 that is submitted within the timeframe prescribed by that section.”.

(b) FEES.—Section 304(d)(2)(A) (16 U.S.C. 1854(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “management and enforcement” and inserting “management, data collection, and enforcement”.

(c) INVESTMENT IN UNITED STATES SEAFOOD PROCESSING FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Commerce shall work with the Small Business Administration and other Federal agencies to develop financial and other mechanisms to encourage United States investment in seafood processing facilities in the United States for fisheries that lack capacity needed to process fish harvested by United States vessels in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 304(d)(2)(C)(i) (16 U.S.C. 1854(d)(2)(C)(i)) is amended by striking “section 305(h)(5)(B)” and all that follows and inserting “section 305(h)(5)(B).”.

(e) APPLICATION WITH AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT.—Nothing in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as added by subsection (a), shall be construed to modify or supersede any provision of the American Fisheries Act (46 U.S.C. 12102 note; 16 U.S.C. 1851 note; et alia).

SEC. 107. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS.

Section 304 (16 U.S.C. 1854) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS.—

“(1) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Councils and the Council on Environmental Quality, revise and update agency procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.). The procedures shall—

“(A) conform to the time lines for review and approval of fishery management plans and plan amendments under this section; and

“(B) integrate applicable environmental analytical procedures, including the time frames for public input, with the procedure for the preparation and dissemination of fishery management plans, plan amendments, and other actions taken or approved pursuant to this Act in order to provide for timely, clear and concise analysis that is useful to decision makers and the public, reduce extraneous paperwork, and effectively involve the public.

“(2) USAGE.—The updated agency procedures promulgated in accordance with this section used by the Councils or the Secretary shall be the sole environmental impact assessment procedure for fishery management plans, amendments, regulations, or other actions taken or approved pursuant to this Act.

“(3) SCHEDULE FOR PROMULGATION OF FINAL PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) propose revised procedures within 6 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006;

“(B) provide 90 days for public review and comments; and

“(C) promulgate final procedures no later than 12 months after the date of enactment of that Act.

“(4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary is authorized and directed, in cooperation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the Councils, to involve the affected public in the development of revised procedures, including workshops or other appropriate means of public involvement.”.

SEC. 108. EMERGENCY REGULATIONS.

(a) LENGTHENING OF SECOND EMERGENCY PERIOD.—Section 305(c)(3)(B) (16 U.S.C. 1855(c)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “180 days,” the second time it appears and inserting “186 days,”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 305(c)(3)(D) (16 U.S.C. 1855(c)(3)(D)) is amended by inserting “or interim measures” after “emergency regulations”.

SEC. 109. WESTERN PACIFIC AND NORTH PACIFIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Section 305 (16 U.S.C. 1855) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(j) WESTERN PACIFIC AND NORTHERN PACIFIC REGIONAL MARINE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot program for regionally-based marine education and training programs in the Western Pacific and the Northern Pacific to foster understanding, practical use of knowledge (including native Hawaiian, Alaskan Native, and other Pacific Islander-based knowledge), and technical expertise relevant to stewardship of living marine resources. The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Western Pacific and the North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Councils, regional educational institutions, and local Western Pacific and Northern Pacific community training entities, establish programs or projects that will improve communication, education, and training on marine resource issues throughout the region and increase scientific education for marine-related professions among coastal community residents, including indigenous Pacific islanders, Native Hawaiians, Alaskan Natives, and other underrepresented groups in the region.

“(2) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—The program shall—

“(A) include marine science and technology education and training programs focused on preparing community residents for employment in marine related professions, including marine resource conservation and management, marine science, marine technology, and maritime operations;

“(B) include fisheries and seafood-related training programs, including programs for fishery observers, seafood safety and seafood marketing, focused on increasing the involvement of coastal community residents in fishing, fishery management, and seafood-related operations;

“(C) include outreach programs and materials to educate and inform consumers about the quality and sustainability of wild fish or fish products farmed through responsible aquaculture, particularly in Hawaii, Alaska, the Western Pacific, the Northern Pacific, and the Central Pacific;

“(D) include programs to identify, with the fishing industry, methods and technologies that will improve the data collection, quality, and reporting and increase the sustainability of fishing practices, and to transfer such methods and technologies among fisheries sectors and to other nations in the Western, Northern, and Central Pacific;

“(E) develop means by which local and traditional knowledge (including Pacific islander, Native Hawaiian, and Alaskan Native knowledge) can enhance science-based management of fishery resources of the region; and

“(F) develop partnerships with other Western Pacific Island and Alaskan agencies, academic institutions, and other entities to meet the purposes of this section.”.

SEC. 110. SECRETARIAL ACTION ON STATE GROUND FISH FISHING.

Section 305 (16 U.S.C. 1855), as amended by section 109 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(k) MULTISPECIES GROUND FISH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 60 days after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary of Commerce shall determine whether fishing in State waters—

“(A) without a New England multispecies groundfish fishery permit on regulated species within the multispecies complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan; or

“(B) without a Federal bottomfish and seamount groundfish permit in the Hawaiian archipelago on regulated species within the complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan or State data are not sufficient to make such a determination.

“(2) CURE.—If the Secretary makes a determination that such actions are not consistent with the plan, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Council, and after notifying the affected State, develop and implement measures to cure the inconsistency pursuant to section 306(b).”.

SEC. 111. JOINT ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 311 (16 U.S.C. 1861) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in subsection

(b)(1)(A)(iv);

(2) by inserting “and” after the semicolon in subsection

(b)(1)(A)(v);

(3) by inserting after clause (v) of subsection (b)(1)(A) the following:

“(vi) access, directly or indirectly, for enforcement purposes any data or information required to be provided under this title or regulations under this title, including data from vessel monitoring systems, satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or any similar system, subject to the confidentiality provisions of section 402;”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (j); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) JOINT ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of an eligible State may apply to the Secretary for execution of a joint enforcement agreement with the Secretary that will authorize the deputization and funding of State law enforcement officers with marine law enforcement responsibilities to perform duties of the Secretary relating to law enforcement provisions under this title or any other marine resource law enforced by the Secretary. Upon receiving an application meeting the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary may enter into a joint enforcement agreement with the requesting State.

“(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—A State is eligible to participate in the cooperative enforcement agreements under this section if it is in, or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean (including the Caribbean Sea), the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, the Gulf

of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or 1 or more of the Great Lakes.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Joint enforcement agreements executed under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be consistent with the purposes and intent of this section to the extent applicable to the regulated activities;

“(B) may include specifications for joint management responsibilities as provided by the first section of Public Law 91–412 (15 U.S.C. 1525); and

“(C) shall provide for confidentiality of data and information submitted to the State under section 402.

“(4) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall include in each joint enforcement agreement an allocation of funds to assist in management of the agreement. The allocation shall be fairly distributed among all eligible States participating in cooperative enforcement agreements under this subsection, based upon consideration of Federal marine enforcement needs, the specific marine conservation enforcement needs of each participating eligible State, and the capacity of the State to undertake the marine enforcement mission and assist with enforcement needs. The agreement may provide for amounts to be withheld by the Secretary for the cost of any technical or other assistance provided to the State by the Secretary under the agreement.

“(i) IMPROVED DATA SHARING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, as soon as practicable but no later than 21 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall implement data-sharing measures to make any data required to be provided by this Act from satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, vessel monitoring systems, or similar systems—

“(A) directly accessible by State enforcement officers authorized under subsection (a) of this section; and

“(B) available to a State management agency involved in, or affected by, management of a fishery if the State has entered into an agreement with the Secretary under section 402(b)(1)(B) of this Act.

“(2) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall promptly enter into an agreement with a State under section 402(b)(1)(B) of this Act if—

“(A) the Attorney General or highest ranking legal officer of the State provides a written opinion or certification that State law allows the State to maintain the confidentiality of information required by Federal law to be kept confidential; or

“(B) the Secretary is provided other reasonable assurance that the State can and will protect the identity or business of any person to which such information relates.”.

(b) REPORT.—Within 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Coast Guard shall transmit a joint report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources containing—

(1) a cost-to-benefit analysis of the feasibility, value, and cost of using vessel monitoring systems, satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or similar systems for fishery management, conservation, enforcement, and safety purposes with the Federal government bearing the capital costs of any such system;

(2) an examination of the cumulative impact of existing requirements for commercial vessels;

(3) an examination of whether satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or similar requirements would overlap existing requirements or render them redundant;

(4) an examination of how data integration from such systems could be addressed;

(5) an examination of how to maximize the data-sharing opportunities between relevant State and Federal agencies and provide specific information on how to develop these opportunities, including the provision of direct access to satellite-based maritime distress and safety system or similar system data to State enforcement officers, while considering the need to maintain or provide an appropriate level of individual vessel confidentiality where practicable; and

(6) an assessment of how the satellite-based maritime distress and safety system or similar systems could be developed, purchased, and distributed to regulated vessels.

SEC. 112. TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312 (16 U.S.C. 1861a) is amended—

(1) by striking “measures;” in subsection (a)(1)(B) and inserting “measures, including regulatory restrictions (including those imposed as a result of judicial action) imposed to protect human health or the marine environment;”;

(2) by striking “1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999.” in subsection (a)(4) and inserting “2007 through 2013.”;

(3) by striking “or the Governor of a State for fisheries under State authority, may conduct a fishing” in subsection (b)(1) and inserting “the Governor of a State for fisheries under State authority, or a majority of permit holders in the fishery, may conduct a voluntary fishing”;

(4) by inserting “practicable” after “entrants,” in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i);

(5) by striking “cost-effective and” in subsection (b)(1)(C) and inserting “cost-effective and, in the instance of a program involving an industry fee system, prospectively”;

(6) by striking subparagraph (A) of subsection (b)(2) and inserting the following:

“(A) the owner of a fishing vessel, if the permit authorizing the participation of the vessel in the fishery is surrendered for permanent revocation and the vessel owner and permit holder relinquish any claim associated with the vessel or permit that could qualify such owner or holder for any present or future limited access system permit in the fishery for which the program is established or in any other fishery and such vessel is (i) scrapped, or (ii) through the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, subjected to title restrictions (including loss of the vessel’s fisheries endorsement) that permanently prohibit and effectively prevent its

use in fishing in federal or state waters, or fishing on the high seas or in the waters of a foreign nation; or”;

(7) by striking “The Secretary shall consult, as appropriate, with Councils,” in subsection (b)(4) and inserting “The harvester proponents of each program and the Secretary shall consult, as appropriate and practicable, with Councils,”;

(8) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:

“(5) PAYMENT CONDITION.—The Secretary may not make a payment under paragraph (2) with respect to a vessel that will not be scrapped unless the Secretary certifies that the vessel will not be used for fishing in the waters of a foreign nation or fishing on the high seas.

“(6) REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary shall, within 12 months after the date of the enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 submit to the Congress a report—

“(i) identifying and describing the 20 fisheries in United States waters with the most severe examples of excess harvesting capacity in the fisheries, based on value of each fishery and the amount of excess harvesting capacity as determined by the Secretary;

“(ii) recommending measures for reducing such excess harvesting capacity, including the retirement of any latent fishing permits that could contribute to further excess harvesting capacity in those fisheries; and

“(iii) potential sources of funding for such measures.

“(B) BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall base the recommendations made with respect to a fishery on—

“(i) the most cost effective means of achieving voluntary reduction in capacity for the fishery using the potential for industry financing; and

“(ii) including measures to prevent the capacity that is being removed from the fishery from moving to other fisheries in the United States, in the waters of a foreign nation, or on the high seas.”;

(9) by striking “Secretary, at the request of the appropriate Council,” in subsection (d)(1)(A) and inserting “Secretary”;

(10) by striking “Secretary, in consultation with the Council,” in subsection (d)(1)(A) and inserting “Secretary”;

(11) by striking “a two-thirds majority of the participants voting.” in subsection (d)(1)(B) and inserting “at least a majority of the permit holders in the fishery, or 50 percent of the permitted allocation of the fishery, who participated in the fishery.”;

(12) by striking “establish,” in subsection (d)(2)(C) and inserting “establish, unless the Secretary determines that such fees should be collected from the seller;”; and

(13) striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

“(1) FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall propose and adopt framework regulations applicable to the implementation of all programs under this section.

“(2) PROGRAM REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall implement each program under this section by promulgating regulations that, together with the framework regulations, establish each program and control its implementation.

“(3) HARVESTER PROPONENTS’ IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—The Secretary may not propose implementation regulations for a program to be paid for by an industry fee system until the harvester proponents of the program provide to the Secretary a proposed implementation plan that, among other matters—

“(A) proposes the types and numbers of vessels or permits that are eligible to participate in the program and the manner in which the program shall proceed, taking into account—

“(i) the requirements of this section;

“(ii) the requirements of the framework regulations;

“(iii) the characteristics of the fishery and affected fishing communities;

“(iv) the requirements of the applicable fishery management plan and any amendment that such plan may require to support the proposed program;

“(v) the general needs and desires of harvesters in the fishery;

“(vi) the need to minimize program costs; and

“(vii) other matters, including the manner in which such proponents propose to fund the program to ensure its cost effectiveness, as well as any relevant factors demonstrating the potential for, or necessary to obtain, the support and general cooperation of a substantial number of affected harvesters in the fishery (or portion of the fishery) for which the program is intended; and

“(B) proposes procedures for program participation (such as submission of owner bids under an auction system or fair market-value assessment), including any terms and conditions for participation, that the harvester proponents deem to be reasonably necessary to meet the program’s proposed objectives.

“(4) PARTICIPATION CONTRACTS.—The Secretary shall contract with each person participating in a program, and each such contract shall, in addition to including such other matters as the Secretary deems necessary and appropriate to effectively implement each program (including penalties for contract non-performance) be consistent with the framework and implementing regulations and all other applicable law.

“(5) REDUCTION AUCTIONS.—Each program not involving fair market assessment shall involve a reduction auction that scores the reduction price of each bid offer by the data relevant to each bidder under an appropriate fisheries productivity factor. If the Secretary accepts bids, the Secretary shall accept responsive bids in the rank order of their bid scores, starting with the bid whose reduction price is the lowest percentage of the productivity factor, and successively accepting each additional responsive bid in rank order until either there are no more responsive bids or acceptance of the next bid would cause the total value of bids accepted to exceed the amount of funds available for the program.

“(6) BID INVITATIONS.—Each program shall proceed by the Secretary issuing invitations to bid setting out the terms and conditions for participation consistent with the framework and implementing regulations. Each bid that the Secretary receives in response to the invitation to bid shall constitute an irrevocable offer from the bidder.”

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Sections 116, 203, 204, 205, and 206 of the Sustainable Fisheries Act are deemed to have added sections 312, 402, 403, 404, and 405, respectively to the Act as of the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

SEC. 113. REGIONAL COASTAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, TRANSITION, AND RECOVERY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 315. REGIONAL COASTAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, TRANSITION, AND RECOVERY PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—When there is a catastrophic regional fishery disaster the Secretary may, upon the request of, and in consultation with, the Governors of affected States, establish a regional economic transition program to provide immediate disaster relief assistance to the fishermen, charter fishing operators, United States fish processors, and owners of related fishery infrastructure affected by the disaster.

“(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the program shall provide funds or other economic assistance to affected entities, or to governmental entities for disbursement to affected entities, for—

“(A) meeting immediate regional shoreside fishery infrastructure needs, including processing facilities, cold storage facilities, ice houses, docks, including temporary docks and storage facilities, and other related shoreside fishery support facilities and infrastructure while ensuring that those projects will not result in an increase or replacement of fishing capacity;

“(B) financial assistance and job training assistance for fishermen who wish to remain in a fishery in the region that may be temporarily closed as a result of environmental or other effects associated with the disaster;

“(C) funding, pursuant to the requirements of section 312(b), to fishermen who are willing to scrap a fishing vessel and permanently surrender permits for fisheries named on that vessel; and

“(D) any other activities authorized under section 312 of this Act or section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)).

“(2) JOB TRAINING.—Any fisherman who decides to scrap a fishing vessel under the program shall be eligible for job training assistance.

“(3) STATE PARTICIPATION OBLIGATION.—The participation by a State in the program shall be conditioned upon a commitment by the appropriate State entity to ensure that the relevant State fishery meets the requirements of section 312(b) of this Act to ensure excess capacity does not re-enter the fishery.

“(4) NO MATCHING REQUIRED.—The Secretary may waive the matching requirements of section 312 of this Act, section

308 of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107), and any other provision of law under which the Federal share of the cost of any activity is limited to less than 100 percent if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) no reasonable means are available through which applicants can meet the matching requirement; and

“(B) the probable benefit of 100 percent Federal financing outweighs the public interest in imposition of the matching requirement.

“(5) NET REVENUE LIMIT INAPPLICABLE.—Section 308(d)(3) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)(3)) shall not apply to assistance under this section.

“(c) REGIONAL IMPACT EVALUATION.—Within 2 months after a catastrophic regional fishery disaster the Secretary shall provide the Governor of each State participating in the program a comprehensive economic and socio-economic evaluation of the affected region’s fisheries to assist the Governor in assessing the current and future economic viability of affected fisheries, including the economic impact of foreign fish imports and the direct, indirect, or environmental impact of the disaster on the fishery and coastal communities.

“(d) CATASTROPHIC REGIONAL FISHERY DISASTER DEFINED.—In this section the term ‘catastrophic regional fishery disaster’ means a natural disaster, including a hurricane or tsunami, or a regulatory closure (including regulatory closures resulting from judicial action) to protect human health or the marine environment, that—

“(1) results in economic losses to coastal or fishing communities;

“(2) affects more than 1 State or a major fishery managed by a Council or interstate fishery commission; and

“(3) is determined by the Secretary to be a commercial fishery failure under section 312(a) of this Act or a fishery resource disaster or section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)).”.

(b) SALMON PLAN AND STUDY.—

(1) RECOVERY PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall complete a recovery plan for Klamath River Coho salmon and make it available to the public.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on—

(A) the actions taken under the recovery plan and other law relating to recovery of Klamath River Coho salmon, and how those actions are specifically contributing to its recovery;

(B) the progress made on the restoration of salmon spawning habitat, including water conditions as they relate to salmon health and recovery, with emphasis on the Klamath River and its tributaries below Iron Gate Dam;

(C) the status of other Klamath River anadromous fish populations, particularly Chinook salmon; and

(D) the actions taken by the Secretary to address the calendar year 2003 National Research Council recommendations regarding monitoring and research on Klamath River Basin salmon stocks.

(c) OREGON AND CALIFORNIA SALMON FISHERY.—Federally recognized Indian tribes and small businesses, including fishermen, fish processors, and related businesses serving the fishing industry, adversely affected by Federal closures and fishing restrictions in the Oregon and California 2006 fall Chinook salmon fishery are eligible to receive direct assistance under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) and section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)). The Secretary may use no more than 4 percent of any monetary assistance to pay for administrative costs.

SEC. 114. FISHERY FINANCE PROGRAM HURRICANE ASSISTANCE.

(a) LOAN ASSISTANCE.—Subject to availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Commerce shall provide assistance to eligible holders of fishery finance program loans and allocate such assistance among eligible holders based upon their outstanding principal balances as of December 2, 2005, for any of the following purposes:

(1) To defer principal payments on the debt for 1 year and re-amortize the debt over the remaining term of the loan.

(2) To allow for an extension of the term of the loan for up to 1 year beyond the remaining term of the loan, or September 30, 2013, whichever is later.

(3) To pay the interest costs for such loans over fiscal years 2007 through 2013, not to exceed amounts authorized under subsection (d).

(4) To provide opportunities for loan forgiveness, as specified in subsection (c).

(b) LOAN FORGIVENESS.—Upon application made by an eligible holder of a fishery finance program loan, made at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, the Secretary, on a calendar year basis beginning in 2005, may, with respect to uninsured losses—

(1) offset against the outstanding balance on the loan an amount equal to the sum of the amounts expended by the holder during the calendar year to repair or replace covered vessels or facilities, or to invest in new fisheries infrastructure within or for use within the declared fisheries disaster area; or

(2) cancel the amount of debt equal to 100 hundred percent of actual expenditures on eligible repairs, reinvestment, expansion, or new investment in fisheries infrastructure in the disaster region, or repairs to, or replacement of, eligible fishing vessels.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DECLARED FISHERIES DISASTER AREA.—The term “declared fisheries disaster area” means fisheries located in the major disaster area designated by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

(2) ELIGIBLE HOLDER.—The term “eligible holder” means the holder of a fishery finance program loan if—

(A) that loan is used to guarantee or finance any fishing vessel or fish processing facility home-ported or located within the declared fisheries disaster area; and

(B) the holder makes expenditures to repair or replace such covered vessels or facilities, or invests in new fisheries infrastructure within or for use within the declared fisheries disaster area, to restore such facilities following the disaster.

(3) FISHERY FINANCE PROGRAM LOAN.—The term “fishery finance program loan” means a loan made or guaranteed under the fishery finance program under chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for the purposes of this section not more than \$15,000,000 for each eligible holder for the period beginning with fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2013.

SEC. 115. FISHERIES HURRICANE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish an assistance program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial and recreational fishing industry.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Under the program, the Secretary shall allocate funds appropriated to carry out the program among the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas in proportion to the percentage of the fishery (including crawfish) catch landed by each State before August 29, 2005, except that the amount allocated to Florida shall be based exclusively on the proportion of such catch landed by the Florida Gulf Coast fishery.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available to each State under the program—

(1) 2 percent shall be retained by the State to be used for the distribution of additional payments to fishermen with a demonstrated record of compliance with turtle excluder and bycatch reduction device regulations; and

(2) the remainder of the amounts shall be used for—

(A) personal assistance, with priority given to food, energy needs, housing assistance, transportation fuel, and other urgent needs;

(B) assistance for small businesses, including fishermen, fish processors, and related businesses serving the fishing industry;

(C) domestic product marketing and seafood promotion;

(D) State seafood testing programs;

(E) the development of limited entry programs for the fishery;

(F) funding or other incentives to ensure widespread and proper use of turtle excluder devices and bycatch reduction devices in the fishery; and

(G) voluntary capacity reduction programs for shrimp fisheries under limited access programs.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce \$17,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 to carry out this section.

SEC. 116. BYCATCH REDUCTION ENGINEERING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.), as amended by section 113 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 316. BYCATCH REDUCTION ENGINEERING PROGRAM.

“(a) BYCATCH REDUCTION ENGINEERING PROGRAM.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Councils and other affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, shall establish a bycatch reduction program, including grants, to develop technological devices and other conservation engineering changes designed to minimize bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality in Federally managed fisheries. The program shall—

“(1) be regionally based;

“(2) be coordinated with projects conducted under the cooperative research and management program established under this Act;

“(3) provide information and outreach to fishery participants that will encourage adoption and use of technologies developed under the program; and

“(4) provide for routine consultation with the Councils in order to maximize opportunities to incorporate results of the program in Council actions and provide incentives for adoption of methods developed under the program in fishery management plans developed by the Councils.

“(b) INCENTIVES.—Any fishery management plan prepared by a Council or by the Secretary may establish a system of incentives to reduce total bycatch and seabird interactions, amounts, bycatch rates, and post-release mortality in fisheries under the Council’s or Secretary’s jurisdiction, including—

“(1) measures to incorporate bycatch into quotas, including the establishment of collective or individual bycatch quotas;

“(2) measures to promote the use of gear with verifiable and monitored low bycatch and seabird interactions, rates; and

“(3) measures that, based on the best scientific information available, will reduce bycatch and seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, post-release mortality, or regulatory discards in the fishery.

“(c) COORDINATION ON SEABIRD INTERACTIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Interior, is authorized to undertake projects in cooperation with industry to improve information and technology to reduce seabird bycatch, including—

“(1) outreach to industry on new technologies and methods;

“(2) projects to mitigate for seabird mortality; and

“(3) actions at appropriate international fishery organizations to reduce seabird interactions in fisheries.

“(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall transmit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources that—

“(1) describes funding provided to implement this section;

“(2) describes developments in gear technology achieved under this section; and

“(3) describes improvements and reduction in bycatch and seabird interactions associated with implementing this section, as well as proposals to address remaining bycatch or seabird interaction problems.”.

(b) CDQ BYCATCH LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 305(i) (16 U.S.C. 1855(i)) is amended—

(A) by striking “directed fishing allocation” and all that follows in paragraph (1)(B)(ii)(I), and inserting “total allocation (directed and nontarget combined) of 10.7 percent effective January 1, 2008; and”;

(B) by striking “directed fishing allocation of 10 percent.” in paragraph (1)(B)(ii)(II) and inserting “total allocation (directed and nontarget combined) of 10.7 percent.”;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1)(B)(ii) the following: “The total allocation (directed and nontarget combined) for a fishery to which subclause (I) or (II) applies may not be exceeded.”; and

(D) by inserting “Voluntary transfers by and among eligible entities shall be allowed, whether before or after harvesting. Notwithstanding the first sentence of this subparagraph, seven-tenths of one percent of the total allowable catch, guideline harvest level, or other annual catch limit, within the amount allocated to the program by subclause (I) or subclause (II) of subparagraph (B)(ii), shall be allocated among the eligible entities by the panel established in subparagraph (G), or allocated by the Secretary based on the nontarget needs of eligible entities in the absence of a panel decision.” after “2006.” in paragraph (1)(C).

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The allocation percentage in subclause (I) of section 305(i)(1)(B)(ii) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(1)(B)(ii)), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall be in effect in 2007 with respect to any sector of a fishery to which such subclause applies and in which a fishing cooperative is established in 2007, and such sector’s 2007 allocation shall be reduced by a pro rata amount to accomplish such increased allocation to the program. For purposes of section 305(i)(1) of that Act and of this subsection, the term “fishing cooperative” means a fishing cooperative whether or not authorized by a fishery management council or Federal agency, if a majority of the participants in the sector are participants in the fishing cooperative.

SEC. 117. COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR FISHERY AND COASTAL HABITATS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a community-based fishery and coastal habitat restoration program to implement and support the restoration of fishery and coastal habitats.

(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary may—

(1) provide funding and technical expertise to fishery and coastal communities to assist them in restoring fishery and coastal habitat;

- (2) advance the science and monitoring of coastal habitat restoration;
- (3) transfer restoration technologies to the private sector, the public, and other governmental agencies;
- (4) develop public-private partnerships to accomplish sound coastal restoration projects;
- (5) promote significant community support and volunteer participation in fishery and coastal habitat restoration;
- (6) promote stewardship of fishery and coastal habitats; and
- (7) leverage resources through national, regional, and local public-private partnerships.

SEC. 118. PROHIBITED ACTS.

Section 307(1) (16 U.S.C. 1857(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” after the semicolon in subparagraph (O);

(2) by striking “carcass.” in subparagraph (P) and inserting “carcass,”; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (P) and before the last sentence the following:

“(Q) to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any fish taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any foreign law or regulation; or

“(R) to use any fishing vessel to engage in fishing in Federal or State waters, or on the high seas or in the waters of another country, after the Secretary has made a payment to the owner of that fishing vessel under section 312(b)(2).”.

SEC. 119. SHARK FEEDING.

Title III (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.), as amended by section 116 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 317. SHARK FEEDING.

“Except to the extent determined by the Secretary, or under State law, as presenting no public health hazard or safety risk, or when conducted as part of a research program funded in whole or in part by appropriated funds, it is unlawful to introduce, or attempt to introduce, food or any other substance into the water to attract sharks for any purpose other than to harvest sharks within the Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of the State of Hawaii and of the Commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States in the Pacific Ocean Area.”.

SEC. 120. CLARIFICATION OF FLEXIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce has the discretion under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) to extend the time for rebuilding the summer flounder fishery to not later than January 1, 2013, only if—

(1) the Secretary has determined that—

(A) overfishing is not occurring in the fishery and that a mechanism is in place to ensure overfishing does not occur in the fishery; and

(B) stock biomass levels are increasing;

(2) the biomass rebuilding target previously applicable to such stock will be met or exceeded within the new time for rebuilding;

(3) the extension period is based on the status and biology of the stock and the rate of rebuilding;

(4) monitoring will ensure rebuilding continues;

(5) the extension meets the requirements of section 301(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1)); and

(6) the best scientific information available shows that the extension will allow continued rebuilding.

(b) **AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) or to limit or otherwise alter the authority of the Secretary under that Act concerning other species.

SEC. 121. SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISHERIES COMMUNITIES CAPACITY REDUCTION.

Section 209 of the Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–447; 118 Stat. 2884) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—” after “SEC. 209.”;

(2) by striking “is authorized to” in the first sentence and inserting “shall”;

(3) by striking “\$50,000,000” and all that follows in the first sentence and inserting “up to \$25,000,000 pursuant to section 57735 of title 46, United States Code.”;

(4) by striking the third sentence and inserting: “The loan shall have a term of 40 years.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISHERIES PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **CONDUCT OF PROGRAM BY RSA.**—The program described in subsection (a) shall be conducted under Alaska law by the Southeast Revitalization Association.

“(2) **TREATMENT UNDER CHAPTER 577 OF TITLE 46.**—For purposes of section 57735 of title 46, United States Code, the program shall be considered to be a program established under section 312 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a).

“(3) **APPLICATION OF MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the program shall not be subject to section 312 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a), except for subsections (b)(1)(C) and (d) of that section.

“(c) **SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISHERIES PROGRAM APPROVAL AND REFERENDUM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce may approve a capacity reduction plan submitted by the Southeast Revitalization Association under subsection (b).

“(2) **REFERENDUM.**—The Secretary shall conduct an industry fee system referendum for the buyback under the program in accordance with section 312(d)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a), except that—

“(A) no Council request and no consultation shall be required; and

“(B) the fee shall not exceed 3 percent of the annual ex-vessel value of all salmon harvested in the southeast Alaska purse seine fishery.

“(d) DISBURSAL OF LOAN PROCEEDS.—If the industry fee system is approved as provided in section 312(d)(1)(B) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(d)(1)(B)), the Secretary shall disburse the loan in the form of reduction payments to participants in such amounts as the Southeast Revitalization Association certifies to have been accepted under Alaska law for reduction payments. The Secretary shall thereafter administer the fee system in accordance with section 312(d)(2) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(d)(2)), and any person paying or collecting the fee shall make such payments or collection such fees in accordance with the requirements of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)”.

SEC. 122. CONVERSION TO CATCHER/PROCESSOR SHARES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) AMENDMENT OF PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall amend the fishery management plan for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs for the Northern Region (as that term is used in the plan) to authorize—

(A) an eligible entity holding processor quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding processor quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any catcher vessel quota shares for the Northern Region with their processor quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region; and

(B) an eligible entity holding catcher vessel quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding catcher vessel quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any processor quota shares for the Northern Region with their catcher vessel quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region.

(2) ELIGIBILITY AND LIMITATIONS.—

(A) The authority provided in paragraph (1)(A) shall—

(i)(I) apply only to an entity which was initially awarded both catcher/processor owner quota shares, and processor quota shares under the plan (in combination with the processor quota shares of its commonly owned affiliates) of less than 7 percent of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island processor quota shares; or

(II) apply only to an entity which was initially awarded both catcher/processor owner quota shares under the plan and processor quota shares under section 417(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 120 Stat. 546);

(ii) be limited to processor quota shares initially awarded to such entities and their commonly owned affiliates under the plan or section 417(a) of that Act; and

(iii) shall not exceed 1 million pounds per entity during any calendar year.

(B) The authority provided in paragraph (1)(B) shall—

(i) apply only to an entity which was initially awarded both catcher/processor owner quota shares, and processor quota shares under the plan (in combination with the processor quota shares of its commonly owned affiliates) of more than 7 percent of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island processor quota shares;

(ii) be limited to catcher vessel quota shares initially awarded to such entity and its commonly owned affiliates; and

(iii) shall not exceed 1 million pounds per entity during any calendar year.

(3) EXCHANGE RATE.—The entities referred to in paragraph (1) shall receive under the amendment 1 unit of newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares in exchange for 1 unit of catcher vessel owner quota shares and 0.9 units of processor quota shares.

(4) AREA OF VALIDITY.—Each unit of newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares under this subsection shall only be valid for the Northern Region.

(b) FEES.—

(1) LOCAL FEES.—The holder of the newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares under subsection (a) shall pay a fee of 5 percent of the ex-vessel value of the crab harvested pursuant to those shares to any local governmental entities in the Northern Region if the processor quota shares used to produce those newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares were originally derived from the processing activities that occurred in a community under the jurisdiction of those local governmental entities.

(2) STATE FEE.—The State of Alaska may collect from the holder of the newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares under subsection (a) a fee of 1 percent of the ex-vessel value of the crab harvested pursuant to those shares.

(c) OFF-LOADING REQUIREMENT.—Crab harvested pursuant to catcher/processor owner quota shares created under this subsection shall be off-loaded in those communities receiving the local governmental entities fee revenue set forth in subsection (b)(1).

(d) PERIODIC COUNCIL REVIEW.—As part of its periodic review of the plan, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council may review the effect, if any, of this subsection upon communities in the Northern Region. If the Council determines that this section adversely affects the communities, the Council may recommend to the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary may approve, such changes to the plan as are necessary to mitigate those adverse effects.

(e) USE CAPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 680.42(b)(ii)(2) and 680.7(a)(ii)(7) of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, custom processing arrangements shall not count against any use cap for the processing of opilio crab in the Northern Region so long as such crab is processed in the Northern Region by a shore-based crab processor.

(2) SHORE-BASED CRAB PROCESSOR DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “shore-based crab processor” means any person

or vessel that receives, purchases, or arranges to purchase unprocessed crab, that is located on shore or moored within the harbor.

TITLE II—INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

SEC. 201. RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INFORMATION.

Section 401 (16 U.S.C. 1881) is amended by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

“(g) RECREATIONAL FISHERIES.—

“(1) FEDERAL PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish and implement a regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen in each of the 8 fishery management regions. The program, which shall not require a fee before January 1, 2011, shall provide for—

“(A) the registration (including identification and contact information) of individuals who engage in recreational fishing—

“(i) in the Exclusive Economic Zone;

“(ii) for anadromous species; or

“(iii) for Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone; and

“(B) if appropriate, the registration (including the ownership, operator, and identification of the vessel) of vessels used in such fishing.

“(2) STATE PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall exempt from registration under the program recreational fishermen and charter fishing vessels licensed, permitted, or registered under the laws of a State if the Secretary determines that information from the State program is suitable for the Secretary’s use or is used to assist in completing marine recreational fisheries statistical surveys, or evaluating the effects of proposed conservation and management measures for marine recreational fisheries.

“(3) DATA COLLECTION.—

“(A) IMPROVEMENT OF THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS SURVEY.—Within 24 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with representatives of the recreational fishing industry and experts in statistics, technology, and other appropriate fields, shall establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information generated by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey, with a goal of achieving acceptable accuracy and utility for each individual fishery.

“(B) NRC REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.—The program shall take into consideration and, to the extent feasible, implement the recommendations of the National Research Council in its report Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods (2006), including—

“(i) redesigning the Survey to improve the effectiveness and appropriateness of sampling and estimation procedures, its applicability to various kinds of

management decisions, and its usefulness for social and economic analyses; and

“(ii) providing for ongoing technical evaluation and modification as needed to meet emerging management needs.

“(C) METHODOLOGY.—Unless the Secretary determines that alternate methods will achieve this goal more efficiently and effectively, the program shall, to the extent possible, include—

“(i) an adequate number of intercepts to accurately estimate recreational catch and effort;

“(ii) use of surveys that target anglers registered or licensed at the State or Federal level to collect participation and effort data;

“(iii) collection and analysis of vessel trip report data from charter fishing vessels;

“(iv) development of a weather corrective factor that can be applied to recreational catch and effort estimates; and

“(v) an independent committee composed of recreational fishermen, academics, persons with expertise in stock assessments and survey design, and appropriate personnel from the National Marine Fisheries Service to review the collection estimates, geographic, and other variables related to dockside intercepts and to identify deficiencies in recreational data collection, and possible correction measures.

“(D) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall complete the program under this paragraph and implement the improved Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey not later than January 1, 2009.

“(4) REPORT.—Within 24 months after establishment of the program, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that describes the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the program.”.

SEC. 202. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.

Section 402(a) (16 U.S.C. 1881a(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) COUNCIL REQUESTS.—” in the subsection heading and inserting “(a) COLLECTION PROGRAMS.—”;

(2) by resetting the text following “(a) COLLECTION PROGRAMS.—” as a new paragraph 2 ems from the left margin;

(3) by inserting “(1) COUNCIL REQUESTS.—” before “If a Council”;

(4) by striking “subsection” in the last sentence and inserting “paragraph”;

(5) by striking “(other than information that would disclose proprietary or confidential commercial or financial information regarding fishing operations or fish processing operations)” each place it appears; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) SECRETARIAL INITIATION.—If the Secretary determines that additional information is necessary for developing, implementing, revising, or monitoring a fishery management plan, or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Secretary may, by regulation, implement an information

collection or observer program requiring submission of such additional information for the fishery.”.

SEC. 203. ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(b) (16 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3) and resetting it 2 ems from the left margin;

(2) by striking all preceding paragraph (3), as redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—

“(1) Any information submitted to the Secretary, a State fishery management agency, or a marine fisheries commission by any person in compliance with the requirements of this Act shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except—

“(A) to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for fishery management plan development, monitoring, or enforcement;

“(B) to State or Marine Fisheries Commission employees as necessary to further the Department’s mission, subject to a confidentiality agreement that prohibits public disclosure of the identity of business of any person;

“(C) to State employees who are responsible for fishery management plan enforcement, if the States employing those employees have entered into a fishery enforcement agreement with the Secretary and the agreement is in effect;

“(D) when required by court order;

“(E) when such information is used by State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission employees to verify catch under a limited access program, but only to the extent that such use is consistent with subparagraph (B);

“(F) when the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person submitting such information to release such information to persons for reasons not otherwise provided for in this subsection, and such release does not violate other requirements of this Act;

“(G) when such information is required to be submitted to the Secretary for any determination under a limited access program; or

“(H) in support of homeland and national security activities, including the Coast Guard’s homeland security missions as defined in section 888(a)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(a)(2)).

“(2) Any observer information shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except in accordance with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (H) of paragraph (1), or—

“(A) as authorized by a fishery management plan or regulations under the authority of the North Pacific Council to allow disclosure to the public of weekly summary bycatch information identified by vessel or for haul-specific bycatch information without vessel identification;

“(B) when such information is necessary in proceedings to adjudicate observer certifications; or

“(C) as authorized by any regulations issued under paragraph (3) allowing the collection of observer information, pursuant to a confidentiality agreement between the

observers, observer employers, and the Secretary prohibiting disclosure of the information by the observers or observer employers, in order—

“(i) to allow the sharing of observer information among observers and between observers and observer employers as necessary to train and prepare observers for deployments on specific vessels; or

“(ii) to validate the accuracy of the observer information collected.”; and

(3) by striking “(1)(E).” in paragraph (3), as redesignated, and inserting “(2)(A).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 404(c)(4) (16 U.S.C. 1881c(c)(4)) is amended by striking “under section 401”.

SEC. 204. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

Title III (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.), as amended by section 119 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 318. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Councils, shall establish a cooperative research and management program to address needs identified under this Act and under any other marine resource laws enforced by the Secretary. The program shall be implemented on a regional basis and shall be developed and conducted through partnerships among Federal, State, and Tribal managers and scientists (including interstate fishery commissions), fishing industry participants (including use of commercial charter or recreational vessels for gathering data), and educational institutions.

“(b) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall make funds available under the program for the support of projects to address critical needs identified by the Councils in consultation with the Secretary. The program shall promote and encourage efforts to utilize sources of data maintained by other Federal agencies, State agencies, or academia for use in such projects.

“(c) FUNDING.—In making funds available the Secretary shall award funding on a competitive basis and based on regional fishery management needs, select programs that form part of a coherent program of research focused on solving priority issues identified by the Councils, and shall give priority to the following projects:

“(1) Projects to collect data to improve, supplement, or enhance stock assessments, including the use of fishing vessels or acoustic or other marine technology.

“(2) Projects to assess the amount and type of bycatch or post-release mortality occurring in a fishery.

“(3) Conservation engineering projects designed to reduce bycatch, including avoidance of post-release mortality, reduction of bycatch in high seas fisheries, and transfer of such fishing technologies to other nations.

“(4) Projects for the identification of habitat areas of particular concern and for habitat conservation.

“(5) Projects designed to collect and compile economic and social data.

“(d) EXPERIMENTAL PERMITTING PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall promulgate regulations that create an expedited, uniform, and regionally-based

process to promote issuance, where practicable, of experimental fishing permits.

“(e) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall establish guidelines to ensure that participation in a research project funded under this section does not result in loss of a participant’s catch history or unexpended days-at-sea as part of a limited entry system.

“(f) EXEMPTED PROJECTS.—The procedures of this section shall not apply to research funded by quota set-asides in a fishery.”.

SEC. 205. HERRING STUDY.

Title III (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.), as amended by section 204, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 319. HERRING STUDY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct a cooperative research program to study the issues of abundance, distribution and the role of herring as forage fish for other commercially important fish stocks in the Northwest Atlantic, and the potential for local scale depletion from herring harvesting and how it relates to other fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic. In planning, designing, and implementing this program, the Secretary shall engage multiple fisheries sectors and stakeholder groups concerned with herring management.

“(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall present the final results of this study to Congress within 3 months following the completion of the study, and an interim report at the end of fiscal year 2008.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2009 to conduct this study.”.

SEC. 206. RESTORATION STUDY.

Title III (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.), as amended by section 205, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 320. RESTORATION STUDY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct a study to update scientific information and protocols needed to improve restoration techniques for a variety of coast habitat types and synthesize the results in a format easily understandable by restoration practitioners and local communities.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for fiscal year 2007 to conduct this study.”.

SEC. 207. WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

Section 111(b) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act (16 U.S.C. 1855 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “and the Secretary of the Interior are” in paragraph (1) and inserting “is”;

(2) by striking “not less than three and not more than five” in paragraph (1); and

(3) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) In this subsection the term ‘Western Pacific community’ means a community eligible to participate under section 305(i)(2)(B)(i) through (iv) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(B)(i) through (iv)).”.

SEC. 208. FISHERIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT FUND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a fund, to be known as the “Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund”, which shall consist of amounts retained and deposited into the Fund under subsection (c).

(b) **PURPOSES.**—Subject to the allocation of funds described in subsection (d), amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Secretary of Commerce, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, to disburse as described in subsection (e) for—

(1) efforts to improve fishery harvest data collection including—

(A) expanding the use of electronic catch reporting programs and technology; and

(B) improvement of monitoring and observer coverage through the expanded use of electronic monitoring devices and satellite tracking systems such as VMS on small vessels;

(2) cooperative fishery research and analysis, in collaboration with fishery participants, academic institutions, community residents, and other interested parties;

(3) development of methods or new technologies to improve the quality, health safety, and value of fish landed;

(4) conducting analysis of fish and seafood for health benefits and risks, including levels of contaminants and, where feasible, the source of such contaminants;

(5) marketing of sustainable United States fishery products, including consumer education regarding the health or other benefits of wild fishery products harvested by vessels of the United States;

(6) improving data collection under the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey in accordance with section 401(g)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881(g)(3)); and

(7) providing financial assistance to fishermen to offset the costs of modifying fishing practices and gear to meet the requirements of this Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and other Federal laws in *pari materia*.

(c) **DEPOSITS TO THE FUND.**—

(1) **QUOTA SET-ASIDES.**—Any amount generated through quota set-asides established by a Council under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and designated by the Council for inclusion in the Fishery Conservation and Management Fund, may be deposited in the Fund.

(2) **OTHER FUNDS.**—In addition to amounts received pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Fishery Conservation and Management Fund may also receive funds from—

(A) appropriations for the purposes of this section; and

(B) States or other public sources or private or non-profit organizations for purposes of this section.

(d) **REGIONAL ALLOCATION.**—The Secretary shall, every 2 years, apportion monies from the Fund among the eight Council regions according to recommendations of the Councils, based on regional priorities identified through the Council process, except that no

region shall receive less than 5 percent of the Fund in each allocation period.

(e) **LIMITATION ON THE USE OF THE FUND.**—No amount made available from the Fund may be used to defray the costs of carrying out requirements of this Act or the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) other than those uses identified in this section.

SEC. 209. USE OF FISHERY FINANCE PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE PURPOSES.

Section 53706(a)(7) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(7) Financing or refinancing—

“(A) the purchase of individual fishing quotas in accordance with section 303(d)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (including the reimbursement of obligors for expenditures previously made for such a purchase);

“(B) activities that assist in the transition to reduced fishing capacity; or

“(C) technologies or upgrades designed to improve collection and reporting of fishery-dependent data, to reduce bycatch, to improve selectivity or reduce adverse impacts of fishing gear, or to improve safety.”.

SEC. 210. REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH.

Section 406 (16 U.S.C. 1882) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH.**—

“(1) **STUDY.**—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall undertake and complete a study on the state of the science for advancing the concepts and integration of ecosystem considerations in regional fishery management. The study should build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel and include—

“(A) recommendations for scientific data, information and technology requirements for understanding ecosystem processes, and methods for integrating such information from a variety of federal, state, and regional sources;

“(B) recommendations for processes for incorporating broad stake holder participation;

“(C) recommendations for processes to account for effects of environmental variation on fish stocks and fisheries; and

“(D) a description of existing and developing council efforts to implement ecosystem approaches, including lessons learned by the councils.

“(2) **AGENCY TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary is authorized to provide necessary technical advice and assistance, including grants, to the Councils for the development and design of regional pilot programs that build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel and, when completed, the study.”.

SEC. 211. DEEP SEA CORAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

Title IV (16 U.S.C. 1881 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 408. DEEP SEA CORAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate regional fishery management councils and in coordination with other federal agencies and educational institutions, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish a program—

“(1) to identify existing research on, and known locations of, deep sea corals and submit such information to the appropriate Councils;

“(2) to locate and map locations of deep sea corals and submit such information to the Councils;

“(3) to monitor activity in locations where deep sea corals are known or likely to occur, based on best scientific information available, including through underwater or remote sensing technologies and submit such information to the appropriate Councils;

“(4) to conduct research, including cooperative research with fishing industry participants, on deep sea corals and related species, and on survey methods;

“(5) to develop technologies or methods designed to assist fishing industry participants in reducing interactions between fishing gear and deep sea corals; and

“(6) to prioritize program activities in areas where deep sea corals are known to occur, and in areas where scientific modeling or other methods predict deep sea corals are likely to be present.

“(b) REPORTING.—Beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall submit biennial reports to Congress and the public on steps taken by the Secretary to identify, monitor, and protect deep sea coral areas, including summaries of the results of mapping, research, and data collection performed under the program.”.

SEC. 212. IMPACT OF TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICES ON SHRIMPING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere shall execute an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct, jointly, a multi-year, comprehensive in-water study designed—

(1) to measure accurately the efforts and effects of shrimp fishery efforts to utilize turtle excluder devices;

(2) to analyze the impact of those efforts on sea turtle mortality, including interaction between turtles and shrimp trawlers in the inshore, nearshore, and offshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico and similar geographical locations in the waters of the Southeastern United States; and

(3) to evaluate innovative technologies to increase shrimp retention in turtle excluder devices while ensuring the protection of endangered and threatened sea turtles.

(b) OBSERVERS.—In conducting the study, the Undersecretary shall ensure that observers are placed onboard commercial shrimp fishing vessels where appropriate or necessary.

(c) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—During the course of the study and until a final report is submitted to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources, the National Academy of Sciences shall transmit interim reports to the Committees biannually containing a summary of preliminary findings and conclusions from the study.

SEC. 213. HURRICANE EFFECTS ON COMMERCIAL AND RECREATION FISHERY HABITATS.

(a) **FISHERIES REPORT.**—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on—

- (1) commercial and recreational fisheries in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas;
- (2) shrimp fishing vessels in those States; and
- (3) the oyster industry in those States.

(b) **HABITAT REPORT.**—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on habitat, including the habitat of shrimp and oysters in those States.

(c) **HABITAT RESTORATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out activities to restore fishery habitats, including the shrimp and oyster habitats in Louisiana and Mississippi.

SEC. 214. NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION.

Section 313 (16 U.S.C. 1862) is amended—

(1) by striking “all fisheries under the Council’s jurisdiction except salmon fisheries” in subsection (a) and inserting “any fishery under the Council’s jurisdiction except a salmon fishery”;

(2) by striking subsection (a)(2) and inserting the following: “(2) establishes a system, or system, of fees, which may vary by fishery, management area, or observer coverage level, to pay for the cost of implementing the plan.”;

(3) by striking “observers” in subsection (b)(2)(A) and inserting “observers, or electronic monitoring systems,”;

(4) by inserting “a fixed amount reflecting actual observer costs as described in subparagraph (A) or” in subsection (b)(2)(E) after “expressed as”;

(5) by inserting “some or” in subsection (b)(2)(F) after “against”;

(6) by inserting “or an electronic monitoring system” after “observer” in subsection (b)(2)(F);

(7) by striking “and” after the semicolon in subsection (b)(2)(H); and

(8) by redesignating subparagraph (I) of subsection (b)(2) as subparagraph (J) and inserting after subparagraph (H) the following:

“(I) provide that fees collected will be credited against any fee for stationing observers or electronic monitoring systems on board fishing vessels and United States fish processors

and the actual cost of inputting collected data to which a fishing vessel or fish processor is subject under section 304(d) of this Act; and”.

SEC. 215. NEW ENGLAND GROUND FISH FISHERY.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a unique, thorough examination of the potential impact on all affected and interested parties of Framework 42 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report the Secretary’s findings under subsection (a) within 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall include in the report a detailed discussion of each of the following:

(1) The economic and social implications for affected parties within the fishery, including potential losses to infrastructure, expected from the imposition of Framework 42.

(2) The estimated average annual income generated by fishermen in New England, separated by State and vessel size, and the estimated annual income expected after the imposition of Framework 42.

(3) Whether the differential days-at-sea counting imposed by Framework 42 would result in a reduction in the number of small vessels actively participating in the New England Fishery.

(4) The percentage and approximate number of vessels in the New England fishery, separated by State and vessel type, that are incapable of fishing outside the areas designated in Framework 42 for differential days-at-sea counting.

(5) The percentage of the annual groundfish catch in the New England fishery that is harvested by small vessels.

(6) The current monetary value of groundfish permits in the New England fishery and the actual impact that the potential imposition of Framework 42 is having on such value.

(7) Whether permitting days-at-sea to be leased is altering the market value for groundfish permits or days-at-sea in New England.

(8) Whether there is a substantially high probability that the biomass targets used as a basis for Amendment 13 remain achievable.

(9) An identification of the year in which the biomass targets used as a basis for Amendment 13 were last evident or achieved, and the evidence used to determine such date.

(10) Any separate or non-fishing factors, including environmental factors, that may be leading to a slower rebuilding of groundfish than previously anticipated.

(11) The potential harm to the non-fishing environment and ecosystem from the reduction in fishing resulting from Framework 42 and the potential redevelopment of the coastal land for other purposes, including potential for increases in non-point source of pollution and other impacts.

SEC. 216. REPORT ON COUNCIL MANAGEMENT COORDINATION.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Council, in consultation with the New England Fishery Council, shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation within 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) describing the role of council liaisons between the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils, including an explanation

of council policies regarding the liaison's role in Council decision-making since 1996;

(2) describing how management actions are taken regarding the operational aspects of current joint fishery management plans, and how such joint plans may undergo changes through amendment or framework processes;

(3) evaluating the role of the New England Fishery Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Council liaisons in the development and approval of management plans for fisheries in which the liaisons or members of the non-controlling Council have a demonstrated interest and significant current and historical landings of species managed by either Council;

(4) evaluating the effectiveness of the various approaches developed by the Councils to improve representation for affected members of the non-controlling Council in Council decision-making, such as use of liaisons, joint management plans, and other policies, taking into account both the procedural and conservation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and

(5) analyzing characteristics of North Carolina and Florida that supported their inclusion as voting members of more than one Council and the extent to which those characteristics support Rhode Island's inclusion on a second Council (the Mid-Atlantic Council).

SEC. 217. STUDY OF SHORTAGE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WITH POST-BACCALAUREATE DEGREES IN SUBJECTS RELATED TO FISHERY SCIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Education shall collaborate to conduct a study of—

(1) whether there is a shortage in the number of individuals with post-baccalaureate degrees in subjects related to fishery science, including fishery oceanography, fishery ecology, and fishery anthropology, who have the ability to conduct high quality scientific research in fishery stock assessment, fishery population dynamics, and related fields, for government, non-profit, and private sector entities;

(2) what Federal programs are available to help facilitate the education of students hoping to pursue these degrees; and

(3) what institutions of higher education, the private sector, and the Congress could do to try to increase the number of individuals with such post-baccalaureate degrees.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 8 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of Commerce and Education shall transmit a report to each committee of Congress with jurisdiction over the programs referred to in subsection (a), detailing the findings and recommendations of the study under this section.

SEC. 218. GULF OF ALASKA ROCKFISH DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 802 of Public Law 108–199 (118 Stat. 110) is amended by striking “2 years” and inserting “5 years”.

TITLE III—OTHER FISHERIES STATUTES

SEC. 301. AMENDMENTS TO NORTHERN PACIFIC HALIBUT ACT.

(a) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 8(a) of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773f(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$25,000” and inserting “\$200,000”;

(2) by striking “violation, the degree of culpability, and history of prior offenses, ability to pay,” in the fifth sentence and inserting “violation, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses,”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “In assessing such penalty, the Secretary may also consider any information provided by the violator relating to the ability of the violator to pay if the information is provided to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to an administrative hearing.”.

(b) PERMIT SANCTIONS.—Section 8 of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may take any action described in paragraph (2) in any case in which—

“(A) a vessel has been used in the commission of any act prohibited under section 7;

“(B) the owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under this Act has acted in violation of section 7; or

“(C) any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture imposed on a vessel or other property, or any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed on a vessel or owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under any marine resource law enforced by the Secretary has not been paid and is overdue.

“(2) PERMIT-RELATED ACTIONS.—Under the circumstances described in paragraph (1) the Secretary may—

“(A) revoke any permit issued with respect to such vessel or person, with or without prejudice to the issuance of subsequent permits;

“(B) suspend such permit for a period of time considered by the Secretary to be appropriate;

“(C) deny such permit; or

“(D) impose additional conditions and restrictions on any permit issued to or applied for by such vessel or person under this Act and, with respect to any foreign fishing vessel, on the approved application of the foreign nation involved and on any permit issued under that application.

“(3) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In imposing a sanction under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into account—

“(A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts for which the sanction is imposed; and

“(B) with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, and such other matters as justice may require.

“(4) TRANSFERS OF OWNERSHIP.—Transfer of ownership of a vessel, a permit, or any interest in a permit, by sale or otherwise, shall not extinguish any permit sanction that is in effect or is pending at the time of transfer of ownership. Before executing the transfer of ownership of a vessel, permit, or interest in a permit, by sale or otherwise, the owner shall disclose in writing to the prospective transferee the existence of any permit sanction that will be in effect or pending with respect to the vessel, permit, or interest at the time of the transfer.

“(5) REINSTATEMENT.—In the case of any permit that is suspended under this subsection for nonpayment of a civil penalty, criminal fine, or any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture, the Secretary shall reinstate the permit upon payment of the penalty, fine, or settlement amount and interest thereon at the prevailing rate.

“(6) HEARING.—No sanction shall be imposed under this subsection unless there has been prior opportunity for a hearing on the facts underlying the violation for which the sanction is imposed either in conjunction with a civil penalty proceeding under this section or otherwise.

“(7) PERMIT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘permit’ means any license, certificate, approval, registration, charter, membership, exemption, or other form of permission issued by the Commission or the Secretary, and includes any quota share or other transferable quota issued by the Secretary.”.

(c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 9(b) of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773g(b)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$200,000”; and
- (2) by striking “\$100,000,” and inserting “\$400,000,”.

SEC. 302. REAUTHORIZATION OF OTHER FISHERIES ACTS.

(a) ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS CONSERVATION ACT.—Section 7(a) of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 5156(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—For each of fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

- “(1) \$1,000,000 to the Secretary of Commerce; and
- “(2) \$250,000 to the Secretary of the Interior.”.

(b) YUKON RIVER SALMON ACT OF 2000.—Section 208 of the Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 5727) is amended by striking “\$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008,” and inserting “\$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011”.

(c) SHARK FINNING PROHIBITION ACT.—Section 10 of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act (16 U.S.C. 1822 note) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2001 through 2005” and inserting “fiscal years 2007 through 2011”.

(d) PACIFIC SALMON TREATY ACT.—

(1) TRANSFER OF SECTION TO ACT.—The text of section 623 of title VI of H.R. 3421 (113 Stat. 1501A–56), as introduced on November 17, 1999, enacted into law by section 1000(a)(1) of the Act of November 29, 1999 (Public Law 106–113), and amended by Public Law 106–533 (114 Stat. 2762A–108)—

(A) is transferred to the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 3631 et seq.) and inserted after section 15; and

(B) amended—

- (i) by striking “SEC. 623.”; and
- (ii) inserting before “(a) NORTHERN FUND AND SOUTHERN FUND.—” the following:

“SEC. 16. NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FUNDS; TREATY IMPLEMENTATION; ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.”.

(2) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 16(d)(2)(A) of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act, as transferred by paragraph (1), is amended—

(1) by inserting “sustainable salmon fisheries,” after “enhancement,”;

(2) by inserting “2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009,” after “2003,”; and

(3) by inserting “Idaho,” after “Oregon,”.

(e) STATE AUTHORITY FOR DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY MANAGEMENT.—Section 203 of Public Law 105–384 (16 U.S.C. 1856 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “September 30, 2006.” in subsection (i) and inserting “September 30, 2016.”;

(2) by striking “health” in subsection (j) and inserting “status”; and

(3) by striking “California.” in subsection (j) and inserting “California, including—

“(1) stock status and trends throughout its range;

“(2) a description of applicable research and scientific review processes used to determine stock status and trends; and

“(3) measures implemented or planned that are designed to prevent or end overfishing in the fishery.”.

(f) PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Pacific Fishery Management Council shall develop a proposal for the appropriate rationalization program for the Pacific trawl groundfish and whiting fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery under its jurisdiction. The proposal may include only the Pacific whiting fishery, including the shore-based sector, if the Pacific Council determines that a rationalization plan for the fishery as a whole cannot be achieved before the report is required to be submitted under paragraph (3).

(2) REQUIRED ANALYSIS.—In developing the proposal to rationalize the fishery, the Pacific Council shall fully analyze alternative program designs, including the allocation of limited access privileges to harvest fish to fishermen and processors working together in regional fishery associations or some other cooperative manner to harvest and process the fish, as well as the effects of these program designs and allocations on competition and conservation. The analysis shall include an assessment of the impact of the proposal on conservation and the economics of communities, fishermen, and processors participating in the trawl groundfish fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery.

(3) REPORT.—The Pacific Council shall submit the proposal and related analysis to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources no later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES ACT OF 1986.—Section 308 of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for apportionment to carry out the purposes of this title \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012.”; and

(2) by striking “\$850,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 and 2004, and \$900,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 and 2006” in subsection (c) and inserting “\$900,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012”.

(h) REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT OF THE ANADROMOUS FISH CONSERVATION ACT.—Section 4 of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 757d) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act not to exceed \$4,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012.”.

(i) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION ACT OF 1995.—Section 211 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5610) is amended by striking “2006” and inserting “2012”.

TITLE IV—INTERNATIONAL

SEC. 401. INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE.

Title II (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 207. INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may undertake activities to promote improved monitoring and compliance for high seas fisheries, or fisheries governed by international fishery management agreements, and to implement the requirements of this title.

“(b) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary may—

“(1) share information on harvesting and processing capacity and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing on the high seas, in areas covered by international fishery management agreements, and by vessels of other nations within the United States exclusive economic zone, with relevant law enforcement organizations of foreign nations and relevant international organizations;

“(2) further develop real time information sharing capabilities, particularly on harvesting and processing capacity and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

“(3) participate in global and regional efforts to build an international network for monitoring, control, and surveillance of high seas fishing and fishing under regional or global agreements;

“(4) support efforts to create an international registry or database of fishing vessels, including by building on or enhancing registries developed by international fishery management organizations;

“(5) enhance enforcement capabilities through the application of commercial or governmental remote sensing technology to locate or identify vessels engaged in illegal, unreported,

or unregulated fishing on the high seas, including encroachments into the exclusive economic zone by fishing vessels of other nations;

“(6) provide technical or other assistance to developing countries to improve their monitoring, control, and surveillance capabilities; and

“(7) support coordinated international efforts to ensure that all large-scale fishing vessels operating on the high seas are required by their flag State to be fitted with vessel monitoring systems no later than December 31, 2008, or earlier if so decided by the relevant flag State or any relevant international fishery management organization.”.

SEC. 402. FINDING WITH RESPECT TO ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING.

Section 2(a) (16 U.S.C. 1801(a)), as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12) International cooperation is necessary to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and other fishing practices which may harm the sustainability of living marine resources and disadvantage the United States fishing industry.”.

SEC. 403. ACTION TO END ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, OR UNREGULATED FISHING AND REDUCE BYCATCH OF PROTECTED MARINE SPECIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826d et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 607. BIENNIAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL COMPLIANCE.

“The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall provide to Congress, by not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, and every 2 years thereafter, a report that includes—

“(1) the state of knowledge on the status of international living marine resources shared by the United States or subject to treaties or agreements to which the United States is a party, including a list of all such fish stocks classified as overfished, overexploited, depleted, endangered, or threatened with extinction by any international or other authority charged with management or conservation of living marine resources;

“(2) a list of nations whose vessels have been identified under section 609(a) or 610(a), including the specific offending activities and any subsequent actions taken pursuant to section 609 or 610;

“(3) a description of efforts taken by nations on those lists to comply take appropriate corrective action consistent with sections 609 and 610, and an evaluation of the progress of those efforts, including steps taken by the United States to implement those sections and to improve international compliance;

“(4) progress at the international level, consistent with section 608, to strengthen the efforts of international fishery management organizations to end illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing; and

“(5) steps taken by the Secretary at the international level to adopt international measures comparable to those of the United States to reduce impacts of fishing and other practices on protected living marine resources, if no international agreement to achieve such goal exists, or if the relevant international fishery or conservation organization has failed to implement effective measures to end or reduce the adverse impacts of fishing practices on such species.

“SEC. 608. ACTION TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

“The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, and in cooperation with relevant fishery management councils and any relevant advisory committees, shall take actions to improve the effectiveness of international fishery management organizations in conserving and managing fish stocks under their jurisdiction. These actions shall include—

“(1) urging international fishery management organizations to which the United States is a member—

“(A) to incorporate multilateral market-related measures against member or nonmember governments whose vessels engage in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing;

“(B) to seek adoption of lists that identify fishing vessels and vessel owners engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing that can be shared among all members and other international fishery management organizations;

“(C) to seek international adoption of a centralized vessel monitoring system in order to monitor and document capacity in fleets of all nations involved in fishing in areas under an international fishery management organization’s jurisdiction;

“(D) to increase use of observers and technologies needed to monitor compliance with conservation and management measures established by the organization, including vessel monitoring systems and automatic identification systems; and

“(E) to seek adoption of stronger port state controls in all nations, particularly those nations in whose ports vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing land or transship fish;

“(2) urging international fishery management organizations to which the United States is a member, as well as all members of those organizations, to adopt and expand the use of market-related measures to combat illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing, including—

“(A) import prohibitions, landing restrictions, or other market-based measures needed to enforce compliance with international fishery management organization measures, such as quotas and catch limits;

“(B) import restrictions or other market-based measures to prevent the trade or importation of fish caught by vessels identified multilaterally as engaging in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing; and

“(C) catch documentation and certification schemes to improve tracking and identification of catch of vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing,

including advance transmission of catch documents to ports of entry; and

“(3) urging other nations at bilateral, regional, and international levels, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora and the World Trade Organization to take all steps necessary, consistent with international law, to adopt measures and policies that will prevent fish or other living marine resources harvested by vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing from being traded or imported into their nation or territories.

“SEC. 609. ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, OR UNREGULATED FISHING.

“(a) IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall identify, and list in the report under section 607, a nation if fishing vessels of that nation are engaged, or have been engaged at any point during the preceding 2 years, in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing—

“(1) the relevant international fishery management organization has failed to implement effective measures to end the illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing activity by vessels of that nation or the nation is not a party to, or does not maintain cooperating status with, such organization; or

“(2) where no international fishery management organization exists with a mandate to regulate the fishing activity in question.

“(b) NOTIFICATION.—An identification under subsection (a) or section 610(a) is deemed to be an identification under section 101(b)(1)(A) of the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act (16 U.S.C. 1826a(b)(1)(A)), and the Secretary shall notify the President and that nation of such identification.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—No later than 60 days after submitting a report to Congress under section 607, the Secretary, acting through the Secretary of State, shall—

“(1) notify nations listed in the report of the requirements of this section;

“(2) initiate consultations for the purpose of encouraging such nations to take the appropriate corrective action with respect to the offending activities of their fishing vessels identified in the report; and

“(3) notify any relevant international fishery management organization of the actions taken by the United States under this section.

“(d) IUU CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE.—

“(1) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall establish a procedure, consistent with the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, for determining if a nation identified under subsection (a) and listed in the report under section 607 has taken appropriate corrective action with respect to the offending activities of its fishing vessels identified in the report under section 607. The certification procedure shall provide for notice and an opportunity for comment by any such nation. The Secretary shall determine, on the basis of the procedure, and certify to the Congress no later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary promulgates a final rule containing the procedure, and biennially thereafter in the report under section 607—

“(A) whether the government of each nation identified under subsection (a) has provided documentary evidence that it has taken corrective action with respect to the offending activities of its fishing vessels identified in the report; or

“(B) whether the relevant international fishery management organization has implemented measures that are effective in ending the illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing activity by vessels of that nation.

“(2) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE.—The Secretary may establish a procedure for certification, on a shipment-by-shipment, shipper-by-shipper, or other basis of fish or fish products from a vessel of a harvesting nation not certified under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) the vessel has not engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing under an international fishery management agreement to which the United States is a party; or

“(B) the vessel is not identified by an international fishery management organization as participating in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing activities.

“(3) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of section 101(a) and section 101(b)(3) and (4) of this Act (16 U.S.C. 1826a(a), (b)(3), and (b)(4))—

“(i) shall apply to any nation identified under subsection (a) that has not been certified by the Secretary under this subsection, or for which the Secretary has issued a negative certification under this subsection; but

“(ii) shall not apply to any nation identified under subsection (a) for which the Secretary has issued a positive certification under this subsection.

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Subparagraph (A)(i) does not apply—

“(i) to the extent that such provisions would apply to sport fishing equipment or to fish or fish products not managed under the applicable international fishery agreement; or

“(ii) if there is no applicable international fishery agreement, to the extent that such provisions would apply to fish or fish products caught by vessels not engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing.

“(e) ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, OR UNREGULATED FISHING DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In this Act the term ‘illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing’ has the meaning established under paragraph (2).

“(2) SECRETARY TO DEFINE TERM WITHIN LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES.—Within 3 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall publish a definition of the term ‘illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing’ for purposes of this Act.

“(3) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary shall include in the definition, at a minimum—

“(A) fishing activities that violate conservation and management measures required under an international fishery management agreement to which the United States is a party, including catch limits or quotas, capacity restrictions, and bycatch reduction requirements;

“(B) overfishing of fish stocks shared by the United States, for which there are no applicable international conservation or management measures or in areas with no applicable international fishery management organization or agreement, that has adverse impacts on such stocks; and

“(C) fishing activity that has an adverse impact on seamounts, hydrothermal vents, and cold water corals located beyond national jurisdiction, for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures or in areas with no applicable international fishery management organization or agreement.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal years 2007 through 2013 such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

“SEC. 610. EQUIVALENT CONSERVATION MEASURES.

“(a) IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall identify, and list in the report under section 607, a nation if—

“(1) fishing vessels of that nation are engaged, or have been engaged during the preceding calendar year in fishing activities or practices;

“(A) in waters beyond any national jurisdiction that result in bycatch of a protected living marine resource; or

“(B) beyond the exclusive economic zone of the United States that result in bycatch of a protected living marine resource shared by the United States;

“(2) the relevant international organization for the conservation and protection of such resources or the relevant international or regional fishery organization has failed to implement effective measures to end or reduce such bycatch, or the nation is not a party to, or does not maintain cooperating status with, such organization; and

“(3) the nation has not adopted a regulatory program governing such fishing practices designed to end or reduce such bycatch that is comparable to that of the United States, taking into account different conditions.

“(b) CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Secretary of State, shall—

“(1) notify, as soon as possible, other nations whose vessels engage in fishing activities or practices described in subsection (a), about the provisions of this section and this Act;

“(2) initiate discussions as soon as possible with all foreign governments which are engaged in, or which have persons or companies engaged in, fishing activities or practices described in subsection (a), for the purpose of entering into bilateral and multilateral treaties with such countries to protect such species;

“(3) seek agreements calling for international restrictions on fishing activities or practices described in subsection (a) through the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture

Organization's Committee on Fisheries, and appropriate international fishery management bodies; and

"(4) initiate the amendment of any existing international treaty for the protection and conservation of such species to which the United States is a party in order to make such treaty consistent with the purposes and policies of this section.

"(c) CONSERVATION CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE.—

"(1) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall establish a procedure consistent with the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, for determining whether the government of a harvesting nation identified under subsection (a) and listed in the report under section 607—

"(A) has provided documentary evidence of the adoption of a regulatory program governing the conservation of the protected living marine resource that is comparable to that of the United States, taking into account different conditions, and which, in the case of pelagic longline fishing, includes mandatory use of circle hooks, careful handling and release equipment, and training and observer programs; and

"(B) has established a management plan containing requirements that will assist in gathering species-specific data to support international stock assessments and conservation enforcement efforts for protected living marine resources.

"(2) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENT.—The procedure established by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall include notice and opportunity for comment by any such nation.

"(3) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall certify to the Congress by January 31, 2007, and biennially thereafter whether each such nation has provided the documentary evidence described in paragraph (1)(A) and established a management plan described in paragraph (1)(B).

"(4) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE.—The Secretary shall establish a procedure for certification, on a shipment-by-shipment, shipper-by-shipper, or other basis of fish or fish products from a vessel of a harvesting nation not certified under paragraph (3) if the Secretary determines that such imports were harvested by practices that do not result in bycatch of a protected marine species, or were harvested by practices that—

"(A) are comparable to those of the United States, taking into account different conditions, and which, in the case of pelagic longline fishing, includes mandatory use of circle hooks, careful handling and release equipment, and training and observer programs; and

"(B) include the gathering of species specific data that can be used to support international and regional stock assessments and conservation efforts for protected living marine resources.

"(5) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—The provisions of section 101(a) and section 101(b)(3) and (4) of this Act (16 U.S.C. 1826a(a), (b)(3), and (b)(4)) (except to the extent that such provisions apply to sport fishing equipment or fish or fish products not caught by the vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing) shall apply to any nation identified under subsection (a) that has not been certified by the Secretary under this subsection, or for which the Secretary

has issued a negative certification under this subsection, but shall not apply to any nation identified under subsection (a) for which the Secretary has issued a positive certification under this subsection.

“(d) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.—To the greatest extent possible consistent with existing authority and the availability of funds, the Secretary shall—

“(1) provide appropriate assistance to nations identified by the Secretary under subsection (a) and international organizations of which those nations are members to assist those nations in qualifying for certification under subsection (c);

“(2) undertake, where appropriate, cooperative research activities on species statistics and improved harvesting techniques, with those nations or organizations;

“(3) encourage and facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology to those nations or organizations to assist those nations in qualifying for certification under subsection (c); and

“(4) provide assistance to those nations or organizations in designing and implementing appropriate fish harvesting plans.

“(e) PROTECTED LIVING MARINE RESOURCE DEFINED.—In this section the term ‘protected living marine resource’—

“(1) means non-target fish, sea turtles, or marine mammals that are protected under United States law or international agreement, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Shark Finning Prohibition Act, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna; but

“(2) does not include species, except sharks, managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, or any international fishery management agreement.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal years 2007 through 2013 such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DENIAL OF PORT PRIVILEGES.—Section 101(b) of the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act (16 U.S.C. 1826a(b)) is amended by inserting “or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing” after “fishing” in paragraph (1)(A)(i), paragraph (1)(B), paragraph (2), and paragraph (4)(A)(i).

(2) DURATION OF DENIAL.—Section 102 of the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act (16 U.S.C. 1826b) is amended by inserting “or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing” after “fishing”.

SEC. 404. MONITORING OF PACIFIC INSULAR AREA FISHERIES.

(a) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Section 201(h)(2)(B) (16 U.S.C. 1821(h)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “that is at least equal in effectiveness to the program established by the Secretary;” and inserting “or other monitoring program that the Secretary, in consultation with the Western Pacific Management Council, determines is adequate to monitor harvest, bycatch, and compliance with the laws of the United States by vessels fishing under the agreement;”.

(b) MARINE CONSERVATION PLANS.—Section 204(e)(4)(A)(i) (16 U.S.C. 1824(e)(4)(A)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) Pacific Insular Area observer programs, or other monitoring programs, that the Secretary determines are adequate to monitor the harvest, bycatch, and compliance with the laws of the United States by foreign fishing vessels that fish under Pacific Insular Area fishing agreements;”.

SEC. 405. REAUTHORIZATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971h) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act, including use for payment of the United States share of the joint expenses of the Commission as provided in Article X of the Convention—

“(1) \$5,770,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008;

“(2) \$6,058,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010;

and

“(3) \$6,361,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 and 2013.

“(b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a) for each fiscal year—

“(1) \$160,000 are authorized for the advisory committee established under section 4 of this Act and the species working groups established under section 4A of this Act; and

“(2) \$7,500,000 are authorized for research activities under this Act and section 3 of Public Law 96–339 (16 U.S.C. 971i), of which \$3,000,000 shall be for the cooperative research program under section 3(b)(2)(H) of that section (16 U.S.C. 971i(b)(2)(H)).”.

(b) ATLANTIC BILLFISH COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 3(b)(2) of Public Law 96–339 (16 U.S.C. 971i(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in subparagraph (G);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as subparagraph (I); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) include a cooperative research program on Atlantic billfish based on the Southeast Fisheries Science Center Atlantic Billfish Research Plan of 2002; and”.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FISH HABITAT.—Section 3 of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FISH HABITAT.—It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Commissioners should seek to include ecosystem considerations in fisheries management, including the conservation of fish habitat.”.

SEC. 406. INTERNATIONAL OVERFISHING AND DOMESTIC EQUITY.

(a) INTERNATIONAL OVERFISHING.—Section 304 (16 U.S.C. 1854) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(i) INTERNATIONAL OVERFISHING.—The provisions of this subsection shall apply in lieu of subsection (e) to a fishery that the Secretary determines is overfished or approaching a condition of being overfished due to excessive international fishing pressure, and for which there are no management measures to end overfishing under an international agreement to which the United States is a party. For such fisheries—

“(1) the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, immediately take appropriate action at the international level to end the overfishing; and

“(2) within 1 year after the Secretary’s determination, the appropriate Council, or Secretary, for fisheries under section 302(a)(3) shall—

“(A) develop recommendations for domestic regulations to address the relative impact of fishing vessels of the United States on the stock and, if developed by a Council, the Council shall submit such recommendations to the Secretary; and

“(B) develop and submit recommendations to the Secretary of State, and to the Congress, for international actions that will end overfishing in the fishery and rebuild the affected stocks, taking into account the relative impact of vessels of other nations and vessels of the United States on the relevant stock.”.

(b) **HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES TAGGING RESEARCH.**—Section 304(g)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1854(g)(2)) is amended by striking “(16 U.S.C. 971d)” and inserting “(16 U.S.C. 971d), or highly migratory species harvested in a commercial fishery managed by a Council under this Act or the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act,”.

SEC. 407. UNITED STATES CATCH HISTORY.

In establishing catch allocations under international fisheries agreements, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, and the Secretary of State, shall ensure that all catch history associated with a vessel of the United States remains with the United States and is not transferred or credited to any other nation or vessel of such nation, including when a vessel of the United States is sold or transferred to a citizen of another nation or to an entity controlled by citizens of another nation.

SEC. 408. SECRETARIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall designate a Senate-confirmed, senior official within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to perform the duties of the Secretary with respect to international agreements involving fisheries and other living marine resources, including policy development and representation as a U.S. Commissioner, under any such international agreements.

(b) **ADVICE.**—The designated official shall, in consultation with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, advise the Secretary, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and other senior officials of the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on development of policy on international fisheries conservation and management matters.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The designated official shall consult with the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Resources on matters pertaining to any regional or international negotiation concerning living marine resources, including shellfish.

(d) DELEGATION.—The designated official may delegate and authorize successive re-delegation of such functions, powers, and duties to such officers and employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as deemed necessary to discharge the responsibility of the Office.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on January 1, 2009.

TITLE V—IMPLEMENTATION OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act”.

SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) 1982 CONVENTION.—The term “1982 Convention” means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

(2) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement” means the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

(3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean established in accordance with this Convention.

(4) CONVENTION AREA.—The term “convention area” means all waters of the Pacific Ocean bounded to the south and to the east by the following line:

From the south coast of Australia due south along the 141th meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 55th parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 55th parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150th meridian of east longitude; thence due south along the 150th meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 60th parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 60th parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 130th meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 130th meridian of west longitude to its intersection with the 4th parallel of south latitude; thence due west along the 4th parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150th meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 150th meridian of west longitude.

(5) EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—The term “exclusive economic zone” means the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030 of March 10, 1983.

(6) FISHING.—The term “fishing” means—

- (A) searching for, catching, taking, or harvesting fish;
- (B) attempting to search for, catch, take, or harvest fish;

(C) engaging in any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking, or harvesting of fish for any purpose;

(D) placing, searching for, or recovering fish aggregating devices or associated electronic equipment such as radio beacons;

(E) any operations at sea directly in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (D), including transshipment; and

(F) use of any other vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or hovercraft, for any activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) except for emergencies involving the health and safety of the crew or the safety of a vessel.

(7) FISHING VESSEL.—The term “fishing vessel” means any vessel used or intended for use for the purpose of fishing, including support ships, carrier vessels, and any other vessel directly involved in such fishing operations.

(8) HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS.—The term “highly migratory fish stocks” means all fish stocks of the species listed in Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention, except sauries, occurring in the Convention Area, and such other species of fish as the Commission may determine.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(10) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(11) TRANSHIPMENT.—The term “transshipment” means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel either at sea or in port.

(12) WCPFC CONVENTION; WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC CONVENTION.—The terms “WCPFC Convention” and “Western and Central Pacific Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, (including any annexes, amendments, or protocols which are in force, or have come into force, for the United States) which was adopted at Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 5, 2000, by the Multilateral High Level Conference on the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

SEC. 503. APPOINTMENT OF UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States shall be represented on the Commission by 5 United States Commissioners. The President shall appoint individuals to serve on the Commission at the pleasure of the President. In making the appointments, the President shall select Commissioners from among individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced concerning highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, one of whom shall be an officer or employee of the Department of Commerce, and one of whom shall be the chairman or a member of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The Commissioners shall be entitled to adopt such rules of procedures as they find necessary and to select a chairman from among

members who are officers or employees of the United States Government.

(b) **ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time and for periods of time deemed appropriate Alternate United States Commissioners to the Commission. Any Alternate United States Commissioner may exercise at any meeting of the Commission, Council, any Panel, or the advisory committee established pursuant to subsection (d), all powers and duties of a United States Commissioner in the absence of any Commissioner appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for whatever reason. The number of such Alternate United States Commissioners that may be designated for any such meeting shall be limited to the number of United States Commissioners appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section who will not be present at such meeting.

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—

(1) **EMPLOYMENT STATUS.**—Individuals serving as such Commissioners, other than officers or employees of the United States Government, shall be considered to be Federal employees while performing such service, only for purposes of—

(A) injury compensation under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code;

(B) requirements concerning ethics, conflicts of interest, and corruption as provided under title 18, United States Code; and

(C) any other criminal or civil statute or regulation governing the conduct of Federal employees.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—The United States Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners, although officers of the United States while so serving, shall receive no compensation for their services as such Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners.

(3) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—

(A) The Secretary of State shall pay the necessary travel expenses of United States Commissioners and Alternate United States Commissioners in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) The Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this subsection.

(d) **ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—

(A) **MEMBERSHIP.**—There is established an advisory committee which shall be composed of—

(i) not less than 15 nor more than 20 individuals appointed by the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the United States Commissioners, who shall select such individuals from the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the WCPFC Convention, providing, to the maximum extent practicable, an equitable balance among such groups;

(ii) the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Committee or the chair's designee; and

(iii) officials of the fisheries management authorities of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands (or their designees).

(B) TERMS AND PRIVILEGES.—Each member of the advisory committee appointed under subparagraph (A) shall serve for a term of 2 years and shall be eligible for reappointment. The advisory committee shall be invited to attend all non-executive meetings of the United States Commissioners and at such meetings shall be given opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission.

(C) PROCEDURES.—The advisory committee established by subparagraph (A) shall determine its organization, and prescribe its practices and procedures for carrying out its functions under this chapter, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and the WCPFC Convention. The advisory committee shall publish and make available to the public a statement of its organization, practices, and procedures. A majority of the members of the advisory committee shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the advisory committee, except when in executive session, shall be open to the public, and prior notice of meetings shall be made public in a timely fashion, and the advisory committee shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(D) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Secretary of State shall furnish the advisory committee with relevant information concerning fisheries and international fishery agreements.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

(A) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Secretary shall provide to advisory committees in a timely manner such administrative and technical support services as are necessary for their effective functioning.

(B) COMPENSATION; STATUS; EXPENSES.—Individuals appointed to serve as a member of an advisory committee—

(i) shall serve without pay, but while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the advisory committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code; and

(ii) shall be considered Federal employees while performing service as members of an advisory committee only for purposes of—

(I) injury compensation under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code;

(II) requirements concerning ethics, conflicts-of-interest, and corruption, as provided by title 18, United States Code; and

(III) any other criminal or civil statute or regulation governing the conduct of Federal employees in their capacity as Federal employees.

(f) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—For highly migratory species in the Pacific, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall develop a memorandum of understanding

with the Western Pacific, Pacific, and North Pacific Fishery Management Councils, that clarifies the role of the relevant Council or Councils with respect to—

- (1) participation in United States delegations to international fishery organizations in the Pacific Ocean, including government-to-government consultations;
- (2) providing formal recommendations to the Secretary and the Secretary of State regarding necessary measures for both domestic and foreign vessels fishing for these species;
- (3) coordinating positions with the United States delegation for presentation to the appropriate international fishery organization; and
- (4) recommending those domestic fishing regulations that are consistent with the actions of the international fishery organization, for approval and implementation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)

SEC. 504. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Secretary of State may—

- (1) receive and transmit, on behalf of the United States, reports, requests, recommendations, proposals, decisions, and other communications of and to the Commission;
- (2) in consultation with the Secretary approve, disapprove, object to, or withdraw objections to bylaws and rules, or amendments thereof, adopted by the WCPFC Commission, and, with the concurrence of the Secretary to approve or disapprove the general annual program of the WCPFC Commission with respect to conservation and management measures and other measures proposed or adopted in accordance with the WCPFC Convention; and
- (3) act upon, or refer to other appropriate authority, any communication referred to in paragraph (1).

SEC. 505. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

(a) **PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and, with respect to enforcement measures, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, is authorized to promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the WCPFC Convention and this title, including recommendations and decisions adopted by the Commission. In cases where the Secretary has discretion in the implementation of one or more measures adopted by the Commission that would govern fisheries under the authority of a Regional Fishery Management Council, the Secretary may, to the extent practicable within the implementation schedule of the WCPFC Convention and any recommendations and decisions adopted by the Commission, promulgate such regulations in accordance with the procedures established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(b) **ADDITIONS TO FISHERY REGIMES AND REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary may promulgate regulations applicable to all vessels and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including United States flag vessels wherever they may be operating, on such date as the Secretary shall prescribe.

SEC. 506. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may—

(1) administer and enforce this title and any regulations issued under this title, except to the extent otherwise provided for in this Act;

(2) request and utilize on a reimbursed or non-reimbursed basis the assistance, services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of other Federal departments and agencies in—

(A) the administration and enforcement of this title; and

(B) the conduct of scientific, research, and other programs under this title;

(3) conduct fishing operations and biological experiments for purposes of scientific investigation or other purposes necessary to implement the WCPFC Convention;

(4) collect, utilize, and disclose such information as may be necessary to implement the WCPFC Convention, subject to sections 552 and 552a of title 5, United States Code, and section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a(b));

(5) if recommended by the United States Commissioners or proposed by a Council with authority over the relevant fishery, assess and collect fees, not to exceed three percent of the ex-vessel value of fish harvested by vessels of the United States in fisheries managed pursuant to this title, to recover the actual costs to the United States of management and enforcement under this title, which shall be deposited as an offsetting collection in, and credited to, the account providing appropriations to carry out the functions of the Secretary under this title; and

(6) issue permits to owners and operators of United States vessels to fish in the convention area seaward of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, and shall remain valid for a period to be determined by the Secretary.

(b) **CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER LAWS.**—The Secretary shall ensure the consistency, to the extent practicable, of fishery management programs administered under this Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), the Tuna Conventions Act (16 U.S.C. 951 et seq.), the South Pacific Tuna Act (16 U.S.C. 973 et seq.), section 401 of Public Law 108–219 (16 U.S.C. 1821 note) (relating to Pacific albacore tuna), and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971).

(c) **ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY.**—The Secretary shall prevent any person from violating this title in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1857) were incorporated into and made a part of this title. Any person that violates any provision of this title is subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, power, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of that Act were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(d) **CONFIDENTIALITY.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any information submitted to the Secretary in compliance with any requirement under this Act shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except—

(A) to Federal employees who are responsible for administering, implementing, and enforcing this Act;

(B) to the Commission, in accordance with requirements in the Convention and decisions of the Commission, and, insofar as possible, in accordance with an agreement with the Commission that prevents public disclosure of the identity or business of any person;

(C) to State or Marine Fisheries Commission employees pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary that prevents public disclosure of the identity or business of any person;

(D) when required by court order; or

(E) when the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person submitting such information to release such information to persons for reasons not otherwise provided for in this subsection, and such release does not violate other requirements of this Act.

(2) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, prescribe such procedures as may be necessary to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted in compliance with any requirement or regulation under this Act, except that the Secretary may release or make public any such information in any aggregate or summary form that does not directly or indirectly disclose the identity or business of any person. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted or construed to prevent the use for conservation and management purposes by the Secretary of any information submitted in compliance with any requirement or regulation under this Act.

SEC. 507. PROHIBITED ACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is unlawful for any person—

(1) to violate any provision of this title or any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this title;

(2) to use any fishing vessel to engage in fishing after the revocation, or during the period of suspension, on an applicable permit issued pursuant to this title;

(3) to refuse to permit any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this title to board a fishing vessel subject to such person's control for the purposes of conducting any search, investigation, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this title or any regulation, permit, or the Convention;

(4) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any such authorized officer in the conduct of any search, investigations, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this title or any regulation, permit, or the Convention;

(5) to resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this title;

(6) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of, any fish taken or retained in violation of this title or any regulation, permit, or agreement referred to in paragraph (1) or (2);

(7) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension or arrest of another person, knowing that

such other person has committed any chapter prohibited by this section;

(8) to knowingly and willfully submit to the Secretary false information (including false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United States fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishery vessels of the United States), regarding any matter that the Secretary is considering in the course of carrying out this title;

(9) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with any observer on a vessel under this title, or any data collector employed by the National Marine Fisheries Service or under contract to any person to carry out responsibilities under this title;

(10) to engage in fishing in violation of any regulation adopted pursuant to section 506(a) of this title;

(11) to ship, transport, purchase, sell, offer for sale, import, export, or have in custody, possession, or control any fish taken or retained in violation of such regulations;

(12) to fail to make, keep, or furnish any catch returns, statistical records, or other reports as are required by regulations adopted pursuant to this title to be made, kept, or furnished;

(13) to fail to stop a vessel upon being hailed and instructed to stop by a duly authorized official of the United States;

(14) to import, in violation of any regulation adopted pursuant to section 506(a) of this title, any fish in any form of those species subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation, resolution, or decision of the Commission, or any tuna in any form not under regulation but under investigation by the Commission, during the period such fish have been denied entry in accordance with the provisions of section 506(a) of this title.

(b) ENTRY CERTIFICATION.—In the case of any fish described in subsection (a) offered for entry into the United States, the Secretary of Commerce shall require proof satisfactory to the Secretary that such fish is not ineligible for such entry under the terms of section 506(a) of this title.

SEC. 508. COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT CONVENTION.

(a) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES; PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may cooperate with agencies of the United States government, any public or private institutions or organizations within the United States or abroad, and, through the Secretary of State, the duly authorized officials of the government of any party to the WCPFC Convention, in carrying out responsibilities under this title.

(b) SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER PROGRAMS; FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL.—All Federal agencies are authorized, upon the request of the Secretary, to cooperate in the conduct of scientific and other programs and to furnish facilities and personnel for the purpose of assisting the Commission in carrying out its duties under the WCPFC Convention.

(c) SANCTIONED FISHING OPERATIONS AND BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS.—Nothing in this title, or in the laws or regulations of any State, prevents the Secretary or the Commission from—

(1) conducting or authorizing the conduct of fishing operations and biological experiments at any time for purposes of scientific investigation; or

(2) discharging any other duties prescribed by the WCPFC Convention.

(d) STATE JURISDICTION NOT AFFECTED.—Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, nothing in this title shall be construed to diminish or to increase the jurisdiction of any State in the territorial sea of the United States.

(e) APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Regulations promulgated under section 506(a) of this title shall apply within the boundaries of any State bordering on the Convention area if the Secretary has provided notice to such State, the State does not request an agency hearing, and the Secretary determines that the State—

(A) has not, within a reasonable period of time after the promulgation of regulations pursuant to this title, enacted laws or promulgated regulations that implement the recommendations of the Commission within the boundaries of such State; or

(B) has enacted laws or promulgated regulations that implement the recommendations of the commission within the boundaries of such State that—

(i) are less restrictive than the regulations promulgated under section 506(a) of this title; or

(ii) are not effectively enforced.

(2) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—The regulations promulgated pursuant to section 506(a) of this title shall apply until the Secretary determines that the State is effectively enforcing within its boundaries measures that are not less restrictive than the regulations promulgated under section 506(a) of this title.

(3) HEARING.—If a State requests a formal agency hearing, the Secretary shall not apply the regulations promulgated pursuant section 506(a) of this title within that State's boundaries unless the hearing record supports a determination under paragraph (1)(A) or (B).

(f) REVIEW OF STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.—To ensure that the purposes of subsection (e) are carried out, the Secretary shall undertake a continuing review of the laws and regulations of all States to which subsection (e) applies or may apply and the extent to which such laws and regulations are enforced.

SEC. 509. TERRITORIAL PARTICIPATION.

The Secretary of State shall ensure participation in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies by American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands to the same extent provided to the territories of other nations.

SEC. 510. EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE NOTIFICATION.

Masters of commercial fishing vessels of nations fishing for species under the management authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention that do not carry vessel monitoring systems capable of communicating with United States enforcement authorities shall, prior to, or as soon as reasonably possible after, entering and transiting the Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of Hawaii and of the Commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States in the Pacific Ocean area—

(1) notify the United States Coast Guard or the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement in the appropriate region of the name, flag state, location, route, and destination of the vessel and of the circumstances under which it will enter United States waters;

(2) ensure that all fishing gear on board the vessel is stowed below deck or otherwise removed from the place where it is normally used for fishing and placed where it is not readily available for fishing; and

(3) where requested by an enforcement officer, proceed to a specified location so that a vessel inspection can be conducted.

SEC. 511. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title and to pay the United States' contribution to the Commission under section 5 of part III of the WCPFC Convention.

TITLE VI—PACIFIC WHITING

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Pacific Whiting Act of 2006”.

SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ADVISORY PANEL.**—The term “advisory panel” means the Advisory Panel on Pacific Hake/Whiting established by the Agreement.

(2) **AGREEMENT.**—The term “Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting, signed at Seattle, Washington, on November 21, 2003.

(3) **CATCH.**—The term “catch” means all fishery removals from the offshore whiting resource, including landings, discards, and bycatch in other fisheries.

(4) **JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**—The term “joint management committee” means the joint management committee established by the Agreement.

(5) **JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.**—The term “joint technical committee” means the joint technical committee established by the Agreement.

(6) **OFFSHORE WHITING RESOURCE.**—The term “offshore whiting resource” means the transboundary stock of *Merluccius productus* that is located in the offshore waters of the United States and Canada except in Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia.

(7) **SCIENTIFIC REVIEW GROUP.**—The term “scientific review group” means the scientific review group established by the Agreement.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(9) **UNITED STATES SECTION.**—The term “United States Section” means the United States representatives on the joint management committee.

SEC. 603. UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION ON JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

(a) REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint 4 individuals to represent the United States as the United States Section on the joint management committee. In making the appointments, the Secretary shall select representatives from among individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced concerning the offshore whiting resource. Of these—

(A) 1 shall be an official of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(B) 1 shall be a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, appointed with consideration given to any recommendation provided by that Council;

(C) 1 shall be appointed from a list submitted by the treaty Indian tribes with treaty fishing rights to the offshore whiting resource; and

(D) 1 shall be appointed from the commercial sector of the whiting fishing industry concerned with the offshore whiting resource.

(2) TERM OF OFFICE.—Each representative appointed under paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term not to exceed 4 years, except that, of the initial appointments, 2 representatives shall be appointed for terms of 2 years. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term of office of that individual's predecessor shall be appointed for the remainder of that term. A representative may be appointed for a term of less than 4 years if such term is necessary to ensure that the term of office of not more than 2 representatives will expire in any single year. An individual appointed to serve as a representative is eligible for reappointment.

(3) CHAIR.—Unless otherwise agreed by all of the 4 representatives, the chair shall rotate annually among the 4 members, with the order of rotation determined by lot at the first meeting.

(b) ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may designate alternate representatives of the United States to serve on the joint management committee. An alternative representative may exercise, at any meeting of the committee, all the powers and duties of a representative in the absence of a duly designated representative for whatever reason.

SEC. 604. UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION ON THE SCIENTIFIC REVIEW GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint no more than 2 scientific experts to serve on the scientific review group. An individual shall not be eligible to serve on the scientific review group while serving on the joint technical committee.

(b) TERM.—An individual appointed under subsection (a) shall be appointed for a term of not to exceed 4 years, but shall be eligible for reappointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy

occurring prior to the expiration of a term of office of that individual's predecessor shall be appointed to serve for the remainder of that term.

(c) **JOINT APPOINTMENTS.**—In addition to individuals appointed under subsection (a), the Secretary, jointly with the Government of Canada, may appoint to the scientific review group, from a list of names provided by the advisory panel—

- (1) up to 2 independent members of the scientific review group; and
- (2) 2 public advisors.

SEC. 605. UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION ON JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

(a) **SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint at least 6 but not more than 12 individuals to serve as scientific experts on the joint technical committee, at least 1 of whom shall be an official of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) **TERM OF OFFICE.**—An individual appointed under paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of not to exceed 4 years, but shall be eligible for reappointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term of office of that individual's predecessor shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(b) **INDEPENDENT MEMBER.**—In addition to individuals appointed under subsection (a), the Secretary, jointly with the Government of Canada, shall appoint 1 independent member to the joint technical committee selected from a list of names provided by the advisory panel.

SEC. 606. UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION ON ADVISORY PANEL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint at least 6 but not more than 12 individuals to serve as members of the advisory panel, selected from among individuals who are—

(A) knowledgeable or experienced in the harvesting, processing, marketing, management, conservation, or research of the offshore whiting resource; and

(B) not employees of the United States.

(2) **TERM OF OFFICE.**—An individual appointed under paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of not to exceed 4 years, but shall be eligible for reappointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term of office of that individual's predecessor shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

SEC. 607. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is responsible for carrying out the Agreement and this title, including the authority, to be exercised in consultation with the Secretary of State, to accept or reject, on behalf of the United States, recommendations made by the joint management committee.

(b) **REGULATIONS; COOPERATION WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS.**—In exercising responsibilities under this title, the Secretary—

(1) may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Agreement and this title; and

(2) with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, may cooperate with officials of the Canadian Government duly authorized to carry out the Agreement.

SEC. 608. RULEMAKING.

(a) APPLICATION WITH MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT.—The Secretary shall establish the United States catch level for Pacific whiting according to the standards and procedures of the Agreement and this title rather than under the standards and procedures of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), except to the extent necessary to address the rebuilding needs of other species. Except for establishing the catch level, all other aspects of Pacific whiting management shall be—

(1) subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and

(2) consistent with this title.

(b) JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.—For any year in which both parties to the Agreement approve recommendations made by the joint management committee with respect to the catch level, the Secretary shall implement the approved recommendations. Any regulation promulgated by the Secretary to implement any such recommendation shall apply, as necessary, to all persons and all vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States wherever located.

(c) YEARS WITH NO APPROVED CATCH RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the parties to the Agreement do not approve the joint management committee's recommendation with respect to the catch level for any year, the Secretary shall establish the total allowable catch for Pacific whiting for the United States catch. In establishing the total allowable catch under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(1) take into account any recommendations from the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the joint management committee, the joint technical committee, the scientific review group, and the advisory panel;

(2) base the total allowable catch on the best scientific information available;

(3) use the default harvest rate set out in paragraph 1 of Article III of the Agreement unless the Secretary determines that the scientific evidence demonstrates that a different rate is necessary to sustain the offshore whiting resource; and

(4) establish the United States's share of the total allowable catch based on paragraph 2 of Article III of the Agreement and make any adjustments necessary under section 5 of Article II of the Agreement.

SEC. 609. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

(a) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—Individuals appointed under section 603, 604, 605, or 606 of this title who are serving as such Commissioners, other than officers or employees of the United States Government, shall be considered to be Federal employees while performing such service, only for purposes of—

(1) injury compensation under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) requirements concerning ethics, conflicts of interest, and corruption as provided under title 18, United States Code; and

(3) any other criminal or civil statute or regulation governing the conduct of Federal employees.

(b) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an individual appointed under this title shall receive no compensation for the individual's service as a representative, alternate representative, scientific expert, or advisory panel member under this title.

(2) SCIENTIFIC REVIEW GROUP.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may employ and fix the compensation of an individual appointed under section 604(a) to serve as a scientific expert on the scientific review group who is not employed by the United States Government, a State government, or an Indian tribal government in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Except as provided in subsection (d), the Secretary shall pay the necessary travel expenses of individuals appointed under this title in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) JOINT APPOINTEES.—With respect to the 2 independent members of the scientific review group and the 2 public advisors to the scientific review group jointly appointed under section 604(c), and the 1 independent member to the joint technical committee jointly appointed under section 605(b), the Secretary may pay up to 50 percent of—

(1) any compensation paid to such individuals; and

(2) the necessary travel expenses of such individuals.

SEC. 610. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

(1) administer and enforce this title and any regulations issued under this title;

(2) request and utilize on a reimbursed or non-reimbursed basis the assistance, services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of other Federal departments and agencies in the administration and enforcement of this title; and

(3) collect, utilize, and disclose such information as may be necessary to implement the Agreement and this title, subject to sections 552 and 552a of title 5, United States Code.

(b) PROHIBITED ACTS.—It is unlawful for any person to violate any provision of this title or the regulations promulgated under this title.

(c) ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall prevent any person from violating this title in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1857) were incorporated into and made a part of this title. Any person that violates any provision of this title is subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, power, and duties as though all applicable terms and

provisions of that Act were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(d) PENALTIES.—This title shall be enforced by the Secretary as if a violation of this title or of any regulation promulgated by the Secretary under this title were a violation of section 307 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1857).

SEC. 611. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out the obligations of the United States under the Agreement and this title.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 701. STUDY OF THE ACIDIFICATION OF THE OCEANS AND EFFECT ON FISHERIES.

The Secretary of Commerce shall request the National Research Council to conduct a study of the acidification of the oceans and how this process affects the United States.

SEC. 702. PUGET SOUND REGIONAL SHELLFISH SETTLEMENT.

(a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the Tribes have established treaty rights to take shellfish from public and private tidelands in Washington State, including from some lands owned, leased, or otherwise subject to harvest by commercial shellfish growers;

(B) the district court that adjudicated the Tribes' treaty rights to take shellfish found that the growers are innocent purchasers who had no notice of the Tribes' fishing right when they acquired their properties;

(C) numerous unresolved issues remain outstanding regarding implementation of the Tribes' treaty right to take shellfish from lands owned, leased, or otherwise subject to harvest by the growers;

(D) the Tribes, the growers, the State of Washington, and the United States Department of the Interior have resolved by a settlement agreement many of the disputes between and among them regarding implementation of the Tribes' treaty right to take shellfish from covered tidelands owned or leased by the growers;

(E) the settlement agreement does not provide for resolution of any claims to take shellfish from lands owned or leased by the growers that potentially may be brought in the future by other Tribes;

(F) in the absence of congressional actions, the prospect of other Tribes claims to take shellfish from lands owned or leased by the growers could be pursued through the courts, a process which in all likelihood could consume many years and thereby promote uncertainty in the State of Washington and the growers and to the ultimate detriment of both the Tribes and other Tribes and their members;

(G) in order to avoid this uncertainty, it is the intent of Congress that other Tribes have the option of resolving their claims, if any, to a treaty right to take shellfish

from covered tidelands owned or leased by the growers; and

(H) this Act represents a good faith effort on the part of Congress to extend to other Tribes the same fair and just option of resolving their claims to take shellfish from covered tidelands owned or leased by the growers that the Tribes have agreed to in the settlement agreement.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to approve, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement entered into by and among the Tribes, commercial shellfish growers, the State of Washington, and the United States;

(B) to provide other Tribes with a fair and just resolution of any claims to take shellfish from covered tidelands, as that term is defined in the settlement agreement, that potentially could be brought in the future by other Tribes; and

(C) to authorize the Secretary to implement the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement and this section.

(b) APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The settlement agreement is hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed, and section 6 of the settlement agreement, Release of Claims, is specifically adopted and incorporated into this section as if fully set forth herein.

(2) AUTHORIZATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary is hereby authorized to implement the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement in accordance with the settlement agreement and this section.

(c) FUND, SPECIAL HOLDING ACCOUNT, AND CONDITIONS.—

(1) PUGET SOUND REGIONAL SHELLFISH SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND.—

(A) There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be designated as the “Puget Sound Regional Shellfish Settlement Trust Fund”. The Secretary shall deposit funds in the amount of \$22,000,000 at such time as appropriated pursuant to this section into the Fund.

(B) The Fund shall be maintained and invested by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Act of June 24, 1938 (25 U.S.C. 162a) until such time as all monies are transferred from the Fund.

(C) The Secretary shall transfer monies held in the Fund to each Tribe of the Tribes in the amounts and manner specified by and in accordance with the payment agreement established pursuant to the settlement agreement and this section.

(2) PUGET SOUND REGIONAL SHELLFISH SETTLEMENT SPECIAL HOLDING ACCOUNT.—

(A) There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be designated as the “Puget Sound Regional Shellfish Settlement Special Holding Account”. The Secretary shall deposit funds in the amount of \$1,500,000 into the Special Holding Account in fiscal year 2011 at such time as such funds are appropriated pursuant to this section.

(B) The Special Holding Account shall be maintained and invested by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Act of June 24, 1938, (25 U.S.C. 162a) until such time as all monies are transferred from the Special Holding Account.

(C) If a court of competent jurisdiction renders a final decision declaring that any of the other Tribes has an established treaty right to take or harvest shellfish in covered tidelands, as that term is defined in the settlement agreement, and such tribe opts to accept a share of the Special Holding Account, rather than litigate this claim against the growers, the Secretary shall transfer the appropriate share of the monies held in the Special Holding Account to each such tribe of the other Tribes in the amounts appropriate to compensate the other Tribes in the same manner and for the same purposes as the Tribes who are signatory to the settlement agreement. Such a transfer to a tribe shall constitute full and complete satisfaction of that tribe's claims to shellfish on the covered tidelands.

(D) The Secretary may retain such amounts of the Special Holding Account as necessary to provide for additional tribes that may judicially establish their rights to take shellfish in the covered tidelands within the term of that Account, provided that the Secretary pays the remaining balance to the other Tribes prior to the expiration of the term of the Special Holding Account.

(E) The Tribes shall have no interest, possessory or otherwise, in the Special Holding Account.

(F) Twenty years after the deposit of funds into the Special Holding Account, the Secretary shall close the Account and transfer the balance of any funds held in the Special Holding Account at that time to the Treasury. However, the Secretary may continue to maintain the Special Holding Account in order to resolve the claim of an other Tribe that has notified the Secretary in writing within the 20-year term of that Tribe's interest in resolving its claim in the manner provided for in this section.

(G) It is the intent of Congress that the other Tribes, if any, shall have the option of agreeing to similar rights and responsibilities as the Tribes that are signatories to the settlement agreement, if they opt not to litigate against the growers.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each tribe of the Tribes, or any of the other Tribes accepting a settlement of its claims to shellfish on covered lands pursuant to paragraph (2)(C), shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes all expenditures made with monies withdrawn from the Fund or Special Holding Account during the year covered by the report.

(4) JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.—The Secretary may take judicial or administrative action to ensure that any monies withdrawn from the Fund or Special Holding Account are used in accordance with the purposes described in the settlement agreement and this section.

(5) CLARIFICATION OF TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—Beginning on the date that monies are transferred to a tribe of the Tribes or a tribe of the other Tribes pursuant to this section,

any trust responsibility or liability of the United States with respect to the expenditure or investment of the monies withdrawn shall cease.

(d) STATE OF WASHINGTON PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall not be accountable for nor incur any liability for the collection, deposit, management or nonpayment of the State of Washington payment of \$11,000,000 to the Tribes pursuant to the settlement agreement.

(e) RELEASE OF OTHER TRIBES CLAIMS.—

(1) RIGHT TO BRING ACTIONS.—As of the date of enactment of this section, all right of any other Tribes to bring an action to enforce or exercise its treaty rights to take shellfish from public and private tidelands in Washington State, including from some lands owned, leased, or otherwise subject to harvest by any and all growers shall be determined in accordance with the decisions of the Courts of the United States in *United States v. Washington*, Civ. No. 9213 (Western District of Washington).

(2) CERTAIN RIGHTS GOVERNED BY THIS SECTION.—If a tribe falling within the other Tribes category opts to resolve its claims to take shellfish from covered tidelands owned or leased by the growers pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(C) of this section, that tribe's rights shall be governed by this section, as well as by the decisions of the Courts in *United States v. Washington*, Civ. No. 9213.

(3) NO BREACH OF TRUST.—Notwithstanding whether the United States has a duty to initiate such an action, the failure or declination by the United States to initiate any action to enforce any other Tribe's or other Tribes' treaty rights to take shellfish from public and private tidelands in Washington State, including from covered tidelands owned, leased, or otherwise subject to harvest by any and all growers shall not constitute a breach of trust by the United States or be compensable to other Tribes.

(f) CAUSE OF ACTION.—If any payment by the United States is not paid in the amount or manner specified by this section, or is not paid within 6 months after the date specified by the settlement agreement, such failure shall give rise to a cause of action by the Tribes either individually or collectively against the United States for money damages for the amount authorized but not paid to the Tribes, and the Tribes, either individually or collectively, are authorized to bring an action against the United States in the United States Court of Federal Claims for such funds plus interest.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Puget Sound Shellfish Settlement Trust Fund Account established by this section.

(2) GROWERS.—The term "growers" means Taylor United, Inc.; Olympia Oyster Company; G.R. Clam & Oyster Farm; Cedric E. Lindsay; Minterbrook Oyster Company; Charles and Willa Murray; Skookum Bay Oyster Company; J & G Gunstone Clams, Inc.; and all persons who qualify as "growers" in accordance with and pursuant to the settlement agreement.

(3) OTHER TRIBES.—The term "other Tribes" means any federally recognized Indian nation or tribe other than the Tribes described in paragraph (6) that, within 20 years after the deposit of funds in the Special Holding Account, establishes a legally enforceable treaty right to take shellfish from covered

tidelands described in the settlement agreement, owned, leased or otherwise subject to harvest by those persons or entities that qualify as growers.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term “settlement agreement” means the settlement agreement entered into by and between the Tribes, commercial shellfish growers, the State of Washington and the United States, to resolve certain disputes between and among them regarding implementation of the Tribes’ treaty right to take shellfish from certain covered tidelands owned, leased or otherwise subject to harvest by the growers.

(6) TRIBES.—The term “Tribes” means the following federally recognized Tribes that executed the settlement agreement: Tulalip, Stillaguamish, Sauk Suiattle, Puyallup, Squaxin Island, Makah, Muckleshoot, Upper Skagit, Nooksack, Nisqually, Skokomish, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Jamestown S’Klallam, and Suquamish Tribes, the Lummi Nation, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

(7) SPECIAL HOLDING ACCOUNT.—The term “Special Holding Account” means the Puget Sound Shellfish Settlement Special Holding Account established by this section.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$23,500,000 to carry out this section—

(A) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

(B) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010; and

(C) \$6,500,000 for fiscal year 2011.

TITLE VIII—TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Tsunami Warning and Education Act”.

SEC. 802. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term “Administration” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 803. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, outreach, and mitigation to protect life and property in the United States;

(2) to enhance and modernize the existing Pacific Tsunami Warning System to increase coverage, reduce false alarms, and increase the accuracy of forecasts and warnings, and to expand detection and warning systems to include other vulnerable States and United States territories, including the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico areas;

(3) to improve mapping, modeling, research, and assessment efforts to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, outreach, mitigation, response, and recovery;

(4) to improve and increase education and outreach activities and ensure that those receiving tsunami warnings and the at-risk public know what to do when a tsunami is approaching;

(5) to provide technical and other assistance to speed international efforts to establish regional tsunami warning systems in vulnerable areas worldwide, including the Indian Ocean; and

(6) to improve Federal, State, and international coordination for detection, warnings, and outreach for tsunami and other coastal impacts.

SEC. 804. TSUNAMI FORECASTING AND WARNING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall operate a program to provide tsunami detection, forecasting, and warnings for the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and for the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico region.

(b) COMPONENTS.—The program under this section shall—

(1) include the tsunami warning centers established under subsection (d);

(2) utilize and maintain an array of robust tsunami detection technologies;

(3) maintain detection equipment in operational condition to fulfill the detection, forecasting, and warning requirements of this title;

(4) provide tsunami forecasting capability based on models and measurements, including tsunami inundation models and maps for use in increasing the preparedness of communities, including through the TsunamiReady program;

(5) maintain data quality and management systems to support the requirements of the program;

(6) include a cooperative effort among the Administration, the United States Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation under which the Geological Survey and the National Science Foundation shall provide rapid and reliable seismic information to the Administration from international and domestic seismic networks;

(7) provide a capability for the dissemination of warnings to at-risk States and tsunami communities through rapid and reliable notification to government officials and the public, including utilization of and coordination with existing Federal warning systems, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Program;

(8) allow, as practicable, for integration of tsunami detection technologies with other environmental observing technologies; and

(9) include any technology the Administrator considers appropriate to fulfill the objectives of the program under this section.

(c) SYSTEM AREAS.—The program under this section shall operate—

(1) a Pacific tsunami warning system capable of forecasting tsunami anywhere in the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and providing adequate warnings; and

(2) an Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico tsunami warning system capable of forecasting tsunami and providing adequate warnings in areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico that are determined—

(A) to be geologically active, or to have significant potential for geological activity; and

(B) to pose significant risks of tsunami for States along the coastal areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico.

(d) TSUNAMI WARNING CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service, shall maintain or establish—

(A) a Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii;

(B) a West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska; and

(C) any additional forecast and warning centers determined by the National Weather Service to be necessary.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of each tsunami warning center shall include—

(A) continuously monitoring data from seismological, deep ocean, and tidal monitoring stations;

(B) evaluating earthquakes that have the potential to generate tsunami;

(C) evaluating deep ocean buoy data and tidal monitoring stations for indications of tsunami resulting from earthquakes and other sources;

(D) disseminating forecasts and tsunami warning bulletins to Federal, State, and local government officials and the public;

(E) coordinating with the tsunami hazard mitigation program described in section 805 to ensure ongoing sharing of information between forecasters and emergency management officials; and

(F) making data gathered under this title and post-warning analyses conducted by the National Weather Service or other relevant Administration offices available to researchers.

(e) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall—

(A) develop requirements for the equipment used to forecast tsunami, which shall include provisions for multipurpose detection platforms, reliability and performance metrics, and to the maximum extent practicable how the equipment will be integrated with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global earth observing system of systems, global seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System;

(B) develop and execute a plan for the transfer of technology from ongoing research described in section 806 into the program under this section; and

(C) ensure that maintaining operational tsunami detection equipment is the highest priority within the program carried out under this title.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(A) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit to Congress a report on how the tsunami forecast system under this section will be integrated with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global earth observing system of systems, global seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System.

(B) Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit a report to Congress on how technology developed under section 806 is being transferred into the program under this section.

(f) FEDERAL COOPERATION.—When deploying and maintaining tsunami detection technologies, the Administrator shall seek the assistance and assets of other appropriate Federal agencies.

(g) ANNUAL EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION.—At the same time Congress receives the budget justification documents in support of the President's annual budget request for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives a certification that—

(1) identifies the tsunami detection equipment deployed pursuant to this title, as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year;

(2) certifies which equipment is operational as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year;

(3) in the case of any piece of such equipment that is not operational as of such date, identifies that equipment and describes the mitigation strategy that is in place—

(A) to repair or replace that piece of equipment within a reasonable period of time; or

(B) to otherwise ensure adequate tsunami detection coverage;

(4) identifies any equipment that is being developed or constructed to carry out this title but which has not yet been deployed, if the Administration has entered into a contract for that equipment prior to December 31 of the preceding calendar year, and provides a schedule for the deployment of that equipment; and

(5) certifies that the Administrator expects the equipment described in paragraph (4) to meet the requirements, cost, and schedule provided in that contract.

(h) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATIONS.—The Administrator shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives within 30 days of—

(1) impaired regional forecasting capabilities due to equipment or system failures; and

(2) significant contractor failures or delays in completing work associated with the tsunami forecasting and warning system.

(i) **REPORT.**—Not later than January 31, 2010, the Comptroller General of the United States shall transmit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives that—

(1) evaluates the current status of the tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning system and the tsunami hazard mitigation program established under this title, including progress toward tsunami inundation mapping of all coastal areas vulnerable to tsunami and whether there has been any degradation of services as a result of the expansion of the program;

(2) evaluates the National Weather Service's ability to achieve continued improvements in the delivery of tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning services by assessing policies and plans for the evolution of modernization systems, models, and computational abilities (including the adoption of new technologies); and

(3) lists the contributions of funding or other resources to the program by other Federal agencies, particularly agencies participating in the program.

(j) **EXTERNAL REVIEW.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to review the tsunami detection, forecast, and warning program established under this title to assess further modernization and coverage needs, as well as long-term operational reliability issues, taking into account measures implemented under this title. The review shall also include an assessment of how well the forecast equipment has been integrated into other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems and the global earth observing system of systems. Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report containing the National Academy of Sciences' recommendations, the Administrator's responses to the recommendations, including those where the Administrator disagrees with the Academy, a timetable to implement the accepted recommendations, and the cost of implementing all the Academy's recommendations, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives.

(k) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a process for monitoring and certifying contractor performance in carrying out the requirements of any contract to construct or deploy tsunami detection equipment, including procedures and penalties to be imposed in cases of significant contractor failure or negligence.

SEC. 805. NATIONAL TSUNAMI HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall conduct a community-based tsunami hazard mitigation program to improve tsunami preparedness of at-risk areas in the United States and its territories.

(b) **COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**—In conducting the program under this section, the Administrator shall establish a coordinating committee comprising representatives of Federal, State, local, and tribal government officials. The Administrator may establish subcommittees to address region-specific issues. The committee shall—

(1) recommend how funds appropriated for carrying out the program under this section will be allocated;

(2) ensure that areas described in section 804(c) in the United States and its territories can have the opportunity to participate in the program;

(3) provide recommendations to the National Weather Service on how to improve the TsunamiReady program, particularly on ways to make communities more tsunami resilient through the use of inundation maps and other mitigation practices; and

(4) ensure that all components of the program are integrated with ongoing hazard warning and risk management activities, emergency response plans, and mitigation programs in affected areas, including integrating information to assist in tsunami evacuation route planning.

(c) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—The program under this section shall—

(1) use inundation models that meet a standard of accuracy defined by the Administration to improve the quality and extent of inundation mapping, including assessment of vulnerable inner coastal and nearshore areas, in a coordinated and standardized fashion to maximize resources and the utility of data collected;

(2) promote and improve community outreach and education networks and programs to ensure community readiness, including the development of comprehensive coastal risk and vulnerability assessment training and decision support tools, implementation of technical training and public education programs, and providing for certification of prepared communities;

(3) integrate tsunami preparedness and mitigation programs into ongoing hazard warning and risk management activities, emergency response plans, and mitigation programs in affected areas, including integrating information to assist in tsunami evacuation route planning;

(4) promote the adoption of tsunami warning and mitigation measures by Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and nongovernmental entities, including educational programs to discourage development in high-risk areas; and

(5) provide for periodic external review of the program.

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a change in the chair of any existing tsunami hazard mitigation program subcommittee.

SEC. 806. TSUNAMI RESEARCH PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall, in consultation with other agencies and academic institutions, and with the coordinating committee established under section 805(b), establish or maintain a tsunami research program to develop detection, forecast, communication, and mitigation science and technology, including advanced sensing techniques, information and communication technology, data collection, analysis, and assessment for tsunami tracking and numerical forecast modeling. Such research program shall—

(1) consider other appropriate research to mitigate the impact of tsunami;

(2) coordinate with the National Weather Service on technology to be transferred to operations;

- (3) include social science research to develop and assess community warning, education, and evacuation materials; and
- (4) ensure that research and findings are available to the scientific community.

SEC. 807. GLOBAL TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION NETWORK.

(a) **INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.**—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, in coordination with other members of the United States Interagency Committee of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, shall provide technical assistance and training to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Meteorological Organization, and other international entities, as part of international efforts to develop a fully functional global tsunami forecast and warning system comprising regional tsunami warning networks, modeled on the International Tsunami Warning System of the Pacific.

(b) **INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER.**—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, shall operate an International Tsunami Information Center to improve tsunami preparedness for all Pacific Ocean nations participating in the International Tsunami Warning System of the Pacific, and may also provide such assistance to other nations participating in a global tsunami warning system established through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. As part of its responsibilities around the world, the Center shall—

- (1) monitor international tsunami warning activities around the world;
- (2) assist member states in establishing national warning systems, and make information available on current technologies for tsunami warning systems;
- (3) maintain a library of materials to promulgate knowledge about tsunami in general and for use by the scientific community; and
- (4) disseminate information, including educational materials and research reports.

(c) **DETECTION EQUIPMENT; TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TRAINING.**—In carrying out this section, the National Weather Service—

- (1) shall give priority to assisting nations in identifying vulnerable coastal areas, creating inundation maps, obtaining or designing real-time detection and reporting equipment, and establishing communication and warning networks and contact points in each vulnerable nation;
- (2) may establish a process for transfer of detection and communication technology to affected nations for the purposes of establishing the international tsunami warning system; and
- (3) shall provide technical and other assistance to support international tsunami programs.

(d) **DATA-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—The National Weather Service, when deciding to provide assistance under this section, may take into consideration the data sharing policies and practices of nations proposed to receive such assistance, with a goal to encourage all nations to support full and open exchange of data.

SEC. 808. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this title—

- (1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which—
 - (A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 805; and
 - (B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 806;
- (2) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which—
 - (A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 805; and
 - (B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 806;
- (3) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which—
 - (A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 805; and
 - (B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 806;
- (4) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which—
 - (A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 805; and
 - (B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 806; and
- (5) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2012, of which—
 - (A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 805; and
 - (B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 806.

TITLE IX—POLAR BEARS

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “United States-Russia Polar Bear Conservation and Management Act of 2006”.

SEC. 902. AMENDMENT OF MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1972.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“TITLE V—POLAR BEARS

“SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) AGREEMENT.—The term ‘Agreement’ means the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population, signed at Washington, D.C., on October 16, 2000.

“(2) ALASKA NANUUQ COMMISSION.—The term ‘Alaska Nanuuq Commission’ means the Alaska Native entity, in existence on the date of enactment of the United States-Russia Polar Bear Conservation and Management Act of 2006, that represents all villages in the State of Alaska that engage in the annual subsistence taking of polar bears from the Alaska-Chukotka population and any successor entity.

“(3) IMPORT.—The term ‘import’ means to land on, bring into, or introduce into, or attempt to land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, without regard to whether the landing, bringing, or introduction constitutes an importation within the meaning of the customs laws of the United States.

“(4) POLAR BEAR PART OR PRODUCT.—The term ‘part or product of a polar bear’ means any polar bear part or product, including the gall bile and gall bladder.

“(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior.

“(6) TAKING.—The term ‘taking’ has the meaning given the term in the Agreement.

“(7) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’ means the commission established under article 8 of the Agreement.

“SEC. 502. PROHIBITIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—It is unlawful for any person who is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or any person in waters or on lands under the jurisdiction of the United States—

“(1) to take any polar bear in violation of the Agreement;

“(2) to take any polar bear in violation of the Agreement or any annual taking limit or other restriction on the taking of polar bears that is adopted by the Commission pursuant to the Agreement;

“(3) to import, export, possess, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase, exchange, barter, or offer to sell, purchase, exchange, or barter any polar bear, or any part or product of a polar bear, that is taken in violation of paragraph (2);

“(4) to import, export, sell, purchase, exchange, barter, or offer to sell, purchase, exchange, or barter, any polar bear gall bile or polar bear gall bladder;

“(5) to attempt to commit, solicit another person to commit, or cause to be committed, any offense under this subsection; or

“(6) to violate any regulation promulgated by the Secretary to implement any of the prohibitions established in this subsection.

“(b) EXCEPTIONS.—For the purpose of forensic testing or any other law enforcement purpose, the Secretary, and Federal law enforcement officials, and any State or local law enforcement official authorized by the Secretary, may import a polar bear or any part or product of a polar bear.

“SEC. 503. ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall do all things necessary and appropriate, including the promulgation of regulations, to implement, enforce, and administer the provisions of the Agreement on behalf of the United States. The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State and the Alaska Nanuuq Commission on matters involving the implementation of the Agreement.

“(b) UTILIZATION OF OTHER GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND AUTHORITIES.—

“(1) OTHER GOVERNMENT RESOURCES.—The Secretary may utilize by agreement, with or without reimbursement, the personnel, services, and facilities of any other Federal agency, any State agency, or the Alaska Nanuuq Commission for purposes of carrying out this title or the Agreement.

“(2) OTHER POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—Any person authorized by the Secretary under this subsection to enforce this title or the Agreement shall have the authorities that are enumerated in section 6(b) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3375(b)).

“(c) ENSURING COMPLIANCE.—

“(1) TITLE I AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may use authorities granted under title I for enforcement, imposition of penalties, and the seizure of cargo for violations under this title, provided that any polar bear or any part or product of a polar bear taken, imported, exported, possessed, transported, sold, received, acquired, purchased, exchanged, or bartered, or offered for sale, purchase, exchange, or barter in violation of this title, shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States without any showing that may be required for assessment of a civil penalty or for criminal prosecution under this Act.

“(2) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Any gun, trap, net, or other equipment used, and any vessel, aircraft, or other means of transportation used, to aid in the violation or attempted violation of this title shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture under section 106.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this title and the Agreement.

“(2) ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS.—If necessary to carry out this title and the Agreement, and to improve compliance with any annual taking limit or other restriction on taking adopted by the Commission and implemented by the Secretary in accordance with this title, the Secretary may promulgate regulations that adopt any ordinance or regulation that restricts the taking of polar bears for subsistence purposes if the ordinance or regulation has been promulgated by the Alaska Nanuuq Commission.

“SEC. 504. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT; AUTHORITY TO DELEGATE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, may share authority under this title for the management of the taking of polar bears

for subsistence purposes with the Alaska Nanuuq Commission if such commission is eligible under subsection (b).

“(b) DELEGATION.—To be eligible for the management authority described in subsection (a), the Alaska Nanuuq Commission shall—

“(1) enter into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary under section 119 for the conservation of polar bears;

“(2) meaningfully monitor compliance with this title and the Agreement by Alaska Natives; and

“(3) administer its co-management program for polar bears in accordance with—

“(A) this title; and

“(B) the Agreement.

“SEC. 505. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS; COMPENSATION, TRAVEL EXPENSES, AND CLAIMS.

“(a) APPOINTMENT OF UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—The United States commissioners on the Commission shall be appointed by the President, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 8 of the Agreement, after taking into consideration the recommendations of—

“(A) the Secretary;

“(B) the Secretary of State; and

“(C) the Alaska Nanuuq Commission.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—With respect to the United States commissioners appointed under this subsection, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 8 of the Agreement—

“(A) 1 United States commissioner shall be an official of the Federal Government;

“(B) 1 United States commissioner shall be a representative of the Native people of Alaska, and, in particular, the Native people for whom polar bears are an integral part of their culture; and

“(C) both commissioners shall be knowledgeable of, or have expertise in, polar bears.

“(3) SERVICE AND TERM.—Each United States commissioner shall serve—

“(A) at the pleasure of the President; and

“(B) for an initial 4-year term and such additional terms as the President shall determine.

“(4) VACANCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of any term of office of a United States commissioner shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

“(B) MANNER.—Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

“(b) ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Alaska Nanuuq Commission, shall designate an alternate commissioner for each member of the United States section.

“(2) DUTIES.—In the absence of a United States commissioner, an alternate commissioner may exercise all functions of the United States commissioner at any meetings of the Commission or of the United States section.

“(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—An alternate commissioner—

“(A) shall be eligible for reappointment by the President; and

“(B) may attend all meetings of the United States section.

“(c) DUTIES.—The members of the United States section may carry out the functions and responsibilities described in article 8 of the Agreement in accordance with this title and the Agreement.

“(d) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

“(1) COMPENSATION.—A member of the United States section shall serve without compensation.

“(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the United States section shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the United States-Russia Polar Bear Commission.

“(e) AGENCY DESIGNATION.—The United States section shall, for the purpose of title 28, United States Code, relating to claims against the United States and tort claims procedure, be considered to be a Federal agency.

“SEC. 506. VOTES TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES SECTION ON MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION.

“In accordance with paragraph 3 of article 8 of the Agreement, the United States section, made up of commissioners appointed by the President, shall vote on any issue before the United States-Russia Polar Bear Commission only if there is no disagreement between the United States commissioners regarding the vote.

“SEC. 507. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take all necessary actions to implement the decisions and determinations of the Commission under paragraph 7 of article 8 of the Agreement.

“(b) TAKING LIMITATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives notice of the determination of the Commission of an annual taking limit, or of the adoption by the Commission of other restriction on the taking of polar bears for subsistence purposes, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the determination or restriction.

“SEC. 508. APPLICATION WITH OTHER TITLES OF ACT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority of the Secretary under this title is in addition to, and shall not affect—

“(1) the authority of the Secretary under other titles of this Act or the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) or the exemption for Alaskan natives under section 101(b) of this Act as applied to other marine mammal populations; or

“(2) the authorities provided under title II of this Act.

“(b) CERTAIN PROVISIONS INAPPLICABLE.—The provisions of titles I through IV of this Act do not apply with respect to the implementation or administration of this title, except as specified in section 503.

“SEC. 509. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the functions and responsibilities of the Secretary under this title and the Agreement \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

“(b) COMMISSION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out functions and responsibilities of the United States Section \$150,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

“(c) ALASKAN COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this title and the Agreement in Alaska \$150,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE V—POLAR BEARS

“Sec. 501. Definitions.

“Sec. 502. Prohibitions.

“Sec. 503. Administration.

“Sec. 504. Cooperative management agreement; authority to delegate enforcement authority.

“Sec. 505. Commission appointments; compensation, travel expenses, and claims.

“Sec. 506. Votes taken by the United States Section on matters before the Commission.

“Sec. 507. Implementation of actions taken by the Commission.

“Sec. 508. Application with other titles of Act.

“Sec. 509. Authorization of appropriations.”.

(c) TREATMENT OF CONTAINERS.—Section 107(d)(2) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1377(d)(2)) is amended by striking “vessel or other conveyance” each place it appears and inserting “vessel, other conveyance, or container”.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

****1/31/07 DRAFT****

MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Public Law 94-265

**As amended by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management
Reauthorization Act (P.L. 109-479)**

AN ACT

**To provide for the conservation and management of the fisheries,
and for other purposes.**

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Numbers in boldface indicate the number of the Public Law that amended the following provision. Boldface comments marked with asterisks were inserted by the editors.

*Bracketed material with an asterisk is text that is added, or replaces underlined language, and will be effective on the date the Agreement between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Maritime Boundary enters into force for the United States. See P.L. 102-251

SEC. 2. FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND POLICY

16 U.S.C. 1801

(a) **FINDINGS.**--The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The fish off the coasts of the United States, the highly migratory species of the high seas, the species which dwell on or in the Continental Shelf appertaining to the United States, and the anadromous species which spawn in United States rivers or estuaries, constitute valuable and renewable natural resources. These fishery resources contribute to the food supply, economy, and health of the Nation and provide recreational opportunities.

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(2) Certain stocks of fish have declined to the point where their survival is threatened, and other stocks of fish have been so substantially reduced in number that they could become similarly threatened as a consequence of (A) increased fishing pressure, (B) the inadequacy of fishery resource conservation and management practices and controls, or (C) direct and indirect habitat losses which have resulted in a diminished capacity to support existing fishing levels.

(3) Commercial and recreational fishing constitutes a major source of employment and contributes significantly to the economy of the Nation. Many coastal areas are dependent upon fishing and related activities, and their economies have been badly damaged by the overfishing of fishery resources at an ever-increasing rate over the past decade. The activities of massive foreign fishing fleets in waters adjacent to such coastal areas have contributed to such damage, interfered with domestic fishing efforts, and caused destruction of the fishing gear of United States fishermen.

(4) International fishery agreements have not been effective in preventing or terminating the overfishing of these valuable fishery resources. There is danger that irreversible effects from overfishing will take place before an effective international agreement on fishery management jurisdiction can be negotiated, signed, ratified, and implemented.

(5) Fishery resources are finite but renewable. If placed under sound management before overfishing has caused irreversible effects, the fisheries can be conserved and maintained so as to provide optimum yields on a continuing basis.

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(6) A national program for the conservation and management of the fishery resources of the United States is necessary to prevent overfishing, to rebuild overfished stocks, to insure conservation, to facilitate long-term protection of essential fish habitats, and to realize the full potential of the Nation's fishery resources.

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(7) A national program for the development of fisheries which are underutilized or not utilized by the United States fishing industry, including bottom fish off Alaska, is necessary to assure that our citizens benefit from the employment, food supply, and revenue which could be generated thereby.

101-627

(8) The collection of reliable data is essential to the effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the fishery resources of the United States.

104-297

(9) One of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats. Habitat considerations should receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources of the United States.

104-297

(10) Pacific Insular Areas contain unique historical, cultural, legal, political, and geographical circumstances which make fisheries resources important in sustaining their economic growth.

(11) A number of the Fishery Management Councils have demonstrated significant progress in integrating ecosystem considerations in fisheries management using the existing authorities provided under this Act.

(12) International cooperation is necessary to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and other fishing practices which may harm the sustainability of living marine resources and disadvantage the United States fishing industry.

(b) **PURPOSES.**--It is therefore declared to be the purposes of the Congress in this Act--

99-659, 101-627, 102-251

(1) to take immediate action to conserve and manage the fishery resources found off the coasts of the United States, and the anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources of the United States, by exercising (A) sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing all fish within the exclusive economic zone established by Presidential Proclamation 5030, dated March 10, 1983, and (B) exclusive fishery management authority beyond the exclusive economic zone over such anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources[, and fishery resources in the special areas]*;

(2) to support and encourage the implementation and enforcement of international fishery agreements for the conservation and management of highly migratory species, and to encourage the negotiation and implementation of additional such agreements as necessary;

104-297

(3) to promote domestic commercial and recreational fishing under sound conservation and management principles, including the promotion of catch and release programs in recreational fishing;

(4) to provide for the preparation and implementation, in accordance with national standards, of fishery management plans which will achieve and maintain, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery;

101-627

(5) to establish Regional Fishery Management Councils to exercise sound judgment in the stewardship of fishery resources through the preparation, monitoring, and revision of such plans under circumstances (A) which will enable the States, the fishing industry, consumer and environmental organizations, and other interested persons to participate in, and advise on, the establishment and administration of such plans, and (B) which take into account the social and economic needs of the States;

95-354, 96-561, 104-297

(6) to encourage the development by the United States fishing industry of fisheries which are currently underutilized or not utilized by United States fishermen, including bottom fish off Alaska, and to that end, to ensure that optimum yield determinations promote such development in a non-wasteful manner; and

104-297

(7) to promote the protection of essential fish habitat in the review of projects conducted under Federal permits, licenses, or other authorities that affect or have the potential to affect such habitat.

(c) **POLICY.**--It is further declared to be the policy of the Congress in this Act--

(1) to maintain without change the existing territorial or other ocean jurisdiction of the United States for all purposes other than the conservation and management of fishery resources, as provided for in this Act;

(2) to authorize no impediment to, or interference with, recognized legitimate uses of the high seas, except as necessary for the conservation and management of fishery resources, as provided for in this Act;

101-627, 104-297

(3) to assure that the national fishery conservation and management program utilizes, and is based upon, the best scientific information available; involves, and is responsive to the needs of, interested and affected States and citizens; considers efficiency; draws upon Federal, State, and academic capabilities in carrying out research, administration, management, and enforcement; considers the effects of fishing on immature fish and encourages development of practical measures that minimize bycatch and avoid unnecessary waste of fish; and is workable and effective;

(4) to permit foreign fishing consistent with the provisions of this Act;

99-659, 101-627

(5) to support and encourage active United States efforts to obtain internationally acceptable agreements which provide for effective conservation and management of fishery resources, and to secure agreements to regulate fishing by vessels or persons beyond the exclusive economic zones of any nation;

101-627

(6) to foster and maintain the diversity of fisheries in the United States; and

104-297

(7) to ensure that the fishery resources adjacent to a Pacific Insular Area, including resident or migratory stocks within the exclusive economic zone adjacent to such areas, be explored, developed, conserved, and managed for the benefit of the people of such area and of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS

16 U.S.C. 1802

As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires--

(1) The term "anadromous species" means species of fish which spawn in fresh or estuarine waters of the United States and which migrate to ocean waters.

104-297

(2) The term "bycatch" means fish which are harvested in a fishery, but which are not sold or kept for personal use, and includes economic discards and regulatory discards. Such term does not include fish released alive under a recreational catch and release fishery management program.

104-297

(3) The term "charter fishing" means fishing from a vessel carrying a passenger for hire (as defined in section 2101(21a) of title 46, United States Code) who is engaged in recreational fishing.

104-297

(4) The term "commercial fishing" means fishing in which the fish harvested, either in whole or in part, are intended to enter commerce or enter commerce through sale, barter or trade.

(5) The term "conservation and management" refers to all of the rules, regulations, conditions, methods, and other measures (A) which are required to rebuild, restore, or maintain, and which are useful in rebuilding, restoring, or maintaining, any fishery resource and the marine environment; and (B) which are designed to assure that--

- (i) a supply of food and other products may be taken, and that recreational benefits may be obtained, on a continuing basis;
- (ii) irreversible or long-term adverse effects on fishery resources and the marine environment are avoided; and
- (iii) there will be a multiplicity of options available with respect to future uses of these resources.

(6) The term "Continental Shelf" means the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the coast, but outside the area of the territorial sea, of the United States, to a depth of 200 meters or, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the superjacent waters admits of the exploitation of the natural resources of such areas.

99-659, 104-297

(7) The term "Continental Shelf fishery resources" means the following:

CNIDARIA

Bamboo Coral--*Acanella* spp.;
Black Coral--*Antipathes* spp.;
Gold Coral--*Callogorgia* spp.;
Precious Red Coral--*Corallium* spp.;
Bamboo Coral--*Keratoisis* spp.; and
Gold Coral--*Parazoanthus* spp.

CRUSTACEA

Tanner Crab--*Chionoecetes tanneri*;
Tanner Crab--*Chionoecetes opilio*;
Tanner Crab--*Chionoecetes angulatus*;
Tanner Crab--*Chionoecetes bairdi*;
King Crab--*Paralithodes camtschatica*;
King Crab--*Paralithodes platypus*;
King Crab--*Paralithodes brevipes*;
Lobster--*Homarus americanus*;
Dungeness Crab--*Cancer magister*;
California King Crab--*Paralithodes californiensis*;
California King Crab--*Paralithodes rathbuni*;
Golden King Crab--*Lithodes aequispinus*;
Northern Stone Crab--*Lithodes maja*;
Stone Crab--*Menippe mercenaria*; and
Deep-sea Red Crab--*Chaceon quinquedens*.

MOLLUSKS

Red Abalone--*Haliotis rufescens*;
Pink Abalone--*Haliotis corrugata*;
Japanese Abalone--*Haliotis kamtschatkana*;
Queen Conch--*Strombus gigas*;
Surf Clam--*Spisula solidissima*; and
Ocean Quahog--*Arctica islandica*.

SPONGES

Glove Sponge--*Spongia cheiris*;
Sheepswool Sponge--*Hippiospongia lachne*;
Grass Sponge--*Spongia graminea*; and
Yellow Sponge--*Spongia barbera*.

If the Secretary determines, after consultation with the Secretary of State, that living organisms of any other sedentary species are, at the harvestable stage, either--

(A) immobile on or under the seabed, or

(B) unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed or subsoil, of the Continental Shelf which appertains to the United States, and publishes notices of such determination in the Federal Register, such sedentary species shall be considered to be added to the foregoing list and included in such term for purposes of this Act.

(8) The term "Council" means any Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302.

104-297

(9) The term "economic discards" means fish which are the target of a fishery, but which are not retained because they are of an undesirable size, sex, or quality, or for other economic reasons.

104-297

(10) The term "essential fish habitat" means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.

99-659

(11) The term "exclusive economic zone" means the zone established by Proclamation Numbered 5030, dated March 10, 1983. For purposes of applying this Act, the inner boundary of that zone is a line coterminous with the seaward boundary of each of the coastal States.

99-659, 101-627

(12) The term "fish" means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(13) The term "fishery" means--

(A) one or more stocks of fish which can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management and which are identified on the basis of geographical, scientific, technical, recreational, and economic characteristics; and

(B) any fishing for such stocks.

(14) The term 'regional fishery association' means an association formed for the mutual benefit of members—

(A) to meet social and economic needs in a region or subregion; and

(B) comprised of persons engaging in the harvest or processing of fishery resources in that specific region or subregion or who otherwise own or operate businesses substantially dependent upon a fishery.

(15) The term "fishery resource" means any fishery, any stock of fish, any species of fish, and any habitat of fish.

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(16) The term "fishing" means--

(A) the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish;

(B) the attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of fish;

(C) any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish; or

(D) any operations at sea in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

Such term does not include any scientific research activity which is conducted by a scientific research vessel.

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104-297

(17) The term "fishing community" means a community which is substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community.

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(18) The term "fishing vessel" means any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft which is used for, equipped to be used for, or of a type which is normally used for--

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(A) fishing; or

(B) aiding or assisting one or more vessels at sea in the performance of any activity relating to fishing, including, but not limited to, preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transportation, or processing.

(19) The term "foreign fishing" means fishing by a vessel other than a vessel of the United States.

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(20) The term "high seas" means all waters beyond the territorial sea of the United States and beyond any foreign nation's territorial sea, to the extent that such sea is recognized by the United States.

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101-627

(21) The term "highly migratory species" means tuna species, marlin (*Tetrapturus* spp. and *Makaira* spp.), oceanic sharks, sailfishes (*Istiophorus* spp.), and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*).

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(22) The term 'import'—

(A) means to land on, bring into, or introduce into, or attempt to land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, whether or not such landing, bringing, or introduction constitutes an importation within the meaning of the customs laws of the United States; but

(B) does not include any activity described in subparagraph (A) with respect to fish caught in the exclusive economic zone or by a vessel of the United States.

104-297

(23) The term "individual fishing quota" means a Federal permit under a limited access system to harvest a quantity of fish, expressed by a unit or units representing a percentage of the total allowable catch of a fishery that may be received or held for exclusive use by a person. Such term does not include community development quotas as described in section 305(i).

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(24) The term "international fishery agreement" means any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, or agreement which relates to fishing and to which the United States is a party.

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101-627, 104-297

(25) The term "large-scale driftnet fishing" means a method of fishing in which a gillnet composed of a panel or panels of webbing, or a series of such gillnets, with a total length of two and one-half kilometers or more is placed in the water and allowed to drift with the currents and winds for the purpose of entangling fish in the webbing.

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(26) The term 'limited access privilege'—

(A) means a Federal permit, issued as part of a limited access system under section 303A to harvest a quantity of fish expressed by a unit or units representing a portion of the total allowable catch of the fishery that may be received or held for exclusive use by a person; and

(B) includes an individual fishing quota; but

(C) does not include community development quotas as described in section 305(i).

(27) The term 'limited access system' means a system that limits participation in a fishery to those satisfying certain eligibility criteria or requirements contained in a fishery management plan or associated regulation.

(28) The term "Marine Fisheries Commission" means the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, or the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

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101-627

(29) The term "migratory range" means the maximum area at a given time of the year within which fish of an anadromous species or stock thereof can be expected to be found, as determined on the basis of scale pattern analysis, tagging studies, or other reliable scientific information, except that the term does not include any part of such area which is in the waters of a foreign nation.

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(30) The term "national standards" means the national standards for fishery conservation and management set forth in section 301.

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101-627

(31) The term "observer" means any person required or authorized to be carried on a vessel for conservation and management purposes by regulations or permits under this Act.

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(32) The term 'observer information' means any information collected, observed, retrieved, or created by an observer or electronic monitoring system pursuant to authorization by the Secretary, or collected as part of a cooperative research initiative, including fish harvest or processing observations, fish sampling or weighing data, vessel logbook data, vessel or processor-specific information (including any safety, location, or operating condition observations), and video, audio, photographic, or written documents.

104-297

(33) The term "optimum", with respect to the yield from a fishery, means the amount of fish which--

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(A) will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems;

(B) is prescribed as such on the basis of the maximum sustainable yield from the fishery, as reduced by any relevant economic, social, or ecological factor; and

(C) in the case of an overfished fishery, provides for rebuilding to a level consistent with producing the maximum sustainable yield in such fishery.

104-297

(34) The terms "overfishing" and "overfished" mean a rate or level of fishing mortality that jeopardizes the capacity of a fishery to produce the maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis.

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104-297

(35) The term "Pacific Insular Area" means American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Island, Wake Island, or Palmyra Atoll, as applicable, and includes all islands and reefs appurtenant to such island, reef, or atoll.

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~~(36)~~ The term "person" means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State), and any Federal, State, local, or foreign government or any entity of any such government.

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104-297

~~(37)~~ The term "recreational fishing" means fishing for sport or pleasure.

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104-297

~~(38)~~ The term "regulatory discards" means fish harvested in a fishery which fishermen are required by regulation to discard whenever caught, or are required by regulation to retain but not sell.

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~~(39)~~ The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce or his designee.

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104-297

~~(40)~~ The term "special areas" means the areas referred to as eastern special areas in Article 3(1) of the Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Maritime Boundary, signed June 1, 1990. In particular, the term refers to those areas east of the maritime boundary, as defined in that Agreement, that lie within 200 nautical miles of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Russia is measured but beyond 200 nautical miles of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of the United States is measured.¹

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~~(41)~~ The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and any other Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

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~~(42)~~ The term "stock of fish" means a species, subspecies, geographical grouping, or other category of fish capable of management as a unit.

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~~(43)~~ The term "treaty" means any international fishery agreement which is a treaty within the meaning of section 2 of article II of the Constitution.

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101-627

~~(44)~~ The term "tuna species" means the following:
Albacore Tuna--Thunnus alalunga;
Bigeye Tuna--Thunnus obesus;
Bluefin Tuna--Thunnus thynnus;
Skipjack Tuna--Katsuwonus pelamis; and
Yellowfin Tuna--Thunnus albacares.

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¹ Section 102(10) of Public Law 104-297 appears to codify the definition of "special areas" at paragraph 36 after the definition of "State." Section 405(a) of Public Law 104-297 appears to add a redundant definition of "special areas" and create numerous numbering conflicts in the definitions. The editors assume Congress intends to add one definition of "special areas" in alphabetical order.

(45) The term "United States", when used in a geographical context, means all the States thereof.

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95-354

(46) The term "United States fish processors" means facilities located within the United States for, and vessels of the United States used or equipped for, the processing of fish for commercial use or consumption.

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95-354, 104-297

(47) The term "United States harvested fish" means fish caught, taken, or harvested by vessels of the United States within any fishery regulated under this Act.

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97-453, 100-239

(48) The term "vessel of the United States" means--

- (A) any vessel documented under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code;
- (B) any vessel numbered in accordance with chapter 123 of title 46, United States Code, and measuring less than 5 net tons;
- (C) any vessel numbered in accordance with chapter 123 of title 46, United States Code, and used exclusively for pleasure; or
- (D) any vessel not equipped with propulsion machinery of any kind and used exclusively for pleasure.

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104-297

(49) The term "vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States" has the same meaning such term has in section 3(c) of the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act (46 U.S.C. App. 1903(c)).

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101-627

(50) The term "waters of a foreign nation" means any part of the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (or the equivalent) of a foreign nation, to the extent such territorial sea or exclusive economic zone is recognized by the United States.

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104-297

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

16 U.S.C. 1803

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the provisions of this Act—

- (1) \$337,844,000 for fiscal year 2007;
- (2) \$347,684,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- (3) \$357,524,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- (4) \$367,364,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- (5) \$377,204,000 for fiscal year 2011;
- (6) \$387,044,000 for fiscal year 2012; and
- (7) \$396,875,000 for fiscal year 2013.

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4. . . AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS . ¶

¶
There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act, not to exceed the following sums:¶

- (1) \$147,000,000 for fiscal year 1996;¶
- (2) \$151,000,000 for fiscal year 1997;¶
- (3) \$155,000,000 for fiscal year 1998; and¶
- (4) \$159,000,000 for fiscal year 1999.¶

**TITLE I -- UNITED STATES RIGHTS AND AUTHORITY REGARDING FISH
AND FISHERY RESOURCES**

SEC. 101. UNITED STATES SOVEREIGN RIGHTS TO FISH AND FISHERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY **16 U.S.C. 1811**

99-659, 102-251

(a) **IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**--Except as provided in section 102, the United States claims, and will exercise in the manner provided for in this Act, sovereign rights and exclusive fishery management authority over all fish, and all Continental Shelf fishery resources, within the exclusive economic zone [and special areas]*.

99-659, 101-627, 102-251

(b) **BEYOND THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**--The United States claims, and will exercise in the manner provided for in this Act, exclusive fishery management authority over the following:

- (1) All anadromous species throughout the migratory range of each such species beyond the exclusive economic zone; except that that management authority does not extend to any such species during the time they are found within any waters of a foreign nation.
- (2) All Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond the exclusive economic zone.
- [(3) All fishery resources in the special areas.]*

SEC. 102. HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES **16 U.S.C. 1812**

99-659, 101-627, 104-297

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States shall cooperate directly or through appropriate international organizations with those nations involved in fisheries for highly migratory species with a view to ensuring conservation and shall promote the achievement of optimum yield of such species throughout their range, both within and beyond the exclusive economic zone.

(b) **TRADITIONAL PARTICIPATION.**—In managing any fisheries under an international fisheries agreement to which the United States is a party, the appropriate Council or Secretary shall take into account the traditional participation in the fishery, relative to other nations, by fishermen of the United States on fishing vessels of the United States.

(c) **PROMOTION OF STOCK MANAGEMENT.**—If a relevant international fisheries organization does not have a process for developing a formal plan to rebuild a depleted stock, an overfished stock, or a stock that is approaching a condition of being overfished, the provisions of this Act in this regard shall be communicated to and promoted by the United States in the international or regional fisheries organization.

TITLE II -- FOREIGN FISHING AND INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS

SEC. 201. FOREIGN FISHING

16 U.S.C. 1821

95-354, 99-659, 102-251, 104-297

(a) **IN GENERAL.**--After February 28, 1977, no foreign fishing is authorized within the exclusive economic zone, [within the special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond the exclusive economic zone [such zone or areas]*, unless such foreign fishing--

- (1) is authorized under subsections (b) or (c) or section 204(e), or under a permit issued under section 204(d);
- (2) is not prohibited by subsection (f); and
- (3) is conducted under, and in accordance with, a valid and applicable permit issued pursuant to section 204.

(b) **EXISTING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS.**--Foreign fishing described in subsection (a) may be conducted pursuant to an international fishery agreement (subject to the provisions of section 202(b) or (c)), if such agreement--

- (1) was in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and
- (2) has not expired, been renegotiated, or otherwise ceased to be of force and effect with respect to the United States.

(c) **GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS.**--Foreign fishing described in subsection (a) may be conducted pursuant to an international fishery agreement (other than a treaty) which meets the requirements of this subsection if such agreement becomes effective after application of section 203. Any such international fishery agreement shall hereafter in this Act be referred to as a "governing international fishery agreement". Each governing international fishery agreement shall acknowledge the exclusive fishery management authority of the United States, as set forth in this Act. It is the sense of the Congress that each such agreement shall include a binding commitment, on the part of such foreign nation and its fishing vessels, to comply with the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The foreign nation, and the owner or operator of any fishing vessel fishing pursuant to such agreement, will abide by all regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to this Act, including any regulations promulgated to implement any applicable fishery management plan or any preliminary fishery management plan.

97-453, 104-297

(2) The foreign nation, and the owner or operator of any fishing vessel fishing pursuant to such agreement, will abide by the requirement that--

(A) any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act (as provided for in section 311) be permitted--

(i) to board, and search or inspect, any such vessel at any time,

(ii) to make arrests and seizures provided for in section 311(b) whenever such officer has reasonable cause to believe, as a result of such a search or inspection, that any such vessel or any person has committed an act prohibited by section 307, and

(iii) to examine and make notations on the permit issued pursuant to section 204 for such vessel;

(B) the permit issued for any such vessel pursuant to section 204 be prominently displayed in the wheelhouse of such vessel;

(C) transponders, or such other appropriate position-fixing and identification equipment as the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines to be appropriate, be installed and maintained in working order on each such vessel;

(D) United States observers required under subsection (h) be permitted to be stationed aboard any such vessel and that all of the costs incurred incident to such stationing, including the costs of data editing and entry and observer monitoring, be paid for, in accordance with such subsection, by the owner or operator of the vessel;

(E) any fees required under section 204(b)(10) be paid in advance;

(F) agents be appointed and maintained within the United States who are authorized to receive and respond to any legal process issued in the United States with respect to such owner or operator; and

(G) responsibility be assumed, in accordance with any requirements prescribed by the Secretary, for the reimbursement of United States citizens for any loss of, or damage to, their fishing vessels, fishing gear, or catch which is caused by any fishing vessel of that nation;

and will abide by any other monitoring, compliance, or enforcement requirement related to fishery conservation and management which is included in such agreement.

95-354

(3) The foreign nation and the owners or operators of all of the fishing vessels of such nation shall not, in any year, harvest an amount of fish which exceeds such nation's allocation of the total allowable level of foreign fishing, as determined under subsection (e).

97-453

(4) The foreign nation will--

(A) apply, pursuant to section 204, for any required permits;

(B) deliver promptly to the owner or operator of the appropriate fishing vessel any permit which is issued under that section for such vessel;

(C) abide by, and take appropriate steps under its own laws to assure that all such owners and operators comply with, section 204(a) and the applicable conditions and restrictions established under section 204(b)(7); and

(D) take, or refrain from taking, as appropriate, actions of the kind referred to in subsection (e)(1) in order to receive favorable allocations under such subsection.

96-561, 101-267

(d) **TOTAL ALLOWABLE LEVEL OF FOREIGN FISHING.**--The total allowable level of foreign fishing, if any, with respect to any fishery subject to the exclusive fishery management authority of the United States, ~~is~~ that portion of the optimum yield of such fishery which ~~cannot, or will not~~ be harvested by vessels of the United States, as determined in accordance with this Act. ~~Allocations of the total allowable level of foreign fishing are discretionary, except that the total allowable level shall be zero for fisheries determined by the Secretary to have adequate or excess domestic harvest capacity.~~

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(e) **ALLOCATION OF ALLOWABLE LEVEL.**--

96-61, 96-561, 97-453, 97-623, 98-623, 99-659, 102-251

(1) (A) The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, may make allocations to foreign nations from the total allowable level of foreign fishing which is permitted with respect to each fishery subject to the exclusive fishery management authority of the United States.

(B) From the determinations made under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of State shall compute the aggregate of all of the fishery allocations made to each foreign nation.

(C) The Secretary of State shall initially release to each foreign nation for harvesting up to 50 percent of the allocations aggregate computed for such nation under subparagraph (B), and such release of allocation shall be apportioned by the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, among the individual fishery allocations determined for that nation under subparagraph (A). The basis on which each apportionment is made under this subparagraph shall be stated in writing by the Secretary of State.

(D) After the initial release of fishery allocations under subparagraph (C) to a foreign nation, any subsequent release of an allocation for any fishery to such nation shall only be made--

(i) after the lapse of such period of time as may be sufficient for purposes of making the determination required under clause (ii); and

(ii) if the Secretary of State and the Secretary, after taking into account the size of the allocation for such fishery and the length and timing of the fishing season, determine in writing that such nation is complying with the purposes and intent of this paragraph with respect to such fishery.

If the foreign nation is not determined under clause (ii) to be in such compliance, the Secretary of State shall reduce, in a manner and quantity he considers to be appropriate (I) the remainder of such allocation, or (II) if all of such allocation has been released, the next allocation of such fishery, if any, made to such nation.

(E) The determinations required to be made under subparagraphs (A) and (D)(ii), and the apportionments required to be made under subparagraph (C), with respect to a foreign nation shall be based on--

(i) whether, and to what extent, such nation imposes tariff barriers or nontariff barriers on the importation, or otherwise restricts the market access, of both United

States fish and fishery products, particularly fish and fishery products for which the foreign nation has requested an allocation;

(ii) whether, and to what extent, such nation is cooperating with the United States in both the advancement of existing and new opportunities for fisheries exports from the United States through the purchase of fishery products from United States processors, and the advancement of fisheries trade through the purchase of fish and fishery products from United States fishermen, particularly fish and fishery products for which the foreign nation has requested an allocation;

(iii) whether, and to what extent, such nation and the fishing fleets of such nation have cooperated with the United States in the enforcement of United States fishing regulations;

(iv) whether, and to what extent, such nation requires the fish harvested from the exclusive economic zone [or special areas]* for its domestic consumption;

(v) whether, and to what extent, such nation otherwise contributes to, or fosters the growth of, a sound and economic United States fishing industry, including minimizing gear conflicts with fishing operations of United States fishermen, and transferring harvesting or processing technology which will benefit the United States fishing industry;

(vi) whether, and to what extent, the fishing vessels of such nation have traditionally engaged in fishing in such fishery;

(vii) whether, and to what extent, such nation is cooperating with the United States in, and making substantial contributions to, fishery research and the identification of fishery resources; and

(viii) such other matters as the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, deems appropriate.

96-61, 96-118

(2) (A) For the purposes of this paragraph--

(i) The term "certification" means a certification made by the Secretary that nationals of a foreign country, directly or indirectly, are conducting fishing operations or engaging in trade or taking which diminishes the effectiveness of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. A certification under this section shall also be deemed a certification for the purposes of section 8(a) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1978(a)).

(ii) The term "remedial period" means the 365-day period beginning on the date on which a certification is issued with respect to a foreign country.

(B) If the Secretary issues a certification with respect to any foreign country, then each allocation under paragraph (1) that--

(i) is in effect for that foreign country on the date of issuance; or

(ii) is not in effect on such date but would, without regard to this paragraph, be made to the foreign country within the remedial period;

shall be reduced by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, by not less than 50 percent.

(C) The following apply for purposes of administering subparagraph (B) with respect to any foreign country:

(i) If on the date of certification, the foreign country has harvested a portion, but not all, of the quantity of fish specified under any allocation, the reduction under subparagraph (B) for that allocation shall be applied with respect to the quantity not harvested as of such date.

(ii) If the Secretary notified the Secretary of State that it is not likely that the certification of the foreign country will be terminated under section 8(d) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 before the close of the period for which an allocation is applicable or before the close of the remedial period (whichever close first occurs) the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, shall reallocate any portion of any reduction made under subparagraph (B) among one or more foreign countries for which no certification is in effect.

(iii) If the certification is terminated under such section 8(d) during the remedial period, the Secretary of State shall return to the foreign country that portion of any allocation reduced under subparagraph (B) that was not reallocated under clause (ii); unless the harvesting of the fish covered by the allocation is otherwise prohibited under this Act.

(iv) The Secretary may refund or credit, by reason of reduction of any allocation under this paragraph, any fee paid under section 204.

(D) If the certification of a foreign country is not terminated under section 8(d) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 before the close of the last day of the remedial period, the Secretary of State--

(i) with respect to any allocation made to that country and in effect (as reduced under subparagraph (B)) on such last day, shall rescind, effective on and after the day after such last day, any unharvested portion of such allocation; and

(ii) may not thereafter make any allocation to that country under paragraph (1) until the certification is terminated.

95-354

(f) **RECIPROCITY.**--Foreign fishing shall not be authorized for the fishing vessels of any foreign nation unless such nation satisfies the Secretary and the Secretary of State that such nation extends substantially the same fishing privileges to fishing vessels of the United States, if any, as the United States extends to foreign fishing vessels.

95-354

(g) **PRELIMINARY FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS.**--The Secretary, when notified by the Secretary of State that any foreign nation has submitted an application under section 204(b), shall prepare a preliminary fishery management plan for any fishery covered by such application if the Secretary determines that no fishery management plan for that fishery will be prepared and implemented, pursuant to title III, before March 1, 1977. To the extent practicable, each such plan--

(1) shall contain a preliminary description of the fishery and a preliminary determination as to--

(A) the optimum yield from such fishery;

(B) when appropriate, the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by vessels of the United States; and

(C) the total allowable level of foreign fishing with respect to such fishery;

(2) shall require each foreign fishing vessel engaged or wishing to engage in such fishery to obtain a permit from the Secretary;

(3) shall require the submission of pertinent data to the Secretary, with respect to such fishery, as described in section 303(a)(5); and

(4) may, to the extent necessary to prevent irreversible effects from overfishing, with respect to such fishery, contain conservation and management measures applicable to foreign fishing which--

(A) are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of such fishery,

(B) are consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and other applicable law, and

(C) are described in section 303(b)(2), (3), (4), (5), and (7).

Each preliminary fishery management plan shall be in effect with respect to foreign fishing for which permits have been issued until a fishery management plan is prepared and implemented, pursuant to title III, with respect to such fishery. The Secretary may, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, also prepare and promulgate interim regulations with respect to any such preliminary plan. Such regulations shall be in effect until regulations implementing the applicable fishery management plan are promulgated pursuant to section 305.

(h) FULL OBSERVER COVERAGE PROGRAM.--

96-561, 99-569, 102-251

(1) (A) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall establish a program under which a United States observer will be stationed aboard each foreign fishing vessel while that vessel is engaged in fishing within the exclusive economic zone [or special areas]*.

(B) The Secretary shall by regulation prescribe minimum health and safety standards that shall be maintained aboard each foreign fishing vessel with regard to the facilities provided for the quartering of, and the carrying out of observer functions by, United States observers.

99-659, 104-297

(2) The requirement in paragraph (1) that a United States observer be placed aboard each foreign fishing vessel may be waived by the Secretary if he finds that--

(A) in a situation where a fleet of harvesting vessels transfers its catch taken within the exclusive economic zone [or special areas]* to another vessel, aboard which is a United States observer, the stationing of United States observers on only a portion of the harvesting vessel fleet will provide a representative sampling of the by-catch of the fleet that is sufficient for purposes of determining whether the requirements of the applicable management plans for the by-catch species are being complied with;

(B) in a situation where the foreign fishing vessel is operating under a Pacific Insular Area fishing agreement, the Governor of the applicable Pacific Insular Area, in consultation with the Western Pacific Council, has established an observer coverage program, ~~or other monitoring program that the Secretary, in consultation with the Western~~

Deleted: that is at least equal in effectiveness to the program established by the Secretary;

Pacific Management Council, determines is adequate to monitor harvest, bycatch, and compliance with the laws of the United States by vessels fishing under the agreement;

(C) the time during which a foreign fishing vessel will engage in fishing within the exclusive economic zone [or special areas]* will be of such short duration that the placing of a United States observer aboard the vessel would be impractical; or

(D) for reasons beyond the control of the Secretary, an observer is not available.

97-453

(3) Observers, while stationed aboard foreign fishing vessels, shall carry out such scientific, compliance monitoring, and other functions as the Secretary deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act; and shall cooperate in carrying out such other scientific programs relating to the conservation and management of living resources as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(4) In addition to any fee imposed under section 204(b)(10) of this Act and section 10(e) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1980(e)) with respect to foreign fishing for any year after 1980, the Secretary shall impose, with respect to each foreign fishing vessel for which a permit is issued under such section 204, a surcharge in an amount sufficient to cover all the costs of providing a United States observer aboard that vessel. The failure to pay any surcharge imposed under this paragraph shall be treated by the Secretary as a failure to pay the permit fee for such vessel under section 204(b)(10). All surcharges collected by the Secretary under this paragraph shall be deposited in the Foreign Fishing Observer Fund established by paragraph (5).

(5) There is established in the Treasury of the United States the Foreign Fishing Observer Fund. The Fund shall be available to the Secretary as a revolving fund for the purpose of carrying out this subsection. The Fund shall consist of the surcharges deposited into it as required under paragraph (4). All payments made by the Secretary to carry out this subsection shall be paid from the Fund, only to the extent and in the amounts provided for in advance in appropriation Acts. Sums in the Fund which are not currently needed for the purposes of this subsection shall be kept on deposit or invested in obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States.

97-453

(6) If at any time the requirement set forth in paragraph (1) cannot be met because of insufficient appropriations, the Secretary shall, in implementing a supplementary observer program:

(A) certify as observers, for the purposes of this subsection, individuals who are citizens or nationals of the United States and who have the requisite education or experience to carry out the functions referred to in paragraph (3);

(B) establish standards of conduct for certified observers equivalent to those applicable to Federal personnel;

(C) establish a reasonable schedule of fees that certified observers or their agents shall be paid by the owners and operators of foreign fishing vessels for observer services; and

(D) monitor the performance of observers to ensure that it meets the purposes of this Act.

97-453, 99-659, 102-251, 104-297

(i) **RECREATIONAL FISHING.**--Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, foreign fishing vessels which are not operated for profit may engage in recreational fishing within the exclusive economic zone, [special areas,]* and the waters within the boundaries of a State subject to obtaining such permits, paying such reasonable fees, and complying with such conditions and restrictions as the Secretary and the Governor of the State (or his designee) shall impose as being necessary or appropriate to insure that the fishing activity of such foreign vessels within such zone, [areas,]* or waters, respectively, is consistent with all applicable Federal and State laws and any applicable fishery management plan implemented under section 304. The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating in formulating the conditions and restrictions to be applied by the Secretary under the authority of this subsection.

SEC. 202. INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS

16 U.S.C. 1822

(a) **NEGOTIATIONS.**--The Secretary of State--

- (1) shall renegotiate treaties as provided for in subsection (b);
- (2) shall negotiate governing international fishery agreements described in section 201(c);
- (3) may negotiate boundary agreements as provided for in subsection (d);
- (4) shall, upon the request of and in cooperation with the Secretary, initiate and conduct negotiations for the purpose of entering into international fishery agreements--
 - (A) which allow fishing vessels of the United States equitable access to fish over which foreign nations assert exclusive fishery management authority, and
 - (B) which provide for the conservation and management of anadromous species and highly migratory species; and
- (5) may enter into such other negotiations, not prohibited by subsection (c), as may be necessary and appropriate to further the purposes, policy, and provisions of this Act.

99-659, 102-251

(b) **TREATY RENEGOTIATION.**--The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall initiate, promptly after the date of enactment of this Act, the renegotiation of any treaty which pertains to fishing within the exclusive economic zone (or within the area that will constitute such zone after February 28, 1977) [or special areas]*, or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone or area[s]*, and which is in any manner inconsistent with the purposes, policy, or provisions of this Act, in order to conform such treaty to such purposes, policy, and provisions. It is the sense of Congress that the United States shall withdraw from any such treaty, in accordance with its provisions, if such treaty is not so renegotiated within a reasonable period of time after such date of enactment.

99-659, 102-251, 104-297

(c) **INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS.**--No international fishery agreement (other than a treaty) which pertains to foreign fishing within the exclusive economic zone (or within the area that will constitute such zone after February 28, 1977) [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone or area[s]*--

- (1) which is in effect on June 1, 1976, may thereafter be renewed, extended, or amended;
 - or
 - (2) may be entered into after May 31, 1976;
- by the United States unless it is in accordance with the provisions of section 201(c) or section 204(e).

99-659

(d) **BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS.**--The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, may initiate and conduct negotiations with any adjacent or opposite foreign nation to establish the boundaries of the exclusive economic zone of the United States in relation to any such nation.

101-627

(e) **HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES AGREEMENTS.**--

(1) **EVALUATION.**--The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall evaluate the effectiveness of each existing international fishery agreement which pertains to fishing for highly migratory species. Such evaluation shall consider whether the agreement provides for--

(A) the collection and analysis of necessary information for effectively managing the fishery, including but not limited to information about the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the catch and bycatch levels in the fishery, and the present and probable future condition of any stock of fish involved;

(B) the establishment of measures applicable to the fishery which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery resource involved;

(C) equitable arrangements which provide fishing vessels of the United States with (i) access to the highly migratory species that are the subject of the agreement and (ii) a portion of the allowable catch that reflects the traditional participation by such vessels in the fishery;

(D) effective enforcement of conservation and management measures and access arrangements throughout the area of jurisdiction; and

(E) sufficient and dependable funding to implement the provisions of the agreement, based on reasonable assessments of the benefits derived by participating nations.

(2) **ACCESS NEGOTIATIONS.**--The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall initiate negotiations with respect to obtaining access for vessels of the United States fishing for tuna species within the exclusive economic zones of other nations on reasonable terms and conditions.

(3) REPORTS.--The Secretary of State shall report to the Congress--

(A) within 12 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, on the results of the evaluation required under paragraph (1), together with recommendations for addressing any inadequacies identified; and

(B) within six months after such date of enactment, on the results of the access negotiations required under paragraph (2).

(4) NEGOTIATION.--The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, shall undertake such negotiations with respect to international fishery agreements on highly migratory species as are necessary to correct inadequacies identified as a result of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1).

(5) SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA TREATY.--It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Government shall, at the earliest opportunity, begin negotiations for the purpose of extending the Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America, signed at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, April 2, 1987, and it[s] Annexes, Schedules, and implementing agreements for an additional term of 10 years on terms and conditions at least as favorable to vessels of the United States and the United States Government.

99-659

(f) NONRECOGNITION.--It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Government shall not recognize the claim of any foreign nation to an exclusive economic zone (or the equivalent) beyond such nation's territorial sea, to the extent that such sea is recognized by the United States, if such nation--

(1) fails to consider and take into account traditional fishing activity of fishing vessels of the United States;

(2) fails to recognize and accept that highly migratory species are to be managed by applicable international fishery agreements, whether or not such nation is a party to any such agreement; or

(3) imposes on fishing vessels of the United States any conditions or restrictions which are unrelated to fishery conservation and management.

102-251

(g) FISHERY AGREEMENT WITH UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.--

(1) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, is authorized to negotiate and conclude a fishery agreement with Russia of a duration of no more than 3 years, pursuant to which--

(A) Russia will give United States fishing vessels the opportunity to conduct traditional fisheries within the waters claimed by the United States prior to the conclusion of the Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Maritime Boundary, signed June 1, 1990, west of the maritime boundary, including the western special area described in Article 3(2) of the Agreement;

(B) the United States will give fishing vessels of Russia the opportunity to conduct traditional fisheries within waters claimed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics prior to the conclusion of the Agreement referred to in subparagraph (A), east of the maritime boundary, including the eastern special areas described in Article 3(1) of the Agreement;

(C) catch data shall be made available to the government of the country exercising fisheries jurisdiction over the waters in which the catch occurred; and

(D) each country shall have the right to place observers on board vessels of the other country and to board and inspect such vessels.

(2) Vessels operating under a fishery agreement negotiated and concluded pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be subject to regulations and permit requirements of the country in whose waters the fisheries are conducted only to the extent such regulations and permit requirements are specified in that agreement.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce may promulgate such regulations, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of any fishery agreement negotiated and concluded pursuant to paragraph (1).

104-297

(h) BYCATCH REDUCTION AGREEMENTS.--

(1) The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall seek to secure an international agreement to establish standards and measures for bycatch reduction that are comparable to the standards and measures applicable to United States fishermen for such purposes in any fishery regulated pursuant to this Act for which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, determines that such an international agreement is necessary and appropriate.

(2) An international agreement negotiated under this subsection shall be--

(A) consistent with the policies and purposes of this Act; and

(B) subject to approval by Congress under section 203.

(3) Not later than January 1, 1997, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing actions taken under this subsection.

**SEC. 203. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF
INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS**

16 U.S.C. 1823

104-297

(a) **IN GENERAL.**--No governing international fishery agreement, bycatch reduction agreement, or Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement shall become effective with respect to the United States before the close of the first 120 calendar days (excluding any days in a period for which the Congress is adjourned sine die) after the date on which the President transmits to the House of Representatives and to the Senate a document setting forth the text of such governing international fishery agreement, bycatch reduction agreement, or Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement. A copy of the document shall be delivered to each House of Congress on the same day and shall be delivered to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, if the House is not in session, and to the Secretary of the Senate, if the Senate is not in session.

(b) **REFERRAL TO COMMITTEES.**--Any document described in subsection (a) shall be immediately referred in the House of Representatives to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and in the Senate to the Committees on Commerce and Foreign Relations.

(c) **CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES.**--

(1) **RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.**-- The provisions of this section are enacted by the Congress--

(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and they are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of fishery agreement resolutions described in paragraph (2), and they supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(B) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, and in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

104-297

(2) **DEFINITION.**--For purposes of this subsection, the term "fishery agreement resolution" refers to a joint resolution of either House of Congress--

(A) the effect of which is to prohibit the entering into force and effect of any governing international fishery agreement, bycatch reduction agreement, or Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement the text of which is transmitted to the Congress pursuant to subsection (a); and

(B) which is reported from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Commerce or the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, not later than 45 days after the date on which the document described in subsection (a) relating to that agreement is transmitted to the Congress.

(3) **PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.**--Any fishery agreement resolution upon being reported shall immediately be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(4) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE.--

(A) A motion in the House of Representatives to proceed to the consideration of any fishery agreement resolution shall be highly privileged and not debatable. An amendment to the motion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to.

(B) Debate in the House of Representatives on any fishery agreement resolution shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the resolution. A motion further to limit debate shall not be debatable. It shall not be in order to move to recommit any fishery agreement resolution or to move to reconsider the vote by which any fishery agreement resolution is agreed to or disagreed to.

(C) Motions to postpone, made in the House of Representatives with respect to the consideration of any fishery agreement resolution, and motions to proceed to the consideration of other business, shall be decided without debate.

(D) All appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the procedure relating to any fishery agreement resolution shall be decided without debate.

(E) Except to the extent specifically provided in the preceding provisions of this subsection, consideration of any fishery agreement resolution shall be governed by the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to other bills and resolutions in similar circumstances.

(5) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.--

(A) A motion in the Senate to proceed to the consideration of any fishery agreement resolution shall be privileged and not debatable. An amendment to the motion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to.

(B) Debate in the Senate on any fishery agreement resolution and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith shall be limited to not more than 10 hours. The time shall be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

(C) Debate in the Senate on any debatable motion or appeal in connection with any fishery agreement resolution shall be limited to not more than 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the mover of the motion or appeal and the manager of the resolution, except that if the manager of the resolution is in favor of any such motion or appeal, the time in opposition thereto shall be controlled by the minority leader or his designee. The majority leader and the minority leader, or either of them, may allot additional time to any Senator during the consideration of any debatable motion or appeal, from time under their control with respect to the applicable fishery agreement resolution.

(D) A motion in the Senate to further limit debate is not debatable. A motion to recommit any fishery agreement resolution is not in order.

99-659, 102-251

(a) **IN GENERAL.**--After February 28, 1977, no foreign fishing vessel shall engage in fishing within the exclusive economic zone [or special areas]*, or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone or area[s]*, unless such vessel has on board a valid permit issued under this section for such vessel.

(b) **APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS UNDER GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS.**--

99-659

(1) **ELIGIBILITY.**--Each foreign nation with which the United States has entered into a governing international fishery agreement shall submit an application to the Secretary of State each year for a permit for each of its fishing vessels that wishes to engage in fishing described in subsection (a). No permit issued under this section may be valid for longer than a year; and section 558(c) of title 5, United States Code, does not apply to the renewal of any such permit.

(2) **FORMS.**--The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall prescribe the forms for permit applications submitted under this subsection and for permits issued pursuant to any such application.

95-354, 97-453, 99-659

(3) **CONTENTS.**--Any application made under this subsection shall specify--

(A) the name and official number or other identification of each fishing vessel for which a permit is sought, together with the name and address of the owner thereof;

(B) the tonnage, hold capacity, speed, processing equipment, type and quantity of fishing gear, and such other pertinent information with respect to characteristics of each such vessel as the Secretary may require;

(C) each fishery in which each such vessel wishes to fish;

(D) the estimated amount of tonnage of fish which will be caught, taken, or harvested in each such fishery by each such vessel during the time the permit is in force;

(E) the amount or tonnage of United States harvested fish, if any, which each such vessel proposes to receive at sea from vessels of the United States;

(F) the ocean area in which, and the season or period during which, such fishing will be conducted; and

(G) all applicable vessel safety standards imposed by the foreign country, and shall include written certification that the vessel is in compliance with those standards;

and shall include any other pertinent information and material which the Secretary may require.

95-354, 96-470, 97-453, 99-659

(4) TRANSMITTAL FOR ACTION.--Upon receipt of any application which complies with the requirements of paragraph (3), the Secretary of State shall publish a notice of receipt of the application in the Federal Register. Any such notice shall summarize the contents of the applications from each nation included therein with respect to the matters described in paragraph (3). The Secretary of State shall promptly transmit--

- (A) such application, together with his comments and recommendations thereon, to the Secretary;
- (B) a copy of the application to the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and
- (C) a copy or a summary of the application to the appropriate Council.

97-453

(5) ACTION BY COUNCIL.--After receiving a copy or summary of an application under paragraph (4)(C), the Council may prepare and submit to the Secretary such written comments on the application as it deems appropriate. Such comments shall be submitted within 45 days after the date on which the application is received by the Council and may include recommendations with respect to approval of the application and, if approval is recommended, with respect to appropriate conditions and restrictions thereon. Any interested person may submit comments to such Council with respect to any such application. The Council shall consider any such comments in formulating its submission to the Secretary.

95-453, 99-659

(6) APPROVAL.--

(A) After receipt of any application transmitted under paragraph (4)(A), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State and, with respect to enforcement, with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating. The Secretary, after taking into consideration the views and recommendations of such Secretaries, and any comments submitted by any Council under paragraph (5), may approve, subject to subparagraph (B), the application, if he determines that the fishing described in the application will meet the requirements of this Act, or he may disapprove all or any portion of the application.

(B) (i) In the case of any application which specifies that one or more foreign fishing vessels propose to receive at sea United States harvested fish from vessels of the United States, the Secretary may approve the application unless the Secretary determines, on the basis of the views, recommendations, and comments referred to in subparagraph (A) and other pertinent information, that United States fish processors have adequate capacity, and will utilize such capacity, to process all United States harvested fish from the fishery concerned.

(ii) The amount or tonnage of United States harvested fish which may be received at sea during any year by foreign fishing vessels under permits approved under this paragraph may not exceed that portion of the optimum yield of the fishery concerned which will not be utilized by United States fish processors.

(iii) In deciding whether to approve any application under this subparagraph, the Secretary may take into account, with respect to the foreign nation concerned, such other matters as the Secretary deems appropriate.

95-354, 104-297

(7) ESTABLISHMENT OF CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.--The Secretary shall establish conditions and restrictions which shall be included in each permit issued pursuant to any application approved under paragraph (6) or subsection (d) and which must be complied with by the owner or operator of the fishing vessel for which the permit is issued. Such conditions and restrictions shall include the following:

(A) All of the requirements of any applicable fishery management plan, or preliminary fishery management plan, and any applicable Federal or State fishing regulations.

(B) The requirement that no permit may be used by any vessel other than the fishing vessel for which it is issued.

(C) The requirements described in section 201(c)(1), (2), and (3).

(D) If the permit is issued other than pursuant to an application approved under paragraph (6)(B) or subsection (d), the restriction that the foreign fishing vessel may not receive at sea United States harvested fish from vessels of the United States.

(E) If the permit is issued pursuant to an application approved under paragraph (6)(B), the maximum amount or tonnage of United States harvested fish which may be received at sea from vessels of the United States.

(F) Any other condition and restriction related to fishery conservation and management which the Secretary prescribes as necessary and appropriate.

96-470

(8) NOTICE OF APPROVAL.--The Secretary shall promptly transmit a copy of each application approved under paragraph (6) and the conditions and restrictions established under paragraph (7) to--

(A) the Secretary of State for transmittal to the foreign nation involved;

(B) the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

(C) any Council which has authority over any fishery specified in such application.

(9) DISAPPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.--If the Secretary does not approve any application submitted by a foreign nation under this subsection, he shall promptly inform the Secretary of State of the disapproval and his reasons therefore. The Secretary of State shall notify such foreign nation of the disapproval and the reasons therefor. Such foreign nation, after taking into consideration the reasons for disapproval, may submit a revised application under this subsection.

96-561, 99-272, 101-627

(10) FEES.--

(A) Fees shall be paid to the Secretary by the owner or operator of any foreign fishing vessel for which a permit has been issued pursuant to this section. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a schedule of reasonable fees that shall apply nondiscriminatorily to each foreign nation.

(B) Amounts collected by the Secretary under this paragraph shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

(11) ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.--If a foreign nation notifies the Secretary of State of its acceptance of the conditions and restrictions established by the Secretary under paragraph (7), the Secretary of State shall promptly transmit such notification to the Secretary. Upon payment of the applicable fees established pursuant to paragraph (10), the Secretary shall thereupon issue to such foreign nation, through the Secretary of State, permits for the appropriate fishing vessels of that nation. Each permit shall contain a statement of all conditions and restrictions established under paragraph (7) which apply to the fishing vessel for which the permit is issued.

(c) REGISTRATION PERMITS.--The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall issue annually a registration permit for each fishing vessel of a foreign nation which is a party to an international fishery agreement under which foreign fishing is authorized by section 201(b) and which wishes to engage in fishing described in subsection (a). Each such permit shall set forth the terms and conditions contained in the agreement that apply with respect to such fishing, and shall include the additional requirement that the owner or operator of the fishing vessel for which the permit is issued shall prominently display such permit in the wheelhouse of such vessel and show it, upon request, to any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act (as provided for in section 311). The Secretary of State, after consultation with the Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall prescribe the form and manner in which applications for registration permits may be made, and the forms of such permits. The Secretary of State may establish, require the payment of, and collect fees for registration permits; except that the level of such fees shall not exceed the administrative costs incurred by him in issuing such permits.

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(d) TRANSSHIPMENT PERMITS-

(1) AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PERMITS.--The Secretary may issue a transshipment permit under this subsection which authorizes a vessel other than a vessel of the United States to engage in fishing consisting solely of transporting fish or fish products at sea from a point within the exclusive economic zone or, with the concurrence of a State, within the boundaries of that State, to a point outside the United States to any person who--

(A) submits an application which is approved by the Secretary under paragraph (3); and

(B) pays a fee imposed under paragraph (7).

(2) TRANSMITTAL.--Upon receipt of an application for a permit under this subsection, the Secretary shall promptly transmit copies of the application to the Secretary of State, Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, any appropriate Council, and any affected State.

(3) APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.--The Secretary may approve, in consultation with the appropriate Council or Marine Fisheries Commission, an application for a permit under this section if the Secretary determines that--

(A) the transportation of fish or fish products to be conducted under the permit, as described in the application, will be in the interest of the United States and will meet the applicable requirements of this Act;

(B) the applicant will comply with the requirements described in section 201(c)(2) with respect to activities authorized by any permit issued pursuant to the application;

(C) the applicant has established any bonds or financial assurances that may be required by the Secretary; and

(D) no owner or operator of a vessel of the United States which has adequate capacity to perform the transportation for which the application is submitted has indicated to the Secretary an interest in performing the transportation at fair and reasonable rates.

(4) WHOLE OR PARTIAL APPROVAL.--The Secretary may approve all or any portion of an application under paragraph (3).

(5) FAILURE TO APPROVE APPLICATION.--If the Secretary does not approve any portion of an application submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall promptly inform the applicant and specify the reasons therefor.

(6) CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.--The Secretary shall establish and include in each permit under this subsection conditions and restrictions, including those conditions and restrictions set forth in subsection (b)(7), which shall be complied with by the owner and operator of the vessel for which the permit is issued.

(7) FEES.--The Secretary shall collect a fee for each permit issued under this subsection, in an amount adequate to recover the costs incurred by the United States in issuing the permit, except that the Secretary shall waive the fee for the permit if the foreign nation under which the vessel is registered does not collect a fee from a vessel of the United States engaged in similar activities in the waters of such foreign nation.

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(e) PACIFIC INSULAR AREAS.--

(1) NEGOTIATION OF PACIFIC INSULAR AREA FISHERY AGREEMENTS.--The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary and in consultation with any appropriate Council, may negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement to authorize foreign fishing within the exclusive economic zone adjacent to a Pacific Insular Area--

(A) in the case of American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands, at the request and with the concurrence of, and in consultation with, the Governor of the Pacific Insular Area to which such agreement applies; and

(B) in the case of a Pacific Insular Area other than American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands, at the request of the Western Pacific Council.

(2) AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS.--A Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement--

(A) shall not be considered to supersede any governing international fishery agreement currently in effect under this Act, but shall provide an alternative basis for the conduct of foreign fishing within the exclusive economic zone adjacent to Pacific Insular Areas;

(B) shall be negotiated and implemented consistent only with the governing international fishery agreement provisions of this title specifically made applicable in this subsection;

(C) may not be negotiated with a nation that is in violation of a governing international fishery agreement in effect under this Act;

(D) shall not be entered into if it is determined by the Governor of the applicable Pacific Insular Area with respect to agreements initiated under paragraph (1)(A), or the Western Pacific Council with respect to agreements initiated under paragraph (1)(B), that such an agreement will adversely affect the fishing activities of the indigenous people of such Pacific Insular Area;

(E) shall be valid for a period not to exceed three years and shall only become effective according to the procedures in section 203; and

(F) shall require the foreign nation and its fishing vessels to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4)(A) of section 201(c), section 201(d), and section 201(h).

(3) PERMITS FOR FOREIGN FISHING.--

(A) Application for permits for foreign fishing authorized under a Pacific Insular Areas fishing agreement shall be made, considered and approved or disapproved in accordance with paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) (A) and (B), (8), and (9) of subsection (b), and shall include any conditions and restrictions established by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Governor of the applicable Pacific Insular Area, and the appropriate Council.

(B) If a foreign nation notifies the Secretary of State of its acceptance of the requirements of this paragraph, paragraph (2)(F), and paragraph (5), including any conditions and restrictions established under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of State shall promptly transmit such notification to the Secretary. Upon receipt of any payment required under a Pacific Insular Area fishing agreement, the Secretary shall thereupon issue to such foreign nation, through the Secretary of State, permits for the appropriate fishing vessels of that nation. Each permit shall contain a statement of all of the requirements, conditions, and restrictions established under this subsection which apply to the fishing vessel for which the permit is issued.

(4) MARINE CONSERVATION PLANS.--

(A) Prior to entering into a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement, the Western Pacific Council and the appropriate Governor shall develop a 3-year marine conservation plan detailing uses for funds to be collected by the Secretary pursuant to such agreement. Such plan shall be consistent with any applicable fishery management plan, identify conservation and management objectives (including criteria for determining when such objectives have been met), and prioritize planned marine conservation projects. Conservation and management objectives shall include, but not be limited to--

(i) Pacific Insular Area observer programs, or other monitoring programs, that the Secretary determines are adequate to monitor the harvest, bycatch, and compliance with the laws of the United States by foreign fishing vessels that fish under Pacific Insular Area fishing agreements;

(ii) conduct of marine and fisheries research, including development of systems for information collection, analysis, evaluation, and reporting;

Deleted: (i) establishment of Pacific Insular Area observer programs, approved by the Secretary in consultation with the Western Pacific Council, that provide observer coverage for foreign fishing under Pacific Insular Area fishery agreements that is at least equal in effectiveness to the program established by the Secretary under section 201(h);¶

(iii) conservation, education, and enforcement activities related to marine and coastal management, such as living marine resource assessments, habitat monitoring and coastal studies;

(iv) grants to the University of Hawaii for technical assistance projects by the Pacific Island Network, such as education and training in the development and implementation of sustainable marine resources development projects, scientific research, and conservation strategies; and

(v) western Pacific community-based demonstration projects under section 112(b) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act² and other coastal improvement projects to foster and promote the management, conservation, and economic enhancement of the Pacific Insular Areas.

(B) In the case of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, the appropriate Governor, with the concurrence of the Western Pacific Council, shall develop the marine conservation plan described in subparagraph (A) and submit such plan to the Secretary for approval. In the case of other Pacific Insular Areas, the Western Pacific Council shall develop and submit the marine conservation plan described in subparagraph (A) to the Secretary for approval.

(C) If a Governor or the Western Pacific Council intends to request that the Secretary of State renew a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement, a subsequent 3-year plan shall be submitted to the Secretary for approval by the end of the second year of the existing 3-year plan.

(5) RECIPROCAL CONDITIONS.--Except as expressly provided otherwise in this subsection, a Pacific Insular Area fishing agreement may include terms similar to the terms applicable to United States fishing vessels for access to similar fisheries in waters subject to the fisheries jurisdiction of another nation.

(6) USE OF PAYMENTS BY AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.--Any payments received by the Secretary under a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement for American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands shall be deposited into the United States Treasury and then covered over to the Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area for which those funds were collected. Amounts deposited in the Treasury of a Pacific Insular Area shall be available, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, to the Governor of the Pacific Insular Area--

(A) to carry out the purposes of this subsection;

² The editors assume this reference should be to section 111(b) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act (P.L. 104-297). See the note about Demonstration Projects after section 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

(B) to compensate (i) the Western Pacific Council for mutually agreed upon administrative costs incurred relating to any Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement for such Pacific Insular Area, and (ii) the Secretary of State for mutually agreed upon travel expenses for no more than 2 Federal representatives incurred as a direct result of complying with paragraph (1)(A); and

(C) to implement a marine conservation plan developed and approved under paragraph (4).

(7) WESTERN PACIFIC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FUND.--There is established in the United States Treasury a Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund into which any payments received by the Secretary under a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement and any funds or contributions received in support of conservation and management objectives under a marine conservation plan for any Pacific Insular Area other than American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands shall be deposited. The Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund shall be made available, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, to the Secretary, who shall provide such funds only to--

(A) the Western Pacific Council for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subsection, including implementation of a marine conservation plan approved under paragraph (4);

(B) the Secretary of State for mutually agreed upon travel expenses for no more than 2 Federal representatives incurred as a direct result of complying with paragraph (1)(B); and

(C) the Western Pacific Council to meet conservation and management objectives in the State of Hawaii if monies remain in the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund after the funding requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) have been satisfied. Amounts deposited in such fund shall not diminish funding received by the Western Pacific Council for the purpose of carrying out other responsibilities under this Act.

(8) USE OF FINES AND PENALTIES.--In the case of violations occurring within the exclusive economic zone off American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands, amounts received by the Secretary which are attributable to fines or penalties imposed under this Act, including such sums collected from the forfeiture and disposition or sale of property seized subject to its authority, after payment of direct costs of the enforcement action to all entities involved in such action, shall be deposited into the Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area adjacent to the exclusive economic zone in which the violation occurred, to be used for fisheries enforcement and for implementation of a marine conservation plan under paragraph (4). In the case of violations by foreign vessels occurring within the exclusive economic zones off Midway Atoll, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Jarvis, Howland, Baker, and Wake Islands, amounts received by the Secretary attributable to fines and penalties imposed under this Act, shall be deposited into the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund established under paragraph (7) of this subsection.

104-297, sec. 105(e)

Note: ATLANTIC HERRING TRANSSHIPMENT--Within 30 days of receiving an application, the Secretary shall, under section 204(d) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act [Public Law 104-297], issue permits to up to fourteen Canadian transport vessels that are not equipped for fish harvesting or processing, for the transshipment, within the boundaries of the State of Maine or within the portion of the exclusive economic zone east of the line 69 degrees 30 minutes west and within 12 nautical miles from the seaward boundary of that State, of Atlantic herring harvested by United States fishermen within the area described and used solely in sardine processing. In issuing a permit pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall provide a waiver under section 201(h)(2)(C) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act: *Provided*, That such vessels comply with Federal or State monitoring and reporting requirements for the Atlantic herring fishery, including the stationing of United States observers aboard such vessels, if necessary.

SEC. 205. IMPORT PROHIBITIONS

16 U.S.C. 1825

101-627

(a) DETERMINATIONS BY SECRETARY OF STATE-- If the Secretary of State determines that--

(1) he has been unable, within a reasonable period of time, to conclude with any foreign nation an international fishery agreement allowing fishing vessels of the United States equitable access to fisheries over which that nation asserts exclusive fishery management authority, including fisheries for tuna species, as recognized by the United States, in accordance with fishing activities of such vessels, if any, and under terms not more restrictive than those established under sections 201(c) and (d) and 204(b)(7) and (10), because such nation has (A) refused to commence negotiations, or (B) failed to negotiate in good faith;

(2) any foreign nation is not allowing fishing vessels of the United States to engage in fishing for tuna species in accordance with an applicable international fishery agreement, whether or not such nation is a party thereto;

(3) any foreign nation is not complying with its obligations under any existing international fishery agreement concerning fishing by fishing vessels of the United States in any fishery over which that nation asserts exclusive fishery management authority; or

(4) any fishing vessel of the United States, while fishing in waters beyond any foreign nation's territorial sea, to the extent that such sea is recognized by the United States, is seized by any foreign nation--

(A) in violation of an applicable international fishery agreement;

(B) without authorization under an agreement between the United States and such nation; or

(C) as a consequence of a claim of jurisdiction which is not recognized by the United States;

he shall certify such determination to the Secretary of the Treasury.

(b) PROHIBITIONS.--Upon receipt of any certification from the Secretary of State under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall immediately take such action as may be necessary and appropriate to prohibit the importation into the United States--

- (1) of all fish and fish products from the fishery involved, if any; and
- (2) upon recommendation of the Secretary of State, such other fish or fish products, from any fishery of the foreign nation concerned, which the Secretary of State finds to be appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.

(c) REMOVAL OF PROHIBITION.--If the Secretary of State finds that the reasons for the imposition of any import prohibition under this section no longer prevail, the Secretary of State shall notify the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall promptly remove such import prohibition.

(d) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section--

- (1) The term "fish" includes any highly migratory species.
- (2) The term "fish products" means any article which is produced from or composed of (in whole or in part) any fish.

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SEC. 206. LARGE-SCALE DRIFTNET FISHING

16 U.S.C. 1826

(a) SHORT TITLE.--This section incorporates and expands upon provisions of the Driftnet Impact Monitoring, Assessment, and Control Act of 1987 and may be cited as the "Driftnet Act Amendments of 1990".

(b) FINDINGS.--The Congress finds that--

(1) the continued widespread use of large-scale driftnets beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation is a destructive fishing practice that poses a threat to living marine resources of the world's oceans, including but not limited to the North and South Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea;

(2) the use of large-scale driftnets is expanding into new regions of the world's oceans, including the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea;

(3) there is a pressing need for detailed and reliable information on the number of seabirds, sea turtles, nontarget fish, and marine mammals that become entangled and die in actively fished large-scale driftnets and in large-scale driftnets that are lost, abandoned, or discarded;

(4) increased efforts, including reliable observer data and enforcement mechanisms, are needed to monitor, assess, control, and reduce the adverse impact of large-scale driftnet fishing on living marine resources;

(5) the nations of the world have agreed in the United Nations, through General Assembly Resolution Numbered 44-225, approved December 22, 1989, by the General

Assembly, that a moratorium should be imposed by June 30, 1992, on the use of large-scale driftnets beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation;

(6) the nations of the South Pacific have agreed to a moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets in the South Pacific through the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific, which was agreed to in Wellington, New Zealand, on November 29, 1989; and

(7) increasing population pressures and new knowledge of the importance of living marine resources to the health of the global ecosystem demand that greater responsibility be exercised by persons fishing or developing new fisheries beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation.

(c) POLICY.--It is declared to be the policy of the Congress in this section that the United States should--

(1) implement the moratorium called for by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution Numbered 44-225;

(2) support the Tarawa Declaration and the Wellington Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific; and

(3) secure a permanent ban on the use of destructive fishing practices, and in particular large-scale driftnets, by persons or vessels fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation.

(d) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.--The Secretary, through the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall seek to secure international agreements to implement immediately the findings, policy, and provisions of this section, and in particular an international ban on large-scale driftnet fishing. The Secretary, through the Secretary of State, shall include, in any agreement which addresses the taking of living marine resources of the United States, provisions to ensure that--

(1) each large-scale driftnet fishing vessel of a foreign nation that is party to the agreement, including vessels that may operate independently to develop new fishing areas, which operate beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation, is included in such agreement;

(2) each large-scale driftnet fishing vessel of a foreign nation that is party to the agreement, which operates beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation, is equipped with satellite transmitters which provide real-time position information accessible to the United States;

(3) statistically reliable monitoring by the United States is carried out, through the use of on-board observers or through dedicated platforms provided by foreign nations that are parties to the agreement, of all target and nontarget fish species, marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds entangled or killed by large-scale driftnets used by fishing vessels of foreign nations that are parties to the agreement;

(4) officials of the United States have the right to board and inspect for violations of the agreement any large-scale driftnet fishing vessels operating under the flag of a foreign nation that is party to the agreement at any time while such vessel is operating in designated areas beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation;

(5) all catch landed or transshipped at sea by large-scale driftnet fishing vessels of a foreign nation that is a party to the agreement, and which are operated beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation, is reliably monitored and documented;

(6) time and area restrictions are imposed on the use of large-scale driftnets in order to prevent interception of anadromous species;

(7) all large-scale driftnets used are constructed, insofar as feasible, with biodegradable materials which break into segments that do not represent a threat to living marine resources;

(8) all large-scale driftnets are marked at appropriate intervals in a manner that conclusively identifies the vessel and flag nation responsible for each such driftnet;

(9) the taking of nontarget fish species, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, and endangered species or other species protected by international agreements to which the United States is a party is minimized and does not pose a threat to existing fisheries or the long-term health of living marine resources; and

(10) definitive steps are agreed upon to ensure that parties to the agreement comply with the spirit of other international agreements and resolutions concerning the use of large-scale driftnets beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation.

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(e) **REPORT.**--Not later than January 1, 1991, and every year thereafter until the purposes of this section are met, the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives a report--

(1) describing the steps taken to carry out the provisions of this section, particularly subsection (c);

(2) evaluating the progress of those efforts, the impacts on living marine resources, including available observer data, and specifying plans for further action;

(3) containing a list and description of any new fisheries developed by nations that conduct, or authorize their nationals to conduct, large-scale driftnet fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation; and

(4) containing a list of the nations that conduct, or authorize their nationals to conduct, large-scale driftnet fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of or is inconsistent with any international agreement governing large-scale driftnet fishing to which the United States is a party or otherwise subscribes.

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(f) **CERTIFICATION.**--If at any time the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, identifies any nation that warrants inclusion in the list described under subsection (e)(4), the Secretary shall certify that fact to the President. Such certification shall be deemed to be a certification for the purposes of section 8(a) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1978(a)).

(g) **EFFECT ON SOVEREIGN RIGHTS.**--This section shall not serve or be construed to expand or diminish the sovereign rights of the United States, as stated by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030, dated March 10, 1983, and reflected in this Act or other existing law.

(h) **DEFINITION.**--As used in this section, the term "living marine resources" includes fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds and other waterfowl.

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16 U.S.C. 1826a

**SEC. 206a. DENIAL OF PORT PRIVILEGES AND SANCTIONS
FOR HIGH SEAS LARGE-SCALE DRIFTNET FISHING**

(a) DENIAL OF PORT PRIVILEGES.--

(1) **PUBLICATION OF LIST.**--Not later than 30 days after November 2, 1992, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall publish a list of nations whose nationals or vessels conduct large-scale driftnet fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation.

(2) **DENIAL OF PORT PRIVILEGES.**--The Secretary of the Treasury shall, in accordance with recognized principles of international law--

(A) withhold or revoke the clearance required by section 91 of the Appendix to Title 46 for any large-scale driftnet fishing vessel that is documented under the laws of the United States or of a nation included on a list published under paragraph (1); and

(B) deny entry of that vessel to any place in the United States and to the navigable waters of the United States.

(3) **NOTIFICATION OF NATION.**--Before the publication of a list of nations under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall notify each nation included on that list regarding--

(A) the effect of that publication on port privileges of vessels of that nation under paragraph (1); and

(B) any sanctions or requirements, under this Act or any other law, that may be imposed on that nation if nationals or vessels of that nation continue to conduct large-

scale driftnet fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation after December 31, 1992.

(b) SANCTIONS.--

(1) IDENTIFICATIONS.--

(A) INITIAL IDENTIFICATIONS.--Not later than January 10, 1993, the Secretary of Commerce shall--

- (i) identify each nation whose nationals or vessels are conducting large-scale driftnet fishing or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation; and
- (ii) notify the President and that nation of the identification under clause (i).

(B) ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATIONS.--At any time after January 10, 1993, whenever the Secretary of Commerce has reason to believe that the nationals or vessels of any nation are conducting large-scale driftnet fishing or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation, the Secretary of Commerce shall--

- (i) identify that nation; and
- (ii) notify the President and that nation of the identification under clause (i).

(2) CONSULTATIONS.--Not later than 30 days after a nation is identified under paragraph (1)(B), the President shall enter consultations with the government of that nation for the purpose of obtaining an agreement that will effect the immediate termination of large-scale driftnet fishing or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing by the nationals or vessels of that nation beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation.

(3) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS AND SPORT FISHING EQUIPMENT.--

(A) PROHIBITION.--The President--

- (i) upon receipt of notification of the identification of a nation under paragraph (1)(A); or
 - (ii) if the consultations with the government of a nation under paragraph (2) are not satisfactorily concluded within 90 days,
- shall direct the Secretary of the Treasury to prohibit the importation into the United States of fish and fish products and sport fishing equipment (as that term is defined in section 4162 of Title 26) from that nation.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROHIBITION.--With respect to an import prohibition directed under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Treasury shall implement such prohibition not later than the date that is 45 days after the date on which the Secretary has received the direction from the President.

(C) PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROHIBITION.--Before the effective date of any import prohibition under this paragraph, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide public notice of the impending prohibition.

(4) ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.--

(A) DETERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF SANCTIONS.--Not later than six months after the date the Secretary of Commerce identifies a nation under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall determine whether--

(i) any prohibition established under paragraph (3) is insufficient to cause that nation to terminate large-scale driftnet fishing or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing conducted by its nationals and vessels beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation; or

(ii) that nation has retaliated against the United States as a result of that prohibition.

(B) CERTIFICATION.--The Secretary of Commerce shall certify to the President each affirmative determination under subparagraph (A) with respect to a nation.

(C) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.--Certification by the Secretary of Commerce under subparagraph (B) is deemed to be a certification under section 1978(a) of Title 22, as amended by this Act.

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SEC. 206b. DURATION OF DENIAL OF PORT PRIVILEGES AND SANCTIONS

18 U.S.C. 1826b

Any denial of port privileges or sanction under section 206a of this Act with respect to a nation shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of Commerce certifies to the President and the Congress that such nation has terminated large-scale driftnet fishing or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing by its nationals and vessels beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation.

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SEC. 206c. DEFINITIONS

16 U.S.C. 1826c

In sections 206a to 206c of this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS.--The term "fish and fish products" means any aquatic species (including marine mammals and plants) and all products thereof exported from a nation, whether or not taken by fishing vessels of that nation or packed, processed, or otherwise prepared for export in that nation or within the jurisdiction thereof.

(2) LARGE-SCALE DRIFTNET FISHING.--

(A) IN GENERAL.--Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term "large-scale driftnet fishing" means a method of fishing in which a gillnet composed of a panel or panels of webbing, or a series of such gillnets, with a total length of two and one-half kilometers or more is placed in the water and allowed to drift with the currents and winds for the purpose of entangling fish in the webbing.

(B) EXCEPTION.--Until January 1, 1994, the term "large-scale driftnet fishing" does not include the use in the northeast Atlantic Ocean of gillnets with a total length not to exceed five kilometers if the use is in accordance with regulations adopted by the European Community pursuant to the October 28, 1991, decision by the Council of Fisheries Ministers of the Community.

(3) LARGE-SCALE DRIFTNET FISHING VESSEL.--The term "large-scale driftnet fishing vessel" means any vessel which is--

(A) used for, equipped to be used for, or of a type which is normally used for large-scale driftnet fishing; or

(B) used for aiding or assisting one or more vessels at sea in the performance of large-scale driftnet fishing, including preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transportation, or processing.

SEC. 207. INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.--The Secretary may undertake activities to promote improved monitoring and compliance for high seas fisheries, or fisheries governed by international fishery management agreements, and to implement the requirements of this title.

(b) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.--In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary may--

(1) share information on harvesting and processing capacity and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing on the high seas, in areas covered by international fishery management agreements, and by vessels of other nations within the United States exclusive economic zone, with relevant law enforcement organizations of foreign nations and relevant international organizations;

(2) further develop real time information sharing capabilities, particularly on harvesting and processing capacity and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

(3) participate in global and regional efforts to build an international network for monitoring, control, and surveillance of high seas fishing and fishing under regional or global agreements;

(4) support efforts to create an international registry or database of fishing vessels, including by building on or enhancing registries developed by international fishery management organizations;

(5) enhance enforcement capabilities through the application of commercial or governmental remote sensing technology to locate or identify vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing on the high seas, including encroachments into the exclusive economic zone by fishing vessels of other nations;

(6) provide technical or other assistance to developing countries to improve their monitoring, control, and surveillance capabilities; and

(7) support coordinated international efforts to ensure that all large-scale fishing vessels operating on the high seas are required by their flag State to be fitted with vessel monitoring systems no later than December 31, 2008, or earlier if so decided by the relevant flag State or any relevant international fishery management organization.

TITLE III -- NATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SEC. 301. NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

16 U.S.C. 1851

(a) IN GENERAL.--Any fishery management plan prepared, and any regulation promulgated to implement any such plan, pursuant to this title shall be consistent with the following national standards for fishery conservation and management:

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(1) Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry.

(2) Conservation and management measures shall be based upon the best scientific information available.

(3) To the extent practicable, an individual stock of fish shall be managed as a unit throughout its range, and interrelated stocks of fish shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination.

(4) Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different States. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (C) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.

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(5) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, consider efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources; except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.

(6) Conservation and management measures shall take into account and allow for variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.

(7) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, minimize costs and avoid unnecessary duplication.

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(8) Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities by utilizing economic and social data that meet the requirements of paragraph (2). in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

104-297

(9) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.

104-297

(10) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, promote the safety of human life at sea.

97-453

(b) **GUIDELINES.**-- The Secretary shall establish advisory guidelines (which shall not have the force and effect of law), based on the national standards, to assist in the development of fishery management plans.

SEC. 302. REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

16 U.S.C. 1852

97-453, 101-627, 104-297

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) There shall be established, within 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, as follows:

(A) NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL.--The New England Fishery Management Council shall consist of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut and shall have authority over the fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean seaward of such States (except as provided in paragraph (3)). The New England Council shall have 17 voting members, including 11 appointed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b)(2) (at least one of whom shall be appointed from each such State).

(B) MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL.--The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council shall consist of the States of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina and shall have authority over the fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean seaward of such States (except North Carolina, and as provided in paragraph (3)). The Mid-Atlantic Council shall have 21 voting members, including 13 appointed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b)(2) (at least one of whom shall be appointed from each such State).

(C) SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL.--The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council shall consist of the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and shall have authority over the fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean seaward of such States (except as provided in paragraph (3)). The South Atlantic Council shall have 13 voting members, including 8 appointed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b)(2) (at least one of whom shall be appointed from each such State).

(D) CARIBBEAN COUNCIL.--The Caribbean Fishery Management Council shall consist of the Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and shall have authority over the fisheries in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean seaward of such States and of commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States in the Caribbean Sea (except as provided in paragraph (3)). The Caribbean Council shall have 7 voting members, including 4 appointed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b)(2) (at least one of whom shall be appointed from each such State).

(E) GULF COUNCIL.--The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council shall consist of the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida and shall have authority over the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico seaward of such States (except as provided in paragraph (3)). The Gulf Council shall have 17 voting members, including 11 appointed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b)(2) (at least one of whom shall be appointed from each such State).

(F) PACIFIC COUNCIL.--The Pacific Fishery Management Council shall consist of the States of California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho and shall have authority over the fisheries in the Pacific Ocean seaward of such States. The Pacific Council shall have 14 voting members, including 8 appointed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b)(2) (at least one of whom shall be appointed from each such State), and including one appointed from an Indian tribe with Federally recognized fishing rights from California, Oregon, Washington, or Idaho in accordance with subsection (b)(5).

(G) NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL.--The North Pacific Fishery Management Council shall consist of the States of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon and shall have authority over the fisheries in the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, and Pacific Ocean seaward of Alaska. The North Pacific Council shall have 11 voting members, including 7 appointed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b)(2) (5 of whom shall be appointed from the State of Alaska and 2 of whom shall be appointed from the State of Washington).

(H) WESTERN PACIFIC COUNCIL.--The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council shall consist of the States of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands and shall have authority over the fisheries in the Pacific Ocean seaward of such States and of the Commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States in the Pacific Ocean area. The Western Pacific Council shall have 13 voting members, including 8 appointed by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b)(2) (at least one of whom shall be appointed from each of the following States: Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands).

(2) Each Council shall reflect the expertise and interest of the several constituent States in the ocean area over which such Council is granted authority.

(3) The Secretary shall have authority over any highly migratory species fishery that is within the geographical area of authority of more than one of the following Councils: New England Council, Mid-Atlantic Council, South Atlantic Council, Gulf Council, and Caribbean Council.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-582, 104-297

(b) VOTING MEMBERS.--

(1) The voting members of each Council shall be:

(A) The principal State official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each constituent State, who is designated as such by the Governor of the State, so long as the official continues to hold such position, or the designee of such official.

(B) The regional director of the National Marine Fisheries Service for the geographic area concerned, or his designee, except that if two such directors are within such geographical area, the Secretary shall designate which of such directors shall be the voting member.

(C) The members required to be appointed by the Secretary in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (5).

(2) (A) The members of each Council required to be appointed by the Secretary must be individuals who, by reason of their occupational or other experience, scientific expertise, or training, are knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest, of the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned. Within nine months after the date of enactment of the Fishery Conservation Amendments of 1990, the Secretary shall, by regulation, prescribe criteria for determining whether an individual satisfies the requirements of this subparagraph.

(B) The Secretary, in making appointments under this section, shall, to the extent practicable, ensure a fair and balanced apportionment, on a rotating or other basis, of the active participants (or their representatives) in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of the Council. On January 31, 1991, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives a report on the actions taken by the Secretary to ensure that such fair and balanced apportionment is achieved. The report shall--

(i) list the fisheries under the jurisdiction of each Council, outlining for each fishery the type and quantity of fish harvested, fishing and processing methods employed, the number of participants, the duration and range of the fishery, and other distinguishing characteristics;

(ii) assess the membership of each Council in terms of the apportionment of the active participants in each such fishery; and

(iii) state the Secretary's plans and schedule for actions to achieve a fair and balanced apportionment on the Council for the active participants in any such fishery.

(C) The Secretary shall appoint the members of each Council from a list of individuals submitted by the Governor of each applicable constituent State. A Governor may not submit the names of individuals to the Secretary for appointment unless the Governor has determined that each such individual is qualified under the requirements of subparagraph (A) and unless the Governor has, to the extent practicable, first consulted with representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the State regarding those individuals. Each such list shall include the names and pertinent biographical data of not less than three individuals for each applicable vacancy and shall be accompanied by a statement by the Governor explaining how each such individual meets the requirements of subparagraph (A). The Secretary shall review each list submitted by a Governor to ascertain if the individuals on the list are qualified for the vacancy on the basis of such requirements. If the Secretary determines that any individual is not qualified, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate Governor of that determination. The Governor shall then submit a revised list or resubmit the original list with an additional explanation of the qualifications of the individual in question. An individual is not eligible for appointment by the Secretary until that individual complies with the applicable financial disclosure requirements under subsection (k).

(D)(i) The Governor of a State submitting a list of names of individuals for appointment by the Secretary of Commerce to the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council under subparagraph (C) shall include—

(I) at least 1 nominee each from the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(II) at least 1 other individual who is knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of fisheries resources in the jurisdiction of the Council.

(ii) Notwithstanding the requirements of subparagraph (C), if the Secretary determines that the list of names submitted by the Governor does not meet the requirements of clause (i) the Secretary shall—

(I) publish a notice in the Federal Register asking the residents of that State to submit the names and pertinent biographical data of individuals who would meet the requirement not met for appointment to the Council; and

(II) add the name of any qualified individual submitted by the public who meets the unmet requirement to the list of names submitted by the Governor.

(iii) For purposes of clause (i) an individual who owns or operates a fish farm outside of the United States shall not be considered to be a representative of the commercial or recreational fishing sector.

(iv) The requirements of this subparagraph shall expire at the end of fiscal year 2012.

(E) Whenever the Secretary makes an appointment to a Council, the Secretary shall make a public announcement of such appointment not less than 45 days before the first day on which the individual is to take office as a member of the Council.

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(3) Each voting member appointed to a Council by the Secretary in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (5) shall serve for a term of 3 years; except that the Secretary may designate a shorter term if necessary to provide for balanced expiration to terms of office. No member appointed after January 1, 1986, may serve more than three consecutive terms. Any term in which an individual was appointed to replace a member who left office during the term shall not be counted in determining the number of consecutive terms served by that Council member.

(4) Successors to the voting members of any Council shall be appointed in the same manner as the original voting members. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of any term of office shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(5) (A) The Secretary shall appoint to the Pacific Council one representative of an Indian tribe with Federally recognized fishing rights from California, Oregon, Washington, or Idaho from a list of not less than 3 individuals submitted by the tribal governments. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and tribal governments, shall establish by regulation the procedure for submitting a list under this subparagraph.

(B) Representation shall be rotated among the tribes taking into consideration--

(i) the qualifications of the individuals on the list referred to in subparagraph (A),

(ii) the various rights of the Indian tribes involved and judicial cases that set forth how those rights are to be exercised, and

(iii) the geographic area in which the tribe of the representative is located.

(C) A vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of any term shall be filled in the same manner as set out in subparagraphs (A) and (B), except that the Secretary may use the list from which the vacating representative was chosen.

(D) The tribal representative appointed under subparagraph (A) may designate as an alternate, during the period of the representative's term, an individual knowledgeable concerning tribal rights, tribal law, and the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned.

(6) The Secretary may remove for cause any member of a Council required to be appointed by the Secretary in accordance with paragraphs (2) or (5) if--

(A) the Council concerned first recommends removal by not less than two-thirds of the members who are voting members and submits such removal recommendation to the Secretary in writing together with a statement of the basis for the recommendation; or

(B) the member is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have committed an act prohibited by section 307(1)(O).

(c) NONVOTING MEMBERS.--

(1) The nonvoting members of each Council shall be:

(A) The regional or area director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the geographical area concerned, or his designee.

(B) The commander of the Coast Guard district for the geographical area concerned, or his designee; except that, if two Coast Guard districts are within such geographical area, the commander designated for such purpose by the commandant of the Coast Guard.

(C) The Executive Director of the Marine Fisheries Commission for the geographical area concerned, if any, or his designee.

(D) One representative of the Department of State designated for such purpose by the Secretary of State, or his designee.

(2) The Pacific Council shall have one additional nonvoting member who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor of Alaska.

96-561, 101-627, 104-297

(d) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.--The voting members of each Council who are required to be appointed by the Secretary and who are not employed by the Federal Government or any State or local government, shall receive compensation at the daily rate for GS-15, step 7 of the General Schedule, when engaged in the actual performance of duties for such Council. The voting members of each Council, any nonvoting member described in subsection (c)(1)(C), and the nonvoting member appointed pursuant to subsection (c)(2) shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of such duties, and other nonvoting members and Council staff members may be reimbursed for actual expenses.

101-627

(e) TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.-- (1) A majority of the voting members of any Council shall constitute a quorum, but one or more such members designated by the Council may hold hearings. All decisions of any Council shall be by majority vote of the voting members present and voting.

(2) The voting members of each Council shall select a Chairman for such Council from among the voting members.

(3) Each Council shall meet at appropriate times and places in any of the constituent States of the Council at the call of the Chairman or upon the request of a majority of its voting members.

(4) If any voting member of a Council disagrees with respect to any matter which is transmitted to the Secretary by such Council, such member may submit a statement to the Secretary setting forth the reasons for such disagreement. The regional director of the National Marine Fisheries Service serving on the Council, or the regional director's designee, shall submit such a statement, which shall be made available to the public upon request, if the regional director disagrees with any such matter.

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(5) At the request of any voting member of a Council, the Council shall hold a roll call vote on any matter before the Council. The official minutes and other appropriate records of any Council meeting shall identify all roll call votes held, the name of each voting member present during each roll call vote, and how each member voted on each roll call vote.

97-453

(f) STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION.--

(1) Each Council may appoint, and assign duties to, an executive director and such other full- and part-time administrative employees as the Secretary determines are necessary to the performance of its functions.

(2) Upon the request of any Council, and after consultation with the Secretary, the head of any Federal agency is authorized to detail to such Council, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of such agency, to assist such Council in the performance of its functions under this Act.

(3) The Secretary shall provide to each Council such administrative and technical support services as are necessary for the effective functioning of such Council.

(4) The Administrator of General Services shall furnish each Council with such offices, equipment, supplies, and services as he is authorized to furnish to any other agency or instrumentality of the United States.

(5) The Secretary and the Secretary of State shall furnish each Council with relevant information concerning foreign fishing and international fishery agreements.

(6) Each Council shall determine its organization, and prescribe its practices and procedures for carrying out its functions under this Act, in accordance with such uniform standards as are prescribed by the Secretary. The procedures of a Council, and of its scientific and statistical committee and advisory panels established under subsection (g), must be consistent with the procedural guidelines set forth in subsection [i](2). Each Council shall publish and make available to the public a statement of its organization, practices, and procedures.

(7) The Secretary shall pay--

(A) the compensation and expenses provided for in subsection (d);

(B) appropriate compensation to employees appointed under paragraph (1);

(C) the amounts required for reimbursement of other Federal agencies under paragraphs (2) and (4);

(D) the actual expenses of the members of the committees and panels established under subsection (g); and

(E) such other costs as the Secretary determines are necessary to the performance of the functions of the Councils.

101-627

(g) COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY PANELS.—

(1)(A) Each Council shall establish, maintain, and appoint the members of a scientific and statistical committee to assist it in the development, collection, evaluation, and peer review of such statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information as is relevant to such Council's development and amendment of any fishery management plan.

(B) Each scientific and statistical committee shall provide its Council ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, including recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum sustainable yield, and achieving rebuilding targets, and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat

Deleted: (g) COMMITTEES AND PANELS.-- ¶

(1) Each Council shall establish and maintain, and appoint the members of, a scientific and statistical committee to assist it in the development, collection, and evaluation of such statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information as is relevant to such Council's development and amendment of any fishery management plan. ¶

status, social and economic impacts of management measures, and sustainability of fishing practices.

(C) Members appointed by the Councils to the scientific and statistical committees shall be Federal employees, State employees, academicians, or independent experts and shall have strong scientific or technical credentials and experience.

(D) Each member of a scientific and statistical committee shall be treated as an affected individual for purposes of paragraphs (2), (3)(B), (4), and (5)(A) of subsection (j). The Secretary shall keep disclosures made pursuant to this subparagraph on file.

(E) The Secretary and each Council may establish a peer review process for that Council for scientific information used to advise the Council about the conservation and management of the fishery. The review process, which may include existing committees or panels, is deemed to satisfy the requirements of the guidelines issued pursuant to section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal year 2001 (Public Law 106-554—Appendix C; 114 Stat. 2763A-153).

(F) In addition to the provisions of section 302(f)(7), the Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, pay a stipend to members of the scientific and statistical committees or advisory panels who are not employed by the Federal Government or a State marine fisheries agency.

(G) A science and statistical committee shall hold its meetings in conjunction with the meeting of the Council, to the extent practicable.

(2) Each Council shall establish such advisory panels as are necessary or appropriate to assist it in carrying out its functions under this Act.

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(3) (A) Each Council shall establish and maintain a fishing industry advisory committee which shall provide information and recommendations on, and assist in the development of, fishery management plans and amendments to such plans.

(B) Appointments to a committee established under subparagraph (A) shall be made by each Council in such a manner as to provide fair representation to commercial fishing interests in the geographical area of authority of the Council.

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(4) The Secretary shall establish advisory panels to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any fishery management plan or plan amendment for a fishery to which subsection (a)(3) applies. Each advisory panel shall participate in all aspects of the development of the plan or amendment; be balanced in its representation of commercial, recreational, and other interests; and consist of not less than 7 individuals who are knowledgeable about the fishery for which the plan or amendment is developed, selected from among--

(A) members of advisory committees and species working groups appointed under Acts implementing relevant international fishery agreements pertaining to highly migratory species; and

(B) other interested persons.

(5) Decisions and recommendations made by committees and panels established under this subsection shall be considered to be advisory in nature.

95-354, 97-453, 101-627

(h) **FUNCTIONS.**--Each Council shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Act--

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(1) for each fishery under its authority that requires conservation and management, prepare and submit to the Secretary (A) a fishery management plan, and (B) amendments to each such plan that are necessary from time to time (and promptly whenever changes in conservation and management measures in another fishery substantially affect the fishery for which such plan was developed);

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(2) prepare comments on any application for foreign fishing transmitted to it under section 204(b)(4)(C) or section 204(d), and any fishery management plan or amendment transmitted to it under section 304(c)(4);

(3) conduct public hearings, at appropriate times and in appropriate locations in the geographical area concerned, so as to allow all interested persons an opportunity to be heard in the development of fishery management plans and amendments to such plans, and with respect to the administration and implementation of the provisions of this Act (and for purposes of this paragraph, the term "geographical area concerned" may include an area under the authority of another Council if the fish in the fishery concerned migrate into, or occur in, that area or if the matters being heard affect fishermen of that area; but not unless such other Council is first consulted regarding the conduct of such hearings within its area);

(4) submit to the Secretary such periodic reports as the Council deems appropriate, and any other relevant report which may be requested by the Secretary;

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(5) review on a continuing basis, and revise as appropriate, the assessments and specifications made pursuant to section 303(a)(3) and (4) with respect to the optimum yield from, the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors will process United States harvested fish from, and the total allowable level of foreign fishing in, each fishery (except as provided in section subsection (a)(3)) within its geographical area of authority;

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(6) develop annual catch limits for each of its managed fisheries that may not exceed the fishing level recommendations of its scientific and statistical committee or the peer review process established under subsection (g);

(7) develop, in conjunction with the scientific and statistical committee, multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes, that shall—

(A) establish priorities for 5-year periods;

(B) be updated as necessary; and

(C) be submitted to the Secretary and the regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service for their consideration in developing research priorities and budgets for the region of the Council; and

(8) conduct any other activities which are required by, or provided for in, this Act or which are necessary and appropriate to the foregoing functions.

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97-453, 99-659, 101-627

(i) **PROCEDURAL MATTERS.--**

(1) The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2) shall not apply to the Councils, the Council coordination committee established under subsection (l), or to the scientific and statistical committees or other committees or advisory panels established under subsection (g).

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(2) The following guidelines apply with respect to the conduct of business at meetings of a Council, of the Council coordination committee established under subsection (l), and of the scientific and statistical committees or other committees or advisory panels established under subsection (g):

Deleted: of a Council, and of the scientific and statistical committee and advisory panels established under subsection (g).

(A) Unless closed in accordance with paragraph (3), each regular meeting and each emergency meeting shall be open to the public.

(B) Emergency meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman or equivalent presiding officer.

(C) Timely public notice of each regular meeting and each emergency meeting, including the time, place, and agenda of the meeting, shall be provided by any means that will result in wide publicity in the major fishing ports of the region (and in other major fishing ports having a direct interest in the affected fishery), except that e-mail notification and website postings alone are not sufficient. Timely notice of each regular meeting shall also be published in the Federal Register. The published agenda of the meeting may not be modified to include additional matters for Council action without public notice or within 14 days prior to the meeting date, unless such modification is to address an emergency action under section 305(c), in which case public notice shall be given immediately.

Deleted: published in local newspapers in the major fishing ports of the region (and in other major fishing ports having a direct interest in the affected fishery) and such notice may be given by such other means as will result in wide publicity.

(D) Interested persons shall be permitted to present oral or written statements regarding the matters on the agenda at meetings. All written information submitted to a Council by an interested person shall include a statement of the source and date of such information. Any oral or written statement shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person in the subject of the oral or written statement.

(E) Detailed minutes of each meeting of the Council, except for any closed session, shall be kept and shall contain a record of the persons present, a complete and accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached, and copies of all statements filed. The Chairman shall certify the accuracy of the minutes of each such meeting and submit a copy thereof to the Secretary. The minutes shall be made available to any court of competent jurisdiction.

(F) Subject to the procedures established under paragraph (4), and the guidelines prescribed by the Secretary under section 402(b), relating to confidentiality, the

administrative record, including minutes required under subparagraph (E), of each meeting, and records or other documents which were made available to or prepared for or by the Council, committee, or panel incident to the meeting, shall be available for public inspection and copying at a single location in the offices of the Council or the Secretary, as appropriate.

(3) (A) Each Council, the Council Coordination Committee established under subsection (1), scientific and statistical committee, other committees, and advisory panel--

(i) shall close any meeting, or portion thereof, that concerns matters or information that bears a national security classification; and

(ii) may close any meeting, or portion thereof, that concerns matters or information that pertains to national security, employment matters, or briefings on litigation in which the Council is interested; and

(B) If any meeting or portion is closed, the Council concerned shall provide notice by any means that will result in wide publicity in the major fishing ports of the region (and in other major fishing ports having a direct interest in the affected fishery), except that e-mail notification and website postings alone are not sufficient, including in that notification the time and place of the meeting. This subparagraph does not require notification regarding any brief closure of a portion of a meeting in order to discuss employment or other internal administrative matters. Subparagraphs (D) and (F) of paragraph (2) shall not apply to any meeting or portion thereof that is so closed.

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(4) Each Council shall establish appropriate procedures applicable to it and to its committee and advisory panels for ensuring confidentiality of the statistics that may be submitted to it by Federal or State authorities, and may be voluntarily submitted to it by private persons; including, but not limited to, procedures for the restriction of Council employee access and the prevention of conflicts of interest; except that such procedures, in the case of statistics submitted to the Council by a State or by the Secretary under section 402(b), must be consistent with the laws and regulations of that State, or with the procedures of the Secretary, as the case may be, concerning the confidentiality of the statistics.

(5) Each Council shall specify those procedures that are necessary or appropriate to ensure that the committees and advisory panels established under subsection (g) are involved, on a continuing basis, in the development and amendment of fishery management plans.

(6) At any time when a Council determines it appropriate to consider new information from a State or Federal agency or from a Council advisory body, the Council shall give comparable consideration to new information offered at that time by interested members of the public. Interested parties shall have a reasonable opportunity to respond to new data or information before the Council takes final action on conservation and management measures.

99-659, 104-297

(j) DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND RECUSAL.--

104-297

- (1) For the purposes of this subsection--
- (A) the term “affected individual” means an individual who--
 - (i) is nominated by the Governor of a State for appointment as a voting member of a Council in accordance with subsection (b)(2); or
 - (ii) is a voting member of a Council appointed--
 - (I) under subsection (b)(2); or
 - (II) under subsection (b)(5) who is not subject to disclosure and recusal requirements under the laws of an Indian tribal government; and
 - (B) the term “designated official” means a person with expertise in Federal conflict-of-interest requirements who is designated by the Secretary, in consultation with the Council, to attend Council meetings and make determinations under paragraph (7)(B).

- (2) Each affected individual must disclose any financial interest held by--

- (A) that individual;
- (B) the spouse, minor child, or partner of that individual; and
- (C) any organization (other than the Council) in which that individual is serving as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee;

in any harvesting, processing, lobbying, advocacy, or marketing activity that is being, or will be, undertaken within any fishery over which the Council concerned has jurisdiction, or with respect to an individual or organization with a financial interest in such activity.

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- (3) The disclosure required under paragraph (2) shall be made--
- (A) in the case of an affected individual referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i), before appointment by the Secretary; and
 - (B) in the case of an affected individual referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), within 45 days of taking office.

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- (4) An affected individual referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) must update his or her disclosure form at any time any such financial interest is acquired, or substantially changed, by any person referred to in paragraph (2)(A), (B), or (C).

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- (5) The financial interest disclosures required by this subsection shall--
- (A) be made on such forms, in accordance with such procedures, and at such times, as the Secretary shall by regulation prescribe;
 - (B) be kept on file by the Council and made available on the Internet and for public inspection at the Council offices during reasonable hours; and
 - ✓(C) be kept on file by the Secretary for use in reviewing determinations under paragraph 7(B) and made available for public inspection at reasonable hours.

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(6) The participation by an affected individual referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) in an action by a Council during any time in which that individual is not in compliance with the regulations prescribed under paragraph (5) may not be treated as cause for the invalidation of that action.

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(7) (A) After the effective date of regulations promulgated under subparagraph (F) of this paragraph, an affected individual required to disclose a financial interest under paragraph (2) shall not vote on a Council decision which would have a significant and predictable effect on such financial interest. A Council decision shall be considered to have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest if there is a close causal link between the Council decision and an expected and substantially disproportionate benefit to the financial interest of the affected individual relative to the financial interests of other participants in the same gear type or sector of the fishery. An affected individual who may not vote may participate in Council deliberations relating to the decision after notifying the Council of the voting recusal and identifying the financial interest that would be affected.

(B) At the request of an affected individual, or upon the initiative of the appropriate designated official, the designated official shall make a determination for the record whether a Council decision would have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest.

(C) Any Council member may submit a written request to the Secretary to review any determination by the designated official under subparagraph (B) within 10 days of such determination. Such review shall be completed within 30 days of receipt of the request.

(D) Any affected individual who does not vote in a Council decision in accordance with this subsection may state for the record how he or she would have voted on such decision if he or she had voted.

(E) If the Council makes a decision before the Secretary has reviewed a determination under subparagraph (C), the eventual ruling may not be treated as cause for the invalidation or reconsideration by the Secretary of such decision.

(F) The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils and by not later than one year from the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, shall promulgate regulations which prohibit an affected individual from voting in accordance with subparagraph (A), and which allow for the making of determinations under subparagraphs (B) and (C).

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(8) Section 208 of title 18, United States Code, does not apply to an affected individual referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) during any time in which that individual is in compliance with the regulations prescribed under paragraph (5).

(9) On January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on action taken by the Secretary and the Councils to implement the disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements of this subsection, including identification of any conflict of interest problems with respect to the Councils and scientific and statistical committees and recommendations for addressing any such problems.

(k) COUNCIL TRAINING PROGRAM.—

(1) TRAINING COURSE.—Within 6 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils and the National Sea Grant College Program, shall develop a training course for newly appointed Council members. The course may cover a variety of topics relevant to matters before the Councils, including—

- (A) fishery science and basic stock assessment methods;
- (B) fishery management techniques, data needs, and Council procedures;
- (C) social science and fishery economics;
- (D) tribal treaty rights and native customs, access, and other rights related to Western Pacific indigenous communities;
- (E) legal requirements of this Act, including conflict of interest and disclosure provisions of this section and related policies;
- (F) other relevant legal and regulatory requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);
- (G) public process for development of fishery management plans;
- (H) other topics suggested by the Council; and
- (I) recreational and commercial fishing information, including fish harvesting techniques, gear types, fishing vessel types, and economics for the fisheries within each Council's jurisdiction.

(2) MEMBER TRAINING.—The training course shall be available to both new and existing Council members, staff from the regional offices and regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and may be made available to committee or advisory panel members as resources allow.

(3) REQUIRED TRAINING.—Council members appointed after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall complete a training course that meets the requirements of this section not later than 1 year after the date on which they were appointed. Any Council member who has completed a training course within 24 months before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall be considered to have met the training requirement of this paragraph.

(I) COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE.—The Councils may establish a Council coordination committee consisting of the chairs, vice chairs, and executive directors of each of the 8 Councils described in subsection (a)(1), or other Council members or staff, in order to discuss issues of relevance to all Councils, including issues related to the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

16 U.S.C. 1853

95-354, 99-659, 101-627, 104-297

(a) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, shall--

(1) contain the conservation and management measures, applicable to foreign fishing and fishing by vessels of the United States, which are--

(A) necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery;

(B) described in this subsection or subsection (b), or both; and
(C) consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, regulations implementing recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates (including but not limited to closed areas, quotas, and size limits), and any other applicable law;

(2) contain a description of the fishery, including, but not limited to, the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the cost likely to be incurred in management, actual and potential revenues from the fishery, any recreational interest in the fishery, and the nature and extent of foreign fishing and Indian treaty fishing rights, if any;

(3) assess and specify the present and probable future condition of, and the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield from, the fishery, and include a summary of the information utilized in making such specification;

(4) assess and specify--

(A) the capacity and the extent to which fishing vessels of the United States, on an annual basis, will harvest the optimum yield specified under paragraph (3),

(B) the portion of such optimum yield which, on an annual basis, will not be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States and can be made available for foreign fishing, and

(C) the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States;

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, ~~charter fishing, and fish processing~~ in the fishery, including, but not limited to, information regarding the type and quantity of fishing gear used, catch by species in numbers of fish or weight thereof, areas in which fishing was engaged in, time of fishing, number of hauls, ~~economic information necessary to meet the requirements of this Act,~~ and the estimated processing capacity of, and the actual processing capacity utilized by, United States fish processors;

Deleted: and charter fishing

(6) consider and provide for temporary adjustments, after consultation with the Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery; except that the adjustment shall not adversely affect conservation efforts in other fisheries or discriminate among participants in the affected fishery;

(7) describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 305(b)(1)(A), minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat;

(8) in the case of a fishery management plan that, after January 1, 1991, is submitted to the Secretary for review under section 304(a) (including any plan for which an amendment is submitted to the Secretary for such review) or is prepared by the Secretary, assess and

specify the nature and extent of scientific data which is needed for effective implementation of the plan;

(9) include a fishery impact statement for the plan or amendment (in the case of a plan or amendment thereto submitted to or prepared by the Secretary after October 1, 1990) which shall assess, specify, and analyze the likely effects, if any, including the cumulative conservation, economic, and social impacts, of the conservation and management measures on, and possible mitigation measures for—

Deleted: describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on--

(A) participants in the fisheries and fishing communities affected by the plan or amendment;

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(B) participants in the fisheries conducted in adjacent areas under the authority of another Council, after consultation with such Council and representatives of those participants; and

(C) the safety of human life at sea, including whether and to what extent such measures may affect the safety of participants in the fishery;

(10) specify objective and measurable criteria for identifying when the fishery to which the plan applies is overfished (with an analysis of how the criteria were determined and the relationship of the criteria to the reproductive potential of stocks of fish in that fishery) and, in the case of a fishery which the Council or the Secretary has determined is approaching an overfished condition or is overfished, contain conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing or end overfishing and rebuild the fishery;

(11) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable and in the following priority--

(A) minimize bycatch; and

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery, including its economic impact, and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors;

Deleted: fishery

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(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate, taking into consideration the economic impact of the harvest restrictions or recovery benefits on the fishery participants in each sector, any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery and;

Deleted: allocate

Deleted: fishery.

(15) establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297

(b) **DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.**--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

(2)(A) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(B) designate such zones in areas where deep sea corals are identified under section 408, to protect deep sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep sea corals, after considering long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in such areas; and

(C) with respect to any closure of an area under this Act that prohibits all fishing, ensure that such closure--

(i) is based on the best scientific information available;

(ii) includes criteria to assess the conservation benefit of the closed area;

(iii) establishes a timetable for review of the closed area's performance that is consistent with the purposes of the closed area; and

(iv) is based on an assessment of the benefits and impacts of the closure, including its size, in relation to other management measures (either alone or in combination with such measures), including the benefits and impacts of limiting access to: users of the area, overall fishing activity, fishery science, and fishery and marine conservation;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery and take into account the different circumstances affecting fisheries from different States and ports, including distances to fishing grounds and

Deleted: fishery;

proximity to time and area closures;

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account—

(A) present participation in the fishery;

(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;

(C) the economics of the fishery;

(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries;

(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities;

(F) the fair and equitable distribution of access privileges in the fishery; and

(G) any other relevant considerations;

▼ (7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research;

(12) include management measures in the plan to conserve target and non-target species and habitats, considering the variety of ecological factors affecting fishery populations; and

▼ (14) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

Deleted: (6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account-- ¶

(A) present participation in the fishery, ¶

(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery, ¶

(C) the economics of the fishery, ¶

(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries, ¶

(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and ¶

(F) any other relevant considerations; ¶

¶

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97-453, 104-297

(c) **PROPOSED REGULATIONS.**--Proposed regulations which the Council deems necessary or appropriate for the purposes of--

(1) implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary simultaneously with the plan or amendment under section 304; and

(2) making modifications to regulations implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment may be submitted to the Secretary at any time after the plan or amendment is approved under section 304.

SEC. 303A. LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—After the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, a Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve, for a fishery that is managed under a limited access system, a limited access privilege program to harvest fish if the program meets the requirements of this section.

(b) **NO CREATION OF RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST.**—Limited access privilege, quota share, or other limited access system authorization established, implemented, or managed under this Act—

(1) shall be considered a permit for the purposes of sections 307, 308, and 309;

(2) may be revoked, limited, or modified at any time in accordance with this Act, including revocation if the system is found to have jeopardized the sustainability of the stock or the safety of fishermen;

(3) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder of such limited access privilege, quota share, or other such limited access system authorization if it is revoked, limited, or modified;

(4) shall not create, or be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested by the holder; and

(5) shall be considered a grant of permission to the holder of the limited access privilege or quota share to engage in activities permitted by such limited access privilege or quota share.

(c) **REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any limited access privilege program to harvest fish submitted by a Council or approved by the Secretary under this section shall—

(A) if established in a fishery that is overfished or subject to a rebuilding plan, assist in its rebuilding;

(B) if established in a fishery that is determined by the Secretary or the Council to have over-capacity, contribute to reducing capacity;

(C) promote—

(i) fishing safety;

(ii) fishery conservation and management; and

(iii) social and economic benefits;

(D) prohibit any person other than a United States citizen, a corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or a permanent resident alien, that meets the eligibility and participation requirements established in the program from acquiring a privilege to harvest fish, including any person that acquires a limited access privilege solely for the purpose of perfecting or realizing on a security

interest in such privilege:

(E) require that all fish harvested under a limited access privilege program be processed on vessels of the United States or on United States soil (including any territory of the United States);

(F) specify the goals of the program;

(G) include provisions for the regular monitoring and review by the Council and the Secretary of the operations of the program, including determining progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act, and any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals, with a formal and detailed review 5 years after the implementation of the program and thereafter to coincide with scheduled Council review of the relevant fishery management plan (but no less frequently than once every 7 years);

(H) include an effective system for enforcement, monitoring, and management of the program, including the use of observers or electronic monitoring systems;

(I) include an appeals process for administrative review of the Secretary's decisions regarding initial allocation of limited access privileges;

(J) provide for the establishment by the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, for an information collection and review process to provide any additional information needed to determine whether any illegal acts of anti-competition, anti-trust, price collusion, or price fixing have occurred among regional fishery associations or persons receiving limited access privileges under the program; and

(K) provide for the revocation by the Secretary of limited access privileges held by any person found to have violated the antitrust laws of the United States.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of paragraph (1)(E) if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the fishery has historically processed the fish outside of the United States; and

(B) the United States has a seafood safety equivalency agreement with the country where processing will occur.

(3) FISHING COMMUNITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in a limited access privilege program to harvest fish, a fishing community shall—

(I) be located within the management area of the relevant Council;

(II) meet criteria developed by the relevant Council, approved by the Secretary, and published in the Federal Register;

(III) consist of residents who conduct commercial or recreational fishing, processing, or fishery-dependent support businesses within the Council's management area; and

(IV) develop and submit a community sustainability plan to the Council and the Secretary that demonstrates how the plan will address the social and economic development needs of coastal communities, including those that have not historically had the resources to participate in the fishery, for approval based on criteria developed by the Council that have been approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register.

(ii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PLAN.—The Secretary shall deny or revoke limited access privileges granted under this section for any person who fails to comply with the requirements of the community sustainability plan. Any limited access privileges denied or revoked under this section may be reallocated to other eligible members of the fishing community.

(B) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA.—In developing participation criteria for eligible communities under this paragraph, a Council shall consider—

- (i) traditional fishing or processing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;
- (ii) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery;
- (iii) economic barriers to access to fishery;
- (iv) the existence and severity of projected economic and social impacts associated with implementation of limited access privilege programs on harvesters, captains, crew, processors, and other businesses substantially dependent upon the fishery in the region or subregion;
- (v) the expected effectiveness, operational transparency, and equitability of the community sustainability plan; and
- (vi) the potential for improving economic conditions in remote coastal communities lacking resources to participate in harvesting or processing activities in the fishery.

(4) REGIONAL FISHERY ASSOCIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate in a limited access privilege program to harvest fish, a regional fishery association shall—

- (i) be located within the management area of the relevant Council;
- (ii) meet criteria developed by the relevant Council, approved by the Secretary, and published in the Federal Register;
- (iii) be a voluntary association with established by-laws and operating procedures;
- (iv) consist of participants in the fishery who hold quota share that are designated for use in the specific region or subregion covered by the regional fishery association, including commercial or recreational fishing, processing, fishery-dependent support businesses, or fishing communities;
- (v) not be eligible to receive an initial allocation of a limited access privilege but may acquire such privileges after the initial allocation, and may hold the annual fishing privileges of any limited access privileges it holds or the annual fishing privileges that its members contribute; and
- (vi) develop and submit a regional fishery association plan to the Council and the Secretary for approval based on criteria developed by the Council that have been approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PLAN.—The Secretary shall deny or revoke limited access privileges granted under this section to any person participating in a regional fishery association who fails to comply with the requirements of the regional fishery association plan.

(C) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA.—In developing participation criteria for eligible regional fishery associations under this paragraph, a Council shall consider—

- (i) traditional fishing or processing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;
- (ii) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery;
- (iii) economic barriers to access to fishery;
- (iv) the existence and severity of projected economic and social impacts associated with implementation of limited access privilege programs on harvesters, captains, crew, processors, and other businesses substantially dependent upon the fishery in the region or subregion;
- (v) the administrative and fiduciary soundness of the association; and
- (vi) the expected effectiveness, operational transparency, and equitability of the

fishery association plan.

(5) ALLOCATION.—In developing a limited access privilege program to harvest fish a Council or the Secretary shall—

(A) establish procedures to ensure fair and equitable initial allocations, including consideration of—

- (i) current and historical harvests;
- (ii) employment in the harvesting and processing sectors;
- (iii) investments in, and dependence upon, the fishery; and
- (iv) the current and historical participation of fishing communities;

(B) consider the basic cultural and social framework of the fishery, especially through—

- (i) the development of policies to promote the sustained participation of small owner-operated fishing vessels and fishing communities that depend on the fisheries, including regional or port-specific landing or delivery requirements; and
- (ii) procedures to address concerns over excessive geographic or other consolidation in the harvesting or processing sectors of the fishery;

(C) include measures to assist, when necessary and appropriate, entry-level and small vessel owner-operators, captains, crew, and fishing communities through set-asides of harvesting allocations, including providing privileges, which may include set-asides or allocations of harvesting privileges, or economic assistance in the purchase of limited access privileges;

(D) ensure that limited access privilege holders do not acquire an excessive share of the total limited access privileges in the program by—

- (i) establishing a maximum share, expressed as a percentage of the total limited access privileges, that a limited access privilege holder is permitted to hold, acquire, or use; and
- (ii) establishing any other limitations or measures necessary to prevent an inequitable concentration of limited access privileges; and

(E) authorize limited access privileges to harvest fish to be held, acquired, used by, or issued under the system to persons who substantially participate in the fishery, including in a specific sector of such fishery, as specified by the Council.

(6) PROGRAM INITIATION.—

(A) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), a Council may initiate a fishery management plan or amendment to establish a limited access privilege program to harvest fish on its own initiative or if the Secretary has certified an appropriate petition.

(B) PETITION.—A group of fishermen constituting more than 50 percent of the permit holders, or holding more than 50 percent of the allocation, in the fishery for which a limited access privilege program to harvest fish is sought, may submit a petition to the Secretary requesting that the relevant Council or Councils with authority over the fishery be authorized to initiate the development of the program. Any such petition shall clearly state the fishery to which the limited access privilege program would apply. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, only those participants who have substantially fished the species proposed to be included in the limited access program shall be eligible to sign a petition for such a program and shall serve as the basis for determining the percentage described in the first sentence of this subparagraph.

(C) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Upon the receipt of any such petition, the Secretary shall review all of the signatures on the petition and, if the Secretary determines that the signatures on the petition represent more than 50 percent of the permit holders, or

holders of more than 50 percent of the allocation in the fishery, as described by subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall certify the petition to the appropriate Council or Councils.

(D) NEW ENGLAND AND GULF REFERENDUM.—

(i) Except as provided in clause (iii) for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery, the New England and Gulf Councils may not submit, and the Secretary may not approve or implement, a fishery management plan or amendment that creates an individual fishing quota program, including a Secretarial plan, unless such a system, as ultimately developed, has been approved by more than 2/3 of those voting in a referendum among eligible permit holders, or other persons described in clause (v), with respect to the New England Council, and by a majority of those voting in the referendum among eligible permit holders with respect to the Gulf Council. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, only those participants who have substantially fished the species proposed to be included in the individual fishing quota program shall be eligible to vote in such a referendum. If an individual fishing quota program fails to be approved by the requisite number of those voting, it may be revised and submitted for approval in a subsequent referendum.

(ii) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum under this subparagraph, including notifying all persons eligible to participate in the referendum and making available to them information concerning the schedule, procedures, and eligibility requirements for the referendum process and the proposed individual fishing quota program. Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall publish guidelines and procedures to determine procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda and to conduct such referenda in a fair and equitable manner.

(iii) The provisions of section 407(c) of this Act shall apply in lieu of this subparagraph for an individual fishing quota program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery.

(iv) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, (commonly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act) does not apply to the referenda conducted under this subparagraph.

(v) The Secretary shall promulgate criteria for determining whether additional fishery participants are eligible to vote in the New England referendum described in clause (i) in order to ensure that crew members who derive a significant percentage of their total income from the fishery under the proposed program are eligible to vote in the referendum.

(vi) In this subparagraph, the term ‘individual fishing quota’ does not include a sector allocation.

(7) TRANSFERABILITY.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall—

(A) establish a policy and criteria for the transferability of limited access privileges (through sale or lease), that is consistent with the policies adopted by the Council for the fishery under paragraph (5); and

(B) establish, in coordination with the Secretary, a process for monitoring of transfers (including sales and leases) of limited access privileges.

(8) PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SECRETARIAL PLANS.—This subsection also applies to a plan prepared and implemented by the Secretary under section

304(c) or 304(g).

(9) ANTITRUST SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the operation of any of the antitrust laws. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘antitrust laws’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act, except that such term includes section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act to the extent that such section 5 applies to unfair methods of competition.

(d) AUCTION AND OTHER PROGRAMS.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall consider, and may provide, if appropriate, an auction system or other program to collect royalties for the initial, or any subsequent, distribution of allocations in a limited access privilege program if—

(1) the system or program is administered in such a way that the resulting distribution of limited access privilege shares meets the program requirements of this section; and

(2) revenues generated through such a royalty program are deposited in the Limited Access System Administration Fund established by section 305(h)(5)(B) and available subject to annual appropriations.

(e) COST RECOVERY.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall—

(1) develop a methodology and the means to identify and assess the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement programs that are directly related to and in support of the program; and

(2) provide, under section 304(d)(2), for a program of fees paid by limited access privilege holders that will cover the costs of management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement activities.

(f) CHARACTERISTICS.—A limited access privilege established after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 is a permit issued for a period of not more than 10 years that—

(1) will be renewed before the end of that period, unless it has been revoked, limited, or modified as provided in this subsection;

(2) will be revoked, limited, or modified if the holder is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have failed to comply with any term of the plan identified in the plan as cause for revocation, limitation, or modification of a permit, which may include conservation requirements established under the plan;

(3) may be revoked, limited, or modified if the holder is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have committed an act prohibited by section 307 of this Act; and

(4) may be acquired, or reacquired, by participants in the program under a mechanism established by the Council if it has been revoked, limited, or modified under paragraph (2) or (3).

(g) LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE ASSISTED PURCHASE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve and implement, a program which reserves up to 25 percent of any fees collected from a fishery under section 304(d)(2) to be used, pursuant to section 53706(a)(7) of title 46, United States Code, to issue obligations that aid in financing—

(A) the purchase of limited access privileges in that fishery by fishermen who fish from small vessels; and

(B) the first-time purchase of limited access privileges in that fishery by entry level

fishermen.

(2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—A Council making a submission under paragraph (1) shall recommend criteria, consistent with the provisions of this Act, that a fisherman must meet to qualify for guarantees under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) and the portion of funds to be allocated for guarantees under each subparagraph.

(h) EFFECT ON CERTAIN EXISTING SHARES AND PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, shall be construed to require a reallocation or a reevaluation of individual quota shares, processor quota shares, cooperative programs, or other quota programs, including sector allocation in effect before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006.

(i) TRANSITION RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this section shall not apply to any quota program, including any individual quota program, cooperative program, or sector allocation for which a Council has taken final action or which has been submitted by a Council to the Secretary, or approved by the Secretary, within 6 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, except that—

(A) the requirements of section 303(d) of this Act in effect on the day before the date of enactment of that Act shall apply to any such program;

(B) the program shall be subject to review under subsection (c)(1)(G) of this section not later than 5 years after the program implementation; and

(C) nothing in this subsection precludes a Council from incorporating criteria contained in this section into any such plans.

(2) PACIFIC GROUND FISH PROPOSALS.—The requirements of this section, other than subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (c)(1) and subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall not apply to any proposal authorized under section 302(f) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 that is submitted within the timeframe prescribed by that section.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 104(b)

EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICATION TO CERTAIN SPECIES.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(10)—

(1) shall, unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates, take effect—

(A) in fishing year 2010 for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to overfishing; and
(B) in fishing year 2011 for all other fisheries; and

(2) shall not apply to a fishery for species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species; and

(3) shall not limit or otherwise affect the requirements of section 301(a)(1) or 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1) or 1854(e), respectively).

P.L. 109-479, sec. 106(e)

APPLICATION WITH AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT.—Nothing in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as added by subsection (a), shall be construed to modify or supersede any provision of the American Fisheries Act (46 U.S.C. 12102 note; 16 U.S.C. 1851 note; et alia).

Deleted: 104-297, 106-554¶

(d) INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTAS.--¶

(1) (A) A Council may not submit and the Secretary may not approve or implement before October 1, 2002, any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation under this Act which creates a new individual fishing quota program.¶

(B) Any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation approved by the Secretary on or after January 4, 1995, which creates any new individual fishing quota program shall be repealed and immediately returned by the Secretary to the appropriate Council and shall not be resubmitted, reapproved, or implemented during the moratorium set forth in subparagraph (A).¶

¶

(2) (A) No provision of law shall be construed to limit the authority of a Council to submit and the Secretary to approve the termination or limitation, without compensation to holders of any limited access system permits, of a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation that provides for a limited access system, including an individual fishing quota program.¶

(B) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a Council from submitting, or the Secretary from approving and implementing, amendments to the North Pacific halibut and sablefish, South Atlantic wreckfish, or Mid-Atlantic surf clam and ocean (including mahogany) quahog individual fishing quota programs.¶

¶

-----Section Break (Continuous)-----

(3) An individual fishing quota or other limited access system authorization--¶

(A) shall be considered a permit for the purposes of sections 307, 308, and 309;¶

(B) may be revoked or limited at any time in accordance with this Act;¶

(C) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder of such individual fishing quota or other such limited access system authorization if it is revoked or limited; and ¶

(D) shall not create, or be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested.¶

¶

(4) (A) A Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve and implement, a program which reserves up to 25 percent of any fees collected from a fishery under section 304(d)(2) to be used, pursuant to section 1104A(a)(7) of the Mercha

... [1]

Deleted: , §303 note

P.L. 104-297, sec. 108(b), M-S Act § 303 note

Deleted: '

IMPLEMENTATION.--Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act [P.L. 104-297], each Regional Fishery Management Council shall submit to the Secretary of Commerce amendments to each fishery management plan under its authority to comply with the amendments made in subsection (a) of this section [i.e., the revisions to ' 303(a)(1), (5), (7), (9), and the addition of ' 303(a)(10)-(14)].

P.L. 104-297, sec. 108(i), M-S Act § 303 note

Deleted: '

EXISTING QUOTA PLANS.--Nothing in this Act [P.L.104-297] or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to require a reallocation of individual fishing quotas under any individual fishing quota program approved by the Secretary before January 4, 1995.

SEC. 304. ACTION BY THE SECRETARY

16 U.S.C. 1854

104-297

(a) REVIEW OF PLANS.--

(1) Upon transmittal by the Council to the Secretary of a fishery management plan or plan amendment, the Secretary shall--

(A) immediately commence a review of the plan or amendment to determine whether it is consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law; and

(B) immediately publish in the Federal Register a notice stating that the plan or amendment is available and that written information, views, or comments of interested persons on the plan or amendment may be submitted to the Secretary during the 60-day period beginning on the date the notice is published.

(2) In undertaking the review required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall--

(A) take into account the information, views, and comments received from interested persons;

(B) consult with the Secretary of State with respect to foreign fishing; and

(C) consult with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating with respect to enforcement at sea and to fishery access adjustments referred to in section 303(a)(6).

(3) The Secretary shall approve, disapprove, or partially approve a plan or amendment within 30 days of the end of the comment period under paragraph (1) by written notice to the Council. A notice of disapproval or partial approval shall specify--

(A) the applicable law with which the plan or amendment is inconsistent;

(B) the nature of such inconsistencies; and

(C) recommendations concerning the actions that could be taken by the Council to conform such plan or amendment to the requirements of applicable law.

If the Secretary does not notify a Council within 30 days of the end of the comment period of the approval, disapproval, or partial approval of a plan or amendment, then such plan or amendment shall take effect as if approved.

(4) If the Secretary disapproves or partially approves a plan or amendment, the Council may submit a revised plan or amendment to the Secretary for review under this subsection.

(5) For purposes of this subsection and subsection (b), the term “immediately” means on or before the 5th day after the day on which a Council transmits to the Secretary a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulation that the Council characterizes as final.

104-297

(b) REVIEW OF REGULATIONS.--

(1) Upon transmittal by the Council to the Secretary of proposed regulations prepared under section 303(c), the Secretary shall immediately initiate an evaluation of the proposed regulations to determine whether they are consistent with the fishery management plan, plan amendment, this Act and other applicable law. Within 15 days of initiating such evaluation the Secretary shall make a determination and--

(A) if that determination is affirmative, the Secretary shall publish such regulations in the Federal Register, with such technical changes as may be necessary for clarity and an explanation of those changes, for a public comment period of 15 to 60 days; or

(B) if that determination is negative, the Secretary shall notify the Council in writing of the inconsistencies and provide recommendations on revisions that would make the proposed regulations consistent with the fishery management plan, plan amendment, this Act, and other applicable law.

(2) Upon receiving a notification under paragraph (1)(B), the Council may revise the proposed regulations and submit them to the Secretary for reevaluation under paragraph (1).

(3) The Secretary shall promulgate final regulations within 30 days after the end of the comment period under paragraph (1)(A). The Secretary shall consult with the Council before making any revisions to the proposed regulations, and must publish in the Federal Register an explanation of any differences between the proposed and final regulations.

97-453, 99-659, 104-297

(c) PREPARATION AND REVIEW OF SECRETARIAL PLANS.--

(1) The Secretary may prepare a fishery management plan, with respect to any fishery, or any amendment to any such plan, in accordance with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law, if--

(A) the appropriate Council fails to develop and submit to the Secretary, after a reasonable period of time, a fishery management plan for such fishery, or any necessary amendment to such a plan, if such fishery requires conservation and management;

(B) the Secretary disapproves or partially disapproves any such plan or amendment, or disapproves a revised plan or amendment, and the Council involved fails to submit a revised or further revised plan or amendment; or

(C) the Secretary is given authority to prepare such plan or amendment under this section.

In preparing any such plan or amendment, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State with respect to foreign fishing and with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating with respect to enforcement at sea. The Secretary shall also prepare such proposed regulations as he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out each plan or amendment prepared by him under this paragraph.

(2) In preparing any plan or amendment under this subsection, the Secretary shall--

(A) conduct public hearings, at appropriate times and locations in the geographical areas concerned, so as to allow interested persons an opportunity to be heard in the preparation and amendment of the plan and any regulations implementing the plan; and

(B) consult with the Secretary of State with respect to foreign fishing and with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating with respect to enforcement at sea.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) for a fishery under the authority of a Council, the Secretary may not include in any fishery management plan, or any amendment to any such plan, prepared by him, a provision establishing a limited access system, including any ~~limited access privilege~~ program unless such system is first approved by a majority of the voting members, present and voting, of each appropriate Council.

Deleted: individual fishing quota

(4) Whenever the Secretary prepares a fishery management plan or plan amendment under this section, the Secretary shall immediately--

(A) for a plan or amendment for a fishery under the authority of a Council, submit such plan or amendment to the appropriate Council for consideration and comment; and

(B) publish in the Federal Register a notice stating that the plan or amendment is available and that written information, views, or comments of interested persons on the plan or amendment may be submitted to the Secretary during the 60-day period beginning on the date the notice is published.

(5) Whenever a plan or amendment is submitted under paragraph (4)(A), the appropriate Council must submit its comments and recommendations, if any, regarding the plan or amendment to the Secretary before the close of the 60-day period referred to in paragraph (4)(B). After the close of such 60-day period, the Secretary, after taking into account any such comments and recommendations, as well as any views, information, or comments submitted under paragraph (4)(B), may adopt such plan or amendment.

(6) The Secretary may propose regulations in the Federal Register to implement any plan or amendment prepared by the Secretary. In the case of a plan or amendment to which paragraph (4)(A) applies, such regulations shall be submitted to the Council with such plan or amendment. The comment period on proposed regulations shall be 60 days, except that the Secretary may shorten the comment period on minor revisions to existing regulations.

(7) The Secretary shall promulgate final regulations within 30 days after the end of the comment period under paragraph (6). The Secretary must publish in the Federal Register an explanation of any substantive differences between the proposed and final rules. All final regulations must be consistent with the fishery management plan, with the national standards and other provisions of this Act, and with any other applicable law.

97-453, 104-297

(d) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES.--

(1) The Secretary shall by regulation establish the level of any fees which are authorized to be charged pursuant to section 303(b)(1). The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the States concerned under which the States administer the permit system and the agreement may provide that all or part of the fees collected under the system shall accrue to the States. The level of fees charged under this subsection shall not exceed the administrative costs incurred in issuing the permits.

(2)(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary is authorized and shall collect a fee to recover the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of any--

- (i) limited access privilege program; and
- (ii) community development quota program that allocates a percentage of the total allowable catch of a fishery to such program.

Deleted: management and enforcement

Deleted: individual fishing quota

(B) Such fee shall not exceed 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of fish harvested under any such program, and shall be collected at either the time of the landing, filing of a landing report, or sale of such fish during a fishing season or in the last quarter of the calendar year in which the fish is harvested.

(C) (i) Fees collected under this paragraph shall be in addition to any other fees charged under this Act and shall be deposited in the Limited Access System Administration Fund established under section 305(h)(5)(B).

- (ii) Upon application by a State, the Secretary shall transfer to such State up to 33 percent of any fee collected pursuant to subparagraph (A) under a community development quota program and deposited in the Limited Access System Administration Fund in order to reimburse such State for actual costs directly incurred in the management and enforcement of such program.

Deleted: section 305(h)(5)(B), except that the portion of any such fees reserved under section 303(d)(4)(A) shall be deposited in the Treasury and available, subject to annual appropriations, to cover the costs of new direct loan obligations and new loan guarantee commitments as required by section 504(b)(1) of the Federal Credit Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 661c(b)(1)).

104-297

(e) REBUILDING OVERFISHED FISHERIES.--

(1) The Secretary shall report annually to the Congress and the Councils on the status of fisheries within each Council's geographical area of authority and identify those fisheries that are overfished or are approaching a condition of being overfished. For those fisheries managed under a fishery management plan or international agreement, the status shall be determined using the criteria for overfishing specified in such plan or agreement. A fishery shall be classified as approaching a condition of being overfished if, based on trends in fishing effort, fishery resource size, and other appropriate factors, the Secretary estimates that the fishery will become overfished within two years.

(2) If the Secretary determines at any time that a fishery is overfished, the Secretary shall immediately notify the appropriate Council and request that action be taken to end overfishing in the fishery and to implement conservation and management measures to rebuild affected stocks of fish. The Secretary shall publish each notice under this paragraph in the Federal Register.

(3) Within 2 years after an identification under paragraph (1) or notification under paragraphs (2) or (7), the appropriate Council (or the Secretary, for fisheries under section 302(a)(3)) shall prepare and implement a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations for the fishery to which the identification or notice applies--

Deleted: one year of

(A) to end overfishing immediately in the fishery and to rebuild affected stocks of fish; or

(B) to prevent overfishing from occurring in the fishery whenever such fishery is identified as approaching an overfished condition.

(4) For a fishery that is overfished, any fishery management plan, amendment, or proposed regulations prepared pursuant to paragraph (3) or paragraph (5) for such fishery shall--

(A) specify a time period for rebuilding the fishery that shall--

Deleted: ending overfishing and

(i) be as short as possible, taking into account the status and biology of any overfished stocks of fish, the needs of fishing communities, recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates, and the interaction of the overfished stock of fish within the marine ecosystem; and

(ii) not exceed 10 years, except in cases where the biology of the stock of fish, other environmental conditions, or management measures under an international agreement in which the United States participates dictate otherwise;

(B) allocate both overfishing restrictions and recovery benefits fairly and equitably among sectors of the fishery; and

(C) for fisheries managed under an international agreement, reflect traditional participation in the fishery, relative to other nations, by fishermen of the United States.

(5) If, within the 2-year period beginning on the date of identification or notification that a fishery is overfished, the Council does not submit to the Secretary a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations required by paragraph (3)(A), the Secretary shall prepare a fishery management plan or plan amendment and any accompanying regulations to stop overfishing and rebuild affected stocks of fish within 9 months under subsection (c).

Deleted: one-year

(6) During the development of a fishery management plan, a plan amendment, or proposed regulations required by this subsection, the Council may request the Secretary to implement interim measures to reduce overfishing under section 305(c) until such measures can be replaced by such plan, amendment, or regulations. Such measures, if otherwise in compliance with the provisions of this Act, may be implemented even though they are not sufficient by themselves to stop overfishing of a fishery.

(7) The Secretary shall review any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulations required by this subsection at routine intervals that may not exceed two years. If the Secretary finds as a result of the review that such plan, amendment, or regulations have not resulted in adequate progress toward ending overfishing and rebuilding affected fish stocks, the Secretary shall--

(A) in the case of a fishery to which section 302(a)(3) applies, immediately make revisions necessary to achieve adequate progress; or

(B) for all other fisheries, immediately notify the appropriate Council. Such notification shall recommend further conservation and management measures which the Council should consider under paragraph (3) to achieve adequate progress.

101-627, 104-297

(f) FISHERIES UNDER AUTHORITY OF MORE THAN ONE COUNCIL.--

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3)³, if any fishery extends beyond the geographical area of authority of any one Council, the Secretary may--

(A) designate which Council shall prepare the fishery management plan for such fishery and any amendment to such plan; or

(B) may require that the plan and amendment be prepared jointly by the Councils concerned.

No jointly prepared plan or amendment may be submitted to the Secretary unless it is approved by a majority of the voting members, present and voting, of each Council concerned.

(2) The Secretary shall establish the boundaries between the geographical areas of authority of adjacent Councils.

104-297

(g) ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES.--

(1) PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN OR PLAN AMENDMENT.--The Secretary shall prepare a fishery management plan or plan amendment under subsection (c) with respect to any highly migratory species fishery to which section 302(a)(3) applies. In preparing and implementing any such plan or amendment, the Secretary shall--

(A) consult with and consider the comments and views of affected Councils, commissioners and advisory groups appointed under Acts implementing relevant international fishery agreements pertaining to highly migratory species, and the advisory panel established under section 302(g);

(B) establish an advisory panel under section 302(g) for each fishery management plan to be prepared under this paragraph;

(C) evaluate the likely effects, if any, of conservation and management measures on participants in the affected fisheries and minimize, to the extent practicable, any disadvantage to United States fishermen in relation to foreign competitors;

(D) with respect to a highly migratory species for which the United States is authorized to harvest an allocation, quota, or at a fishing mortality level under a relevant international fishery agreement, provide fishing vessels of the United States with a reasonable opportunity to harvest such allocation, quota, or at such fishing mortality level;

(E) review, on a continuing basis (and promptly whenever a recommendation pertaining to fishing for highly migratory species has been made under a relevant

³ Former paragraph (3) now appears at section 302(a)(3) and section 304(g).

international fishery agreement), and revise as appropriate, the conservation and management measures included in the plan;

(F) diligently pursue, through international entities (such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas), comparable international fishery management measures with respect to fishing for highly migratory species; and

(G) ensure that conservation and management measures under this subsection--

(i) promote international conservation of the affected fishery;

(ii) take into consideration traditional fishing patterns of fishing vessels of the United States and the operating requirements of the fisheries;

(iii) are fair and equitable in allocating fishing privileges among United States fishermen and do not have economic allocation as the sole purpose; and

(iv) promote, to the extent practicable, implementation of scientific research programs that include the tagging and release of Atlantic highly migratory species.

(2) CERTAIN FISH EXCLUDED FROM “BYCATCH” DEFINITION.--

Notwithstanding section 3(2), fish harvested in a commercial fishery managed by the Secretary under this subsection or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971d), or highly migratory species harvested in a commercial fishery managed by a Council under this Act or the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act, that are not regulatory discards and that are tagged and released alive under a scientific tagging and release program established by the Secretary shall not be considered bycatch for purposes of this Act.

Deleted: (16 U.S.C. 971d)

104-297

(h) REPEAL OR REVOCATION OF A FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.--The Secretary may repeal or revoke a fishery management plan for a fishery under the authority of a Council only if the Council approves the repeal or revocation by a three-quarters majority of the voting members of the Council.

(i) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS.--

(1) PROCEDURES.--The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Councils and the Council on Environmental Quality, revise and update agency procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.). The procedures shall--

(A) conform to the time lines for review and approval of fishery management plans and plan amendments under this section; and

(B) integrate applicable environmental analytical procedures, including the time frames for public input, with the procedure for the preparation and dissemination of fishery management plans, plan amendments, and other actions taken or approved pursuant to this Act in order to provide for timely, clear and concise analysis that is useful to decision makers and the public, reduce extraneous paperwork, and effectively involve the public.

(2) USAGE.--The updated agency procedures promulgated in accordance with this section used by the Councils or the Secretary shall be the sole environmental impact assessment procedure for fishery management plans, amendments, regulations, or other actions taken or approved pursuant to this Act.

(3) SCHEDULE FOR PROMULGATION OF FINAL PROCEDURES.--The Secretary shall--

(A) propose revised procedures within 6 months after the date of enactment of the

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006:

(B) provide 90 days for public review and comments; and

(C) promulgate final procedures no later than 12 months after the date of enactment of that Act.

(4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary is authorized and directed, in cooperation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the Councils, to involve the affected public in the development of revised procedures, including workshops or other appropriate means of public involvement.

(i) INTERNATIONAL OVERFISHING.—The provisions of this subsection shall apply in lieu of subsection (e) to a fishery that the Secretary determines is overfished or approaching a condition of being overfished due to excessive international fishing pressure, and for which there are no management measures to end overfishing under an international agreement to which the United States is a party. For such fisheries—

(1) the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, immediately take appropriate action at the international level to end the overfishing; and

(2) within 1 year after the Secretary's determination, the appropriate Council, or Secretary, for fisheries under section 302(a)(3) shall—

(A) develop recommendations for domestic regulations to address the relative impact of fishing vessels of the United States on the stock and, if developed by a Council, the Council shall submit such recommendations to the Secretary; and

(B) develop and submit recommendations to the Secretary of State, and to the Congress, for international actions that will end overfishing in the fishery and rebuild the affected stocks, taking into account the relative impact of vessels of other nations and vessels of the United States on the relevant stock.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 104(d)

EFFECTIVE DATE FOR SUBSECTION (c).—The amendments made by subsection (c) shall take effect 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

P.L. 101-627, sec. 108(k), M-S Act § 304 note

Interim Management of Highly Migratory Species Fisheries.--Notwithstanding the amendments made by subsections (a) and (g) [of section 108 of Pub. L. 101-627], any fishery management plan or amendment which--

(1) addresses a highly migratory species fishery to which section 304(f)(3) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (as amended by this Act [101-627]) applies,

(2) was prepared by one or more Regional Fishery Management Councils, and

(3) was in force and effect on January 1, 1990,

shall remain in force and effect until superseded by a fishery management plan prepared by the Secretary, and regulations implementing that plan.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 109(d), M-S Act § 304 note

DELAY OF FEES.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not begin the collection of fees under section 304(d)(2) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act [104-297], in the surf clam and ocean (including mahogany) quahog fishery or in the wreckfish fishery until after January 1, 2000.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 109(h), M-S Act § 304 note

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ATLANTIC PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERY.--(1) The Secretary of Commerce shall--

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(A) establish an advisory panel under section 302(g)(4) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act, for pelagic longline fishing vessels that participate in fisheries for Atlantic highly migratory species;

(B) conduct surveys and workshops with affected fishery participants to provide information and identify options for future management programs;

(C) to the extent practicable and necessary for the evaluation of options for a comprehensive management system, recover vessel production records; and

(D) complete by January 1, 1998, a comprehensive study on the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive management system for pelagic longline fishing vessels that participate in fisheries for Atlantic highly migratory species, including, but not limited to, individual fishing quota programs and other limited access systems.

(2) Based on the study under paragraph (1)(D) and consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), in cooperation with affected participants in the fishery, the United States Commissioners on the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and the advisory panel established under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary of Commerce may, after October 1, 1998, implement a comprehensive management system pursuant to section 304 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1854) for pelagic longline fishing vessels that participate in fisheries for Atlantic highly migratory species. Such a system may not implement an individual fishing quota program until after October 1, 2000.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 109(j), M-S Act § 304 note

AMERICAN LOBSTER FISHERY.--Section 304(h) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act [Public Law 104-297], shall not apply to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan.

SEC. 305. OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORITY

16 U.S.C. 1855

104-297

(a) GEAR EVALUATION AND NOTIFICATION OF ENTRY.--

(1) Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, a list of all fisheries--

(A) under the authority of each Council and all fishing gear used in such fisheries, based on information submitted by the Councils under section 303(a); and

(B) to which section 302(a)(3) applies and all fishing gear used in such fisheries.

(2) The Secretary shall include with such list guidelines for determining when fishing gear or a fishery is sufficiently different from those listed as to require notification under paragraph (3).

(3) Effective 180 days after the publication of such list, no person or vessel may employ fishing gear or engage in a fishery not included on such list without giving 90 days advance written notice to the appropriate Council, or the Secretary with respect to a fishery to which section 302(a)(3) applies. A signed return receipt shall serve as adequate evidence of such notice and as the date upon which the 90-day period begins.

(4) A Council may submit to the Secretary any proposed changes to such list or such guidelines the Council deems appropriate. The Secretary shall publish a revised list, after

notice and an opportunity for public comment, upon receiving any such proposed changes from a Council.

(5) A Council may request the Secretary to promulgate emergency regulations under subsection (c) to prohibit any persons or vessels from using an unlisted fishing gear or engaging in an unlisted fishery if the appropriate Council, or the Secretary for fisheries to which section 302(a)(3) applies, determines that such unlisted gear or unlisted fishery would compromise the effectiveness of conservation and management efforts under this Act.

(6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to permit a person or vessel to engage in fishing or employ fishing gear when such fishing or gear is prohibited or restricted by regulation under a fishery management plan or plan amendment, or under other applicable law.

104-297

(b) FISH HABITAT.--

(1) (A) The Secretary shall, within 6 months of the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, establish by regulation guidelines to assist the Councils in the description and identification of essential fish habitat in fishery management plans (including adverse impacts on such habitat) and in the consideration of actions to ensure the conservation and enhancement of such habitat. The Secretary shall set forth a schedule for the amendment of fishery management plans to include the identification of essential fish habitat and for the review and updating of such identifications based on new scientific evidence or other relevant information.

(B) The Secretary, in consultation with participants in the fishery, shall provide each Council with recommendations and information regarding each fishery under that Council's authority to assist it in the identification of essential fish habitat, the adverse impacts on that habitat, and the actions that should be considered to ensure the conservation and enhancement of that habitat.

(C) The Secretary shall review programs administered by the Department of Commerce and ensure that any relevant programs further the conservation and enhancement of essential fish habitat.

(D) The Secretary shall coordinate with and provide information to other Federal agencies to further the conservation and enhancement of essential fish habitat.

(2) Each Federal agency shall consult with the Secretary with respect to any action authorized, funded, or undertaken, or proposed to be authorized, funded, or undertaken, by such agency that may adversely affect any essential fish habitat identified under this Act.

(3) Each Council--

(A) may comment on and make recommendations to the Secretary and any Federal or State agency concerning any activity authorized, funded, or undertaken, or proposed to be authorized, funded, or undertaken, by any Federal or State agency that, in the view of the Council, may affect the habitat, including essential fish habitat, of a fishery resource under its authority; and

(B) shall comment on and make recommendations to the Secretary and any Federal or State agency concerning any such activity that, in the view of the Council, is likely to substantially affect the habitat, including essential fish habitat, of an anadromous fishery resource under its authority.

(4) (A) If the Secretary receives information from a Council or Federal or State agency or determines from other sources that an action authorized, funded, or undertaken, or proposed to be authorized, funded, or undertaken, by any State or Federal agency would adversely affect any essential fish habitat identified under this Act, the Secretary shall recommend to such agency measures that can be taken by such agency to conserve such habitat.

(B) Within 30 days after receiving a recommendation under subparagraph (A), a Federal agency shall provide a detailed response in writing to any Council commenting under paragraph (3) and the Secretary regarding the matter. The response shall include a description of measures proposed by the agency for avoiding, mitigating, or offsetting the impact of the activity on such habitat. In the case of a response that is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Secretary, the Federal agency shall explain its reasons for not following the recommendations.

97-453, 101-627, 104-297

(c) EMERGENCY ACTIONS AND INTERIM MEASURES.--

(1) If the Secretary finds that an emergency or overfishing exists or that interim measures are needed to reduce overfishing for any fishery, he may promulgate emergency⁴ regulations or interim measures necessary to address the emergency or overfishing, without regard to whether a fishery management plan exists for such fishery.

(2) If a Council finds that an emergency or overfishing exists or that interim measures are needed to reduce overfishing for any fishery within its jurisdiction, whether or not a fishery management plan exists for such fishery--

(A) the Secretary shall promulgate emergency⁴ regulations or interim measures under paragraph (1) to address the emergency or overfishing if the Council, by unanimous vote of the members who are voting members, requests the taking of such actions; and

(B) the Secretary may promulgate emergency⁴ regulations or interim measures under paragraph (1) to address the emergency or overfishing if the Council, by less than a unanimous vote, requests the taking of such action.

⁴ Section 110(b)(2) of Public Law 104-297 appears to insert "or overfishing" after "emergency" each place it appears in section 305(c)(1) and (2). The editors assume Congress did not intend to insert "or overfishing" between the words "emergency" and "regulations".

(3) Any emergency regulation or interim measure which changes any existing fishery management plan or amendment shall be treated as an amendment to such plan for the period in which such regulation is in effect. Any emergency regulation or interim measure promulgated under this subsection--

(A) shall be published in the Federal Register together with the reasons therefor;

(B) shall, except as provided in subparagraph (C), remain in effect for not more than 180 days after the date of publication, and may be extended by publication in the Federal Register for one additional period of not more than ~~186 days~~, provided the public has had an opportunity to comment on the emergency regulation or interim measure, and, in the case of a Council recommendation for emergency regulations or interim measures, the Council is actively preparing a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations to address the emergency or overfishing on a permanent basis;

Deleted: 180 days,

(C) that responds to a public health emergency or an oil spill may remain in effect until the circumstances that created the emergency no longer exist, *Provided*, That the public has an opportunity to comment after the regulation is published, and, in the case of a public health emergency, the Secretary of Health and Human Services concurs with the Secretary's action; and

(D) may be terminated by the Secretary at an earlier date by publication in the Federal Register of a notice of termination, except for emergency regulations or interim measures promulgated under paragraph (2) in which case such early termination may be made only upon the agreement of the Secretary and the Council concerned.

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(d) RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY.--The Secretary shall have general responsibility to carry out any fishery management plan or amendment approved or prepared by him, in accordance with the provisions of this Act. The Secretary may promulgate such regulations, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, as may be necessary to discharge such responsibility or to carry out any other provision of this Act.

97-453, 101-627, 104-297

(e) EFFECT OF CERTAIN LAWS ON CERTAIN TIME REQUIREMENTS.--The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), and Executive Order Numbered 12866, dated September 30, 1993, shall be complied with within the time limitations specified in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 304 as they apply to the functions of the Secretary under such provisions.

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(f) JUDICIAL REVIEW.--

(1) Regulations promulgated by the Secretary under this Act and actions described in paragraph (2) shall be subject to judicial review to the extent authorized by, and in accordance with, chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, if a petition for such review is filed within 30 days after the date on which the regulations are promulgated or the action is published in the Federal Register, as applicable; except that--

(A) section 705 of such title is not applicable, and

(B) the appropriate court shall only set aside any such regulation or action on a ground specified in section 706(2)(A), (B), (C), or (D) of such title.

(2) The actions referred to in paragraph (1) are actions that are taken by the Secretary under regulations which implement a fishery management plan, including but not limited to actions that establish the date of closure of a fishery to commercial or recreational fishing.

(3) (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall file a response to any petition filed in accordance with paragraph (1), not later than 45 days after the date the Secretary is served with that petition, except that the appropriate court may extend the period for filing such a response upon a showing by the Secretary of good cause for that extension.

(B) A response of the Secretary under this paragraph shall include a copy of the administrative record for the regulations that are the subject of the petition.

(4) Upon a motion by the person who files a petition under this subsection, the appropriate court shall assign the matter for hearing at the earliest possible date and shall expedite the matter in every possible way.

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(g) NEGOTIATED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES.--

(1)(A) In accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to this paragraph, a Council may establish a fishery negotiation panel to assist in the development of specific conservation and management measures for a fishery under its authority. The Secretary may establish a fishery negotiation panel to assist in the development of specific conservation and management measures required for a fishery under section 304(e)(5), for a fishery for which the Secretary has authority under section 304(g), or for any other fishery with the approval of the appropriate Council.

(B) No later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations establishing procedures, developed in cooperation with the Administrative Conference of the United States, for the establishment and operation of fishery negotiation panels. Such procedures shall be comparable to the procedures for negotiated rulemaking established by subchapter III of chapter 5 of Title 5, United States Code.

(2) If a negotiation panel submits a report, such report shall specify all the areas where consensus was reached by the panel, including, if appropriate, proposed conservation and management measures, as well as any other information submitted by members of the negotiation panel. Upon receipt, the Secretary shall publish such report in the Federal Register for public comment.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require either a Council or the Secretary, whichever is appropriate, to use all or any portion of a report from a negotiation panel established under this subsection in the development of specific conservation and management measures for the fishery for which the panel was established.

(h) CENTRAL REGISTRY SYSTEM FOR LIMITED ACCESS SYSTEM PERMITS.--

(1) Within 6 months after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall establish an exclusive central registry system (which may be administered on a regional basis) for limited access system permits established under section 303(b)(6) or other Federal law, including ~~limited access privileges~~, which shall provide for the registration of title to, and interests in, such permits, as well as for procedures for changes in the registration of title to such permits upon the occurrence of involuntary transfers, judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure of interests, enforcement of judgments thereon, and related matters deemed appropriate by the Secretary. Such registry system shall--

Deleted: individual fishing quotas,

(A) provide a mechanism for filing notice of a nonjudicial foreclosure or enforcement of a judgment by which the holder of a senior security interest acquires or conveys ownership of a permit, and in the event of a nonjudicial foreclosure, by which the interests of the holders of junior security interests are released when the permit is transferred;

(B) provide for public access to the information filed under such system, notwithstanding section 402(b); and

(C) provide such notice and other requirements of applicable law that the Secretary deems necessary for an effective registry system.

(2) The Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this subsection, after consulting with the Councils and providing an opportunity for public comment. The Secretary is authorized to contract with non-Federal entities to administer the central registry system.

(3) To be effective and perfected against any person except the transferor, its heirs and devisees, and persons having actual notice thereof, all security interests, and all sales and other transfers of permits described in paragraph (1), shall be registered in compliance with the regulations promulgated under paragraph (2). Such registration shall constitute the exclusive means of perfection of title to, and security interests in, such permits, except for Federal tax liens thereon, which shall be perfected exclusively in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1 et seq.). The Secretary shall notify both the buyer and seller of a permit if a lien has been filed by the Secretary of the Treasury against the permit before collecting any transfer fee under paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(4) The priority of security interests shall be determined in order of filing, the first filed having the highest priority. A validly-filed security interest shall remain valid and perfected notwithstanding a change in residence or place of business of the owner of record. For the purposes of this subsection, "security interest" shall include security interests, assignments, liens and other encumbrances of whatever kind.

(5) (A) Notwithstanding section 304(d)(1), the Secretary shall collect a reasonable fee of not more than one-half of one percent of the value of a limited access system permit upon registration of the title to such permit with the central registry system and upon the transfer of such registered title. Any such fee collected shall be deposited in the Limited Access System Administration Fund established under subparagraph (B).

(B) There is established in the Treasury a Limited Access System Administration Fund. The Fund shall be available, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, only to the Secretary for the purposes of--

- (i) administering the central registry system; and
- (ii) administering and implementing this Act in the fishery in which the fees were collected. Sums in the Fund that are not currently needed for these purposes shall be kept on deposit or invested in obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States.

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(i) ALASKA AND WESTERN PACIFIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.--

(1) WESTERN ALASKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established the western Alaska community development quota program in order—

- (i) to provide eligible western Alaska villages with the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area;
- (ii) to support economic development in western Alaska;
- (iii) to alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska; and
- (iv) to achieve sustainable and diversified local economies in western Alaska.

(B) PROGRAM ALLOCATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the annual percentage of the total allowable catch, guideline harvest level, or other annual catch limit allocated to the program in each directed fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands shall be the percentage approved by the Secretary, or established by Federal law, as of March 1, 2006, for the program. The percentage for each fishery shall be either a directed fishing allowance or include both directed fishing and nontarget needs based on existing practice with respect to the program as of March 1, 2006, for each fishery.

(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding clause (i)—

(I) the allocation under the program for each directed fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (other than a fishery for halibut, sablefish, pollock, and crab) shall be a total allocation (directed and nontarget combined) of 10.7 percent effective January 1, 2008; and

(II) the allocation under the program in any directed fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (other than a fishery for halibut, sablefish, pollock, and crab) established after the date of enactment of this subclause shall be a total allocation (directed and nontarget combined) of 10.7 percent.

The total allocation (directed and nontarget combined) for a fishery to which subclause (I) or (II) applies may not be exceeded.

(iii) PROCESSING AND OTHER RIGHTS.—Allocations to the program include all processing rights and any other rights and privileges associated with such allocations as of March 1, 2006.

(iv) REGULATION OF HARVEST.—The harvest of allocations under the

Deleted: directed fishing allocation of 10 percent upon the establishment of a quota program, fishing cooperative, sector allocation, or other rationalization program in any sector of the fishery; and

Deleted: directed fishing allocation of 10 percent.

program for fisheries with individual quotas or fishing cooperatives shall be regulated by the Secretary in a manner no more restrictive than for other participants in the applicable sector, including with respect to the harvest of nontarget species.

(C) ALLOCATIONS TO ENTITIES.—Each entity eligible to participate in the program shall be authorized under the program to harvest annually the same percentage of each species allocated to the program under subparagraph (B) that it was authorized by the Secretary to harvest of such species annually as of March 1, 2006, except to the extent that its allocation is adjusted under subparagraph (H). Such allocation shall include all processing rights and any other rights and privileges associated with such allocations as of March 1, 2006. Voluntary transfers by and among eligible entities shall be allowed, whether before or after harvesting. Notwithstanding the first sentence of this subparagraph, seven-tenths of one percent of the total allowable catch, guideline harvest level, or other annual catch limit, within the amount allocated to the program by subclause (I) or subclause (II) of subparagraph (B)(ii), shall be allocated among the eligible entities by the panel established in subparagraph (G), or allocated by the Secretary based on the nontarget needs of eligible entities in the absence of a panel decision.

(D) ELIGIBLE VILLAGES.—The following villages shall be eligible to participate in the program through the following entities:

(i) The villages of Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, and Saint George through the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association.

(ii) The villages of Aleknagik, Clark's Point, Dillingham, Egegik, Ekuk, Ekwok, King Salmon/Savonoski, Levelock, Manokotak, Naknek, Pilot Point, Port Heiden, Portage Creek, South Naknek, Togiak, Twin Hills, and Ugashik through the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation.

(iii) The village of Saint Paul through the Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association.

(iv) The villages of Chefornak, Chevak, Eek, Goodnews Bay, Hooper Bay, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwigillingok, Mekoryuk, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Newtok, Nightmute, Oscarville, Platinum, Quinhagak, Scammon Bay, Toksook Bay, Tuntutuliak, and Tununak through the Coastal Villages Region Fund.

(v) The villages of Brevig Mission, Diomedes, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, Nome, Saint Michael, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales, and White Mountain through the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.

(vi) The villages of Alakanuk, Emmonak, Grayling, Kotlik, Mountain Village, and Nunam Iqua through the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association.

(E) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING ENTITIES.—To be eligible to participate in the program, an entity referred to in subparagraph (D) shall meet the following requirements:

(i) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The entity shall be governed by a board of directors. At least 75 percent of the members of the board shall be resident fishermen from the entity's member villages. The board shall include at least one director selected by each such member village.

(ii) PANEL REPRESENTATIVE.—The entity shall elect a representative to serve on the panel established by subparagraph (G).

(iii) OTHER INVESTMENTS.—The entity may make up to 20 percent of its annual investments in any combination of the following:

(I) For projects that are not fishery-related and that are located in its region.

(II) On a pooled or joint investment basis with one or more other entities

participating in the program for projects that are not fishery-related and that are located in one or more of their regions.

(III) For matching Federal or State grants for projects or programs in its member villages without regard to any limitation on the Federal or State share, or restriction on the source of any non-Federal or non-State matching funds, of any grant program under any other provision of law.

(iv) FISHERY-RELATED INVESTMENTS.—The entity shall make the remainder percent of its annual investments in fisheries-related projects or for other purposes consistent with the practices of the entity prior to March 1, 2006.

(v) ANNUAL STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.—Each year the entity, following approval by its board of directors and signed by its chief executive officer, shall submit a written statement to the Secretary and the State of Alaska that summarizes the purposes for which it made investments under clauses (iii) and (iv) during the preceding year.

(vi) OTHER PANEL REQUIREMENTS.—The entity shall comply with any other requirements established by the panel under subparagraph (G).

(F) ENTITY STATUS, LIMITATIONS, AND REGULATION.—The entity—

(i) shall be subject to any excessive share ownership, harvesting, or processing limitations in the fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area only to the extent of the entity's proportional ownership, excluding any program allocations, and notwithstanding any other provision of law;

(ii) shall comply with State of Alaska law requiring annual reports to the entity's member villages summarizing financial operations for the previous calendar year, including general and administrative costs and compensation levels of the top 5 highest paid personnel;

(iii) shall comply with State of Alaska laws to prevent fraud that are administered by the Alaska Division of Banking and Securities, except that the entity and the State shall keep confidential from public disclosure any information if the disclosure would be harmful to the entity or its investments; and

(iv) is exempt from compliance with any State law requiring approval of financial transactions, community development plans, or amendments thereto, except as required by subparagraph (H).

(G) ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL.—

(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a community development quota program panel.

(ii) MEMBERSHIP.—The panel shall consist of 6 members. Each entity participating in the program shall select one member of the panel.

(iii) FUNCTIONS.—The panel shall—

(I) administer those aspects of the program not otherwise addressed in this paragraph, either through private contractual arrangement or through recommendations to the North Pacific Council, the Secretary, or the State of Alaska, as the case may be; and

(II) coordinate and facilitate activities of the entities under the program.

(iv) UNANIMITY REQUIRED.—The panel may act only by unanimous vote of all 6 members of the panel and may not act if there is a vacancy in the membership of the panel.

(H) DECENNIAL REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF ENTITY ALLOCATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—During calendar year 2012 and every 10 years thereafter, the State of Alaska shall evaluate the performance of each entity participating in the program based on the criteria described in clause (ii).

(ii) CRITERIA.—The panel shall establish a system to be applied under this subparagraph that allows each entity participating in the program to assign relative values to the following criteria to reflect the particular needs of its villages:

(I) Changes during the preceding 10-year period in population, poverty level, and economic development in the entity's member villages.

(II) The overall financial performance of the entity, including fishery and nonfishery investments by the entity.

(III) Employment, scholarships, and training supported by the entity.

(IV) Achieving of the goals of the entity's community development plan.

(iii) ADJUSTMENT OF ALLOCATIONS.—After the evaluation required by clause (i), the State of Alaska shall make a determination, on the record and after an opportunity for a hearing, with respect to the performance of each entity participating in the program for the criteria described in clause (ii). If the State determines that the entity has maintained or improved its overall performance with respect to the criteria, the allocation to such entity under the program shall be extended by the State for the next 10-year period. If the State determines that the entity has not maintained or improved its overall performance with respect to the criteria—

(I) at least 90 percent of the entity's allocation for each species under subparagraph (C) shall be extended by the State for the next 10-year period; and

(II) the State may determine, or the Secretary may determine (if State law prevents the State from making the determination), and implement an appropriate reduction of up to 10 percent of the entity's allocation for each species under subparagraph (C) for all or part of such 10-year period.

(iv) REALLOCATION OF REDUCED AMOUNT.—If the State or the Secretary reduces an entity's allocation under clause (iii), the reduction shall be reallocated among other entities participating in the program whose allocations are not reduced during the same period in proportion to each such entity's allocation of the applicable species under subparagraph (C).

(I) SECRETARIAL APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation thereunder, the approval by the Secretary of a community development plan, or an amendment thereof, under the program is not required.

(J) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'community development plan' means a plan, prepared by an entity referred to in subparagraph (D), for the program that describes how the entity intends—

(i) to harvest its share of fishery resources allocated to the program, or

(ii) to use its share of fishery resources allocated to the program, and any revenue derived from such use, to assist its member villages with projects to advance economic development, but does not include a plan that allocates fishery resources to the program.

(2) (A) The Western Pacific Council and the Secretary may establish a western Pacific community development program for any fishery under the authority of such Council in order to provide access to such fishery for western Pacific communities that participate in the program.

(B) To be eligible to participate in the western Pacific community development program, a community shall--

- (i) be located within the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area;
- (ii) meet criteria developed by the Western Pacific Council, approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register;
- (iii) consist of community residents who are descended from the aboriginal people indigenous to the area who conducted commercial or subsistence fishing using traditional fishing practices in the waters of the Western Pacific region;
- (iv) not have previously developed harvesting or processing capability sufficient to support substantial participation in fisheries in the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area; and
- (v) develop and submit a Community Development Plan to the Western Pacific Council and the Secretary.

(C) In developing the criteria for eligible communities under subparagraph (B)(ii), the Western Pacific Council shall base such criteria on traditional fishing practices in or dependence on the fishery, the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery, and economic barriers to access to the fishery.

(D) For the purposes of this subsection "Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area" means the area under the jurisdiction of the Western Pacific Council, or an island within such area.

(E) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Western Pacific Council shall take into account traditional indigenous fishing practices in preparing any fishery management plan.

(3) The Secretary shall deduct from any fees collected from a community development quota program under section 304(d)(2) the costs incurred by participants in the program for observer and reporting requirements which are in addition to observer and reporting requirements of other participants in the fishery in which the allocation to such program has been made.

(4) After the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the North Pacific Council and Western Pacific Council may not submit to the Secretary a community development quota program that is not in compliance with this subsection.

(j) WESTERN PACIFIC AND NORTHERN PACIFIC REGIONAL MARINE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot program for regionally-based marine education and training programs in the Western Pacific and the Northern Pacific to foster understanding, practical use of knowledge (including native Hawaiian, Alaskan Native, and other Pacific Islander-based knowledge), and technical expertise relevant to stewardship of living marine resources. The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Western Pacific and the North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Councils, regional educational institutions, and local Western Pacific and Northern Pacific community training entities, establish programs or projects that will improve communication, education, and training on

marine resource issues throughout the region and increase scientific education for marine-related professions among coastal community residents, including indigenous Pacific islanders, Native Hawaiians, Alaskan Natives, and other underrepresented groups in the region.

(2) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—The program shall—

(A) include marine science and technology education and training programs focused on preparing community residents for employment in marine related professions, including marine resource conservation and management, marine science, marine technology, and maritime operations;

(B) include fisheries and seafood-related training programs, including programs for fishery observers, seafood safety and seafood marketing, focused on increasing the involvement of coastal community residents in fishing, fishery management, and seafood-related operations;

(C) include outreach programs and materials to educate and inform consumers about the quality and sustainability of wild fish or fish products farmed through responsible aquaculture, particularly in Hawaii, Alaska, the Western Pacific, the Northern Pacific, and the Central Pacific;

(D) include programs to identify, with the fishing industry, methods and technologies that will improve the data collection, quality, and reporting and increase the sustainability of fishing practices, and to transfer such methods and technologies among fisheries sectors and to other nations in the Western, Northern, and Central Pacific;

(E) develop means by which local and traditional knowledge (including Pacific islander, Native Hawaiian, and Alaskan Native knowledge) can enhance science-based management of fishery resources of the region; and

(F) develop partnerships with other Western Pacific Island and Alaskan agencies, academic institutions, and other entities to meet the purposes of this section.

(k) MULTISPECIES GROUND FISH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 60 days after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary of Commerce shall determine whether fishing in State waters—

(A) without a New England multispecies groundfish fishery permit on regulated species within the multispecies complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan; or

(B) without a Federal bottomfish and seamount groundfish permit in the Hawaiian archipelago on regulated species within the complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan or State data are not sufficient to make such a determination.

(2) CURE.—If the Secretary makes a determination that such actions are not consistent with the plan, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Council, and after notifying the affected State, develop and implement measures to cure the inconsistency pursuant to section 306(b).

P.L. 109-479, sec. 116(b)(2)

EFFECTIVE DATE.—The allocation percentage in subclause (I) of section 305(i)(1)(B)(ii) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(1)(B)(ii)), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall be in effect in 2007 with respect to any sector of a fishery to which such subclause applies and in which a fishing cooperative is established in 2007, and such sector's

2007 allocation shall be reduced by a pro rata amount to accomplish such increased allocation to the program. For purposes of section 305(i)(1) of that Act and of this subsection, the term “fishing cooperative” means a fishing cooperative whether or not authorized by a fishery management council or Federal agency, if a majority of the participants in the sector are participants in the fishing cooperative.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 110(e), M-S Act § 305 note

REGISTRY TRANSITION.--Security interests on permits described under section 305(h)(1) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act [104-297], that are effective and perfected by otherwise applicable law on the date of the final regulations implementing section 305(h) shall remain effective and perfected if, within 120 days after such date, the secured party submits evidence satisfactory to the Secretary of Commerce and in compliance with such regulations of the perfection of such security.

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P.L. 104-297, sec. 111(b); 106-555; M-S Act § 305 note

WESTERN PACIFIC DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.--

(1) The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to make direct grants to eligible western Pacific communities, as recommended by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, for the purpose of establishing fishery demonstration projects to foster and promote traditional indigenous fishing practices. There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$500,000 for each fiscal year.

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(2) Demonstration projects funded pursuant to this subsection shall foster and promote the involvement of western Pacific communities in western Pacific fisheries and may--

(A) identify and apply traditional indigenous fishing practices;

(B) develop or enhance western Pacific community-based fishing opportunities; and

(C) involve research, community education, or the acquisition of materials and equipment necessary to carry out any such demonstration project.

(3)(A) The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall establish an advisory panel under section 302(g) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(g)) to evaluate, determine the relative merits of, and annually rank applications for such grants. The panel shall consist of not more than 8 individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced in traditional indigenous fishery practices of western Pacific communities and who are not members or employees of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(B) If the Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary of the Interior awards a grant for a demonstration project not in accordance with the rank given to such project by the advisory panel, the Secretary shall provide a detailed written explanation of the reasons therefor.

(4) The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council shall, with the assistance of such advisory panel, submit an annual report to the Congress assessing the status and progress of demonstration projects carried out under this subsection.

(5) Appropriate Federal agencies may provide technical assistance to western Pacific community-based entities to assist in carrying out demonstration projects under this subsection.

(6) In this subsection the term “Western Pacific community” means a community eligible to participate under section 305(i)(2)(B)(i) through (iv) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(B)(i) through (iv)).

Deleted: (6) For the purposes of this subsection, “western Pacific community” shall mean a community eligible to participate under section 305(i)(2)(B) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act.¶

97-453, 98-623**(a) IN GENERAL.--**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (b), nothing in this Act shall be construed as extending or diminishing the jurisdiction or authority of any State within its boundaries.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, except as provided in subsection (b), the jurisdiction and authority of a State shall extend

(A) to any pocket of waters that is adjacent to the State and totally enclosed by lines delimiting the territorial sea of the United States pursuant to the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone or any successor convention to which the United States is a party;

(B) with respect to the body of water commonly known as Nantucket Sound, to the pocket of water west of the seventieth meridian west of Greenwich; and

(C) to the waters of southeastern Alaska (for the purpose of regulating fishing for other than any species of crab) that are--

(i) north of the line representing the international boundary at Dixon Entrance and the westward extension of that line; east of 138 degrees west longitude; and not more than three nautical miles seaward from the coast, from the lines extending from headland to headland across all bays, inlets, straits, passes, sounds, and entrances, and from any island or group of islands, including the islands of the Alexander Archipelago (except Forrester Island); or

(ii) between the islands referred to in clause (i) (except Forrester Island) and the mainland.

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(3) A State may regulate a fishing vessel outside the boundaries of the State in the following circumstances:

(A) The fishing vessel is registered under the law of that State, and (i) there is no fishery management plan or other applicable Federal fishing regulations for the fishery in which the vessel is operating; or (ii) the State's laws and regulations are consistent with the fishery management plan and applicable Federal fishing regulations for the fishery in which the vessel is operating.

(B) The fishery management plan for the fishery in which the fishing vessel is operating delegates management of the fishery to a State and the State's laws and regulations are consistent with such fishery management plan. If at any time the Secretary determines that a State law or regulation applicable to a fishing vessel under this circumstance is not consistent with the fishery management plan, the Secretary shall promptly notify the State and the appropriate Council of such determination and provide an opportunity for the State to correct any inconsistencies identified in the notification. If, after notice and opportunity for corrective action, the State does not correct the inconsistencies identified by the Secretary, the authority granted to the State under this subparagraph shall not apply until the Secretary and the appropriate Council find that the State has corrected the inconsistencies. For a fishery for which there was a fishery management plan in place on August 1, 1996 that did not delegate management of the fishery to a State as of that date, the authority provided by this subparagraph applies only if the Council approves the delegation of management of the fishery to the State by a three-quarters majority vote of the voting members of the Council.

(C) The fishing vessel is not registered under the law of the State of Alaska and is operating in a fishery in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska for which there was no fishery management plan in place on August 1, 1996, and the Secretary and the North Pacific Council find that there is a legitimate interest of the State of Alaska in the conservation and management of such fishery. The authority provided under this subparagraph shall terminate when a fishery management plan under this Act is approved and implemented for such fishery.

99-659, 104-297

(b) EXCEPTION.--

(1) If the Secretary finds, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code, that--

(A) the fishing in a fishery, which is covered by a fishery management plan implemented under this Act, is engaged in predominately within the exclusive economic zone and beyond such zone; and

(B) any State has taken any action, or omitted to take any action, the results of which will substantially and adversely affect the carrying out of such fishery management plan; the Secretary shall promptly notify such State and the appropriate Council of such finding and of his intention to regulate the applicable fishery within the boundaries of such State (other than its internal waters), pursuant to such fishery management plan and the regulations promulgated to implement such plan.

(2) If the Secretary, pursuant to this subsection, assumes responsibility for the regulation of any fishery, the State involved may at any time thereafter apply to the Secretary for reinstatement of its authority over such fishery. If the Secretary finds that the reasons for which he assumed such regulation no longer prevail, he shall promptly terminate such regulation.

(3) If the State involved requests that a hearing be held pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conduct such hearing prior to taking any action under paragraph (1).

97-191, 101-627, 104-297

(c) EXCEPTION REGARDING FOREIGN FISH PROCESSING IN INTERNAL WATERS.--

(1) A foreign fishing vessel may engage in fish processing within the internal waters of a State if, and only if--

(A) the vessel is qualified for purposes of this paragraph pursuant to paragraph (4)(C) or has received a permit under section 204(d);

(B) the owner or operator of the vessel applies to the Governor of the State for, and (subject to paragraph (2)) is granted, permission for the vessel to engage in such processing and the application specifies the species to be processed; and

(C) the owner or operator of the vessel submits reports on the tonnage of fish received from vessels of the United States and the locations from which such fish were harvested, in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary by regulation shall prescribe.

(2) The Governor of a State may not grant permission for a foreign fishing vessel to engage in fish processing under paragraph (1)--

(A) for a fishery which occurs in the waters of more than one State or in the exclusive economic zone, except after--

(i) consulting with the appropriate Council and Marine Fisheries Commission, and

(ii) considering any comments received from the Governor of any other State where the fishery occurs; and

(B) if the Governor determines that fish processors within the State have adequate capacity, and will utilize such capacity, to process all of the United States harvested fish from the fishery concerned that are landed in the State.

(3) Nothing in this subsection may be construed as relieving a foreign fishing vessel from the duty to comply with all applicable Federal and State laws while operating within the internal waters of a State incident to permission obtained under paragraph (1)(B).

(4) For purposes of this subsection--

(A) The term "fish processing" includes, in addition to processing, the performance of any other activity relating to fishing, including, but not limited to, preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, or transportation.

(B) The phrase "internal waters of a State" means all waters within the boundaries of a State except those seaward of the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured.

(C) A foreign fishing vessel shall be treated as qualified for purposes of paragraph (1) if the foreign nation under which it is flagged will be a party to (i) a governing international fishery agreement or (ii) a treaty described in section 201(b) of this Act (16 U.S.C. 1821(b)) during the time the vessel will engage in the fish processing for which permission is sought under paragraph (1)(B).

SEC. 307. PROHIBITED ACTS

16 U.S.C. 1857

It is unlawful--

99-659, 101-224, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297, 106-557

(1) for any person--

(A) to violate any provision of this Act or any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this Act;

(B) to use any fishing vessel to engage in fishing after the revocation, or during the period of suspension, of an applicable permit issued pursuant to this Act;

(C) to violate any provision of, or regulation under, an applicable governing international fishery agreement entered into pursuant to section 201(c);

(D) to refuse to permit any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act (as provided for in section 311) to board a fishing vessel subject to such person's control for the purposes of conducting any search or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this Act or any regulation, permit, or agreement referred to in subparagraph (A) or (C);

(E) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any such authorized officer in the conduct of any search or inspection described in subparagraph (D);

(F) to resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this section;

(G) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of, any fish taken or retained in violation of this Act or any regulation, permit, or agreement referred to in subparagraph (A) or (C);

(H) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension or arrest of another person, knowing that such other person has committed any act prohibited by this section;

(I) to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United States fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act;

(J) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any whole live lobster of the species *Homarus americanus*, that--

(i) is smaller than the minimum possession size in effect at the time under the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan, as implemented by regulations published in part 649 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor to that plan implemented under this title, or in the absence of any such plan, is smaller than the minimum possession size in effect at the time under a coastal fishery management plan for American lobster adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (16 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.);

(ii) is bearing eggs attached to its abdominal appendages; or

(iii) bears evidence of the forcible removal of extruded eggs from its abdominal appendages;

(K) to to [sic] steal or attempt to steal or to negligently and without authorization remove, damage, or tamper with--

(i) fishing gear owned by another person, which is located in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas]*, or

(ii) fish contained in such fishing gear;

(L) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with any observer on a vessel under this Act, or any data collector employed by the National Marine Fisheries Service or under contract to any person to carry out responsibilities under this Act;

(M) to engage in large-scale driftnet fishing that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including use of a fishing vessel of the United States to engage in such fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation;

(N) to strip pollock of its roe and discard the flesh of the pollock;

(O) to knowingly and willfully fail to disclose, or to falsely disclose, any financial interest as required under section 302(j), or to knowingly vote on a Council decision in violation of section 302(j)(7)(A);

Deleted: or

(P)(i) to remove any of the fins of a shark (including the tail) and discard the carcass of the shark at sea;

(ii) to have custody, control, or possession of any such fin aboard a fishing vessel without the corresponding carcass; or

(iii) to land any such fin without the corresponding carcass;

(Q) to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any fish taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any foreign law or regulation; or

(R) to use any fishing vessel to engage in fishing in Federal or State waters, or on the high seas or in the waters of another country, after the Secretary has made a payment to the owner of that fishing vessel under section 312(b)(2).

Deleted: carcass.

For the purposes of subparagraph (P) there is a rebuttable presumption that any shark fins landed from a fishing vessel or found on board a fishing vessel were taken, held, or landed in violation of subparagraph (P) if the total weight of shark fins landed or found on board exceeds 5 percent of the total weight of shark carcasses landed or found on board.

97-191, 97-453, 102-251, 104-297

(2) for any vessel other than a vessel of the United States, and for the owner or operator of any vessel other than a vessel of the United States, to engage--

(A) in fishing within the boundaries of any State, except--

- (i) recreational fishing permitted under section 201(i);
- (ii) fish processing permitted under section 306(c); or
- (iii) transshipment at sea of fish or fish products within the boundaries of any State in accordance with a permit approved under section 204(d);

(B) in fishing, except recreational fishing permitted under section 201(i), within the exclusive economic zone, or for any anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*, unless such fishing is authorized by, and conducted in accordance with, a valid and applicable permit issued pursuant to section 204(b), (c) or (d); or

(C) except as permitted under section 306(c), in fish processing (as defined in paragraph (4)(A) of such section) within the internal waters of a State (as defined in paragraph (4)(B) of such section);

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(3) for any vessel of the United States, and for the owner or operator of any vessel of the United States, to transfer at sea directly or indirectly, or attempt to so transfer at sea, any United States harvested fish to any foreign fishing vessel, while such foreign vessel is within the exclusive economic zone or within the boundaries of any State except to the extent that the foreign fishing vessel has been permitted under section 204(d) or section 306(c) to receive such fish;

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(4) for any fishing vessel other than a vessel of the United States to operate, and for the owner or operator of a fishing vessel other than a vessel of the United States to operate such vessel, in the exclusive economic zone or within the boundaries of any State [or special areas]*, if--

(A) all fishing gear on the vessel is not stored below deck or in an area where it is not normally used, and not readily available, for fishing; or

(B) all fishing gear on the vessel which is not so stored is not secured and covered so as to render it unusable for fishing;

unless such vessel is authorized to engage in fishing in the area in which the vessel is operating; and

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(5) for any vessel of the United States, and for the owner or operator of any vessel of the United States, to engage in fishing in the waters of a foreign nation in a manner that violates an international fishery agreement between that nation and the United States that has been subject to Congressional oversight in the manner described in section 203, or any regulations issued to implement such an agreement; except that the binding provisions of such agreement and implementing regulations shall have been published in the Federal Register prior to such violation.

SEC. 308. CIVIL PENALTIES AND PERMIT SANCTIONS**16 U.S.C. 1858****101-627, 104-297**

(a) **ASSESSMENT OF PENALTY.**--Any person who is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have committed an act prohibited by section 307 shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty. The amount of the civil penalty shall not exceed \$100,000 for each violation. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate offense. The amount of such civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary, or his designee, by written notice. In determining the amount of such penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, and such other matters as justice may require. In assessing such penalty the Secretary may also consider any information provided by the violator relating to the ability of the violator to pay, *Provided*, That the information is served on the Secretary at least 30 days prior to an administrative hearing.

99-659, 104-297

(b) **REVIEW OF CIVIL PENALTY.**--Any person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under subsection (a) or against whom a permit sanction is imposed under subsection (g) (other than a permit suspension for nonpayment of penalty or fine) may obtain review thereof in the United States district court for the appropriate district by filing a complaint against the Secretary in such court within 30 days from the date of such order. The Secretary shall promptly file in such court a certified copy of the record upon which such violation was found or such penalty imposed, as provided in section 2112 of title 28, United States Code. The findings and order of the Secretary shall be set aside by such court if they are not found to be supported by substantial evidence, as provided in section 706(2) of title 5, United States Code.

(c) **ACTION UPON FAILURE TO PAY ASSESSMENT.**--If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has become a final and unappealable order, or after the appropriate court has entered final judgment in favor of the Secretary, the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Attorney General of the United States, who shall recover the amount assessed in any appropriate district court of the United States. In such action, the validity and appropriateness of the final order imposing the civil penalty shall not be subject to review.

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(d) IN REM JURISDICTION.--A fishing vessel (including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used in the commission of an act prohibited by section 307 shall be liable in rem for any civil penalty assessed for such violation under section 308 and may be proceeded against in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof. Such penalty shall constitute a maritime lien on such vessel which may be recovered in an action in rem in the district court of the United States having jurisdiction over the vessel.

99-659

(e) COMPROMISE OR OTHER ACTION BY SECRETARY.--The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty which is subject to imposition or which has been imposed under this section.

97-453, 99-659

(f) SUBPOENAS.--For the purposes of conducting any hearing under this section, the Secretary may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, and documents, and may administer oaths. Witnesses summoned shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in the courts of the United States. In case of contempt or refusal to obey a subpoena served upon any person pursuant to this subsection, the district court of the United States for any district in which such person is found, resides, or transacts business, upon application by the United States and after notice to such person, shall have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person to appear and give testimony before the Secretary or to appear and produce documents before the Secretary, or both, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

101-627, 104-297

(g) PERMIT SANCTIONS.--

(1) In any case in which (A) a vessel has been used in the commission of an act prohibited under section 307, (B) the owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under this Act has acted in violation of section 307, (C) any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture imposed on a vessel or other property, or any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed on a vessel or owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under any marine resource law enforced by the Secretary has not been paid and is overdue, or (D) any payment required for observer services provided to or contracted by an owner or operator who has been issued a permit or applied for a permit under any marine resource law administered by the Secretary has not been paid and is overdue, the Secretary may--

(i) revoke any permit issued with respect to such vessel or person, with or without prejudice to the issuance of subsequent permits;

(ii) suspend such permit for a period of time considered by the Secretary to be appropriate;

(iii) deny such permit; or
(iv) impose additional conditions and restrictions on any permit issued to or applied for by such vessel or person under this Act and, with respect to foreign fishing vessels, on the approved application of the foreign nation involved and on any permit issued under that application.

(2) In imposing a sanction under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into account--

(A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts for which the sanction is imposed; and

(B) with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, and such other matters as justice may require.

(3) Transfer of ownership of a vessel, by sale or otherwise, shall not extinguish any permit sanction that is in effect or is pending at the time of transfer of ownership. Before executing the transfer of ownership of a vessel, by sale or otherwise, the owner shall disclose in writing to the prospective transferee the existence of any permit sanction that will be in effect or pending with respect to the vessel at the time of the transfer.

(4) In the case of any permit that is suspended under this subsection for nonpayment of a civil penalty or criminal fine, the Secretary shall reinstate the permit upon payment of the penalty or fine and interest thereon at the prevailing rate.

(5) No sanctions shall be imposed under this subsection unless there has been prior opportunity for a hearing on the facts underlying the violation for which the sanction is imposed, either in conjunction with a civil penalty proceeding under this section or otherwise.

SEC. 309. CRIMINAL OFFENSES

16 U.S.C. 1859

99-659, 100-66, 101-627

(a) **OFFENSES.**--A person is guilty of an offense if he commits any act prohibited by--

(1) section 307(1)(D), (E), (F), (H), (I), or (L); or

(2) section 307(2).

97-453, 101-627

(b) **PUNISHMENT.**--Any offense described in subsection (a)(1) is punishable by a fine of not more than \$100,000, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both; except that if in the commission of any such offense the person uses a dangerous weapon, engages in conduct that causes bodily injury to any observer described in section 307(1)(L) or any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act (as provided for in section 311), or places any such observer or officer in fear of imminent bodily injury, the offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$200,000, or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both. Any offense described in subsection (a)(2) is punishable by a fine of not more than \$200,000.

(c) **JURISDICTION.**--There is Federal jurisdiction over any offense described in this section.

97-453

(a) **IN GENERAL.**--Any fishing vessel (including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used, and any fish (or the fair market value thereof) taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of the commission of any act prohibited by section 307 (other than any act for which the issuance of a citation under section 311(c) is sufficient sanction) shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States. All or part of such vessel may, and all such fish (or the fair market value thereof) shall, be forfeited to the United States pursuant to a civil proceeding under this section.

(b) **JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT COURTS.**--Any district court of the United States which has jurisdiction under section 311(d) shall have jurisdiction, upon application by the Attorney General on behalf of the United States, to order any forfeiture authorized under subsection (a) and any action provided for under subsection (d).

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(c) **JUDGMENT.**--If a judgment is entered for the United States in a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section, the Attorney General may seize any property or other interest declared forfeited to the United States, which has not previously been seized pursuant to this Act or for which security has not previously been obtained under subsection (d). The provisions of the customs laws relating to--

- (1) the seizure, forfeiture, and condemnation of property for violation of the customs law;
- (2) the disposition of such property or the proceeds from the sale thereof; and
- (3) the remission or mitigation of any such forfeiture; shall apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions of this Act, unless such provisions are inconsistent with the purposes, policy, and provisions of this Act. The duties and powers imposed upon the Commissioner of Customs or other persons under such provisions shall, with respect to this Act, be performed by officers or other persons designated for such purpose by the Secretary.

99-659**(d) PROCEDURE.--**

(1) Any officer authorized to serve any process in rem which is issued by a court having jurisdiction under section 311(d) shall--

- (A) stay the execution of such process; or
- (B) discharge any fish seized pursuant to such process; upon the receipt of a satisfactory bond or other security from any person claiming such property. Such bond or other security shall be conditioned upon such person (i) delivering such property to the appropriate court upon order thereof, without any impairment of its value, or (ii) paying the monetary value of such property pursuant to an order of such court. Judgment shall be recoverable on such bond or other security against both the principal and any sureties in the event that any condition thereof is breached, as determined by such court. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to require the Secretary, except in the Secretary's discretion or pursuant to the order of a court under section 311(d), to release on bond any seized fish or other property or the proceeds from the sale thereof.

(2) Any fish seized pursuant to this Act may be sold, subject to the approval and direction of the appropriate court, for not less than the fair market value thereof. The proceeds of any such sale shall be deposited with such court pending the disposition of the matter involved.

101-627, 104-297

(e) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.--

(1) For purposes of this section, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that all fish found on board a fishing vessel which is seized in connection with an act prohibited by section 307 were taken and retained in violation of this Act.

(2) For purposes of this Act, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that any fish of a species which spawns in fresh or estuarine waters and migrates to ocean waters that is found on board a vessel is of United States origin if the vessel is within the migratory range of the species during that part of the year to which the migratory range applies.

(3) For purposes of this Act, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that any vessel that is shoreward of the outer boundary of the exclusive economic zone of the United States or beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation, and that has gear on board that is capable of use for large-scale driftnet fishing, is engaged in such fishing.

SEC. 311. ENFORCEMENT

16 U.S.C. 1861

96-470, 97-453

(a) RESPONSIBILITY.--The provisions of this Act shall be enforced by the Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating. Such Secretaries may, by agreement, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, utilize the personnel, services, equipment (including aircraft and vessels), and facilities of any other Federal agency, including all elements of the Department of Defense, and of any State agency, in the performance of such duties.

97-453, 102-251

(b) POWERS OF AUTHORIZED OFFICERS.--

(1) Any officer who is authorized (by the Secretary, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, or the head of any Federal or State agency which has entered into an agreement with such Secretaries under subsection (a)) to enforce the provisions of this Act may--

(A) with or without a warrant or other process--

(i) arrest any person, if he has reasonable cause to believe that such person has committed an act prohibited by section 307;

(ii) board, and search or inspect, any fishing vessel which is subject to the provisions of this Act;

(iii) seize any fishing vessel (together with its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used or employed in, or with respect to which it reasonably appears that such vessel was used or employed in, the violation of any provision of this Act;

(iv) seize any fish (wherever found) taken or retained in violation of any provision of this Act;

(v) seize any other evidence related to any violation of any provision of this Act;

and

(vi) access, directly or indirectly, for enforcement purposes any data or information required to be provided under this title or regulations under this title, including data from vessel monitoring systems, satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or any similar system, subject to the confidentiality provisions of section 402;

(B) execute any warrant or other process issued by any court of competent jurisdiction; and

(C) exercise any other lawful authority.

(2) Subject to the direction of the Secretary, a person charged with law enforcement responsibilities by the Secretary who is performing a duty related to enforcement of a law regarding fisheries or other marine resources may make an arrest without a warrant for an offense against the United States committed in his presence, or for a felony cognizable under the laws of the United States, if he has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing a felony. The arrest authority described in the preceding sentence may be conferred upon an officer or employee of a State agency, subject to such conditions and restrictions as are set forth by agreement between the State agency, the Secretary, and, with respect to enforcement operations within the exclusive economic zone [or special areas]*, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(c) ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS.--If any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act (as provided for in this section) finds that a fishing vessel is operating or has been operated in violation of any provision of this Act, such officer may, in accordance with regulations issued jointly by the Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, issue a citation to the owner or operator of such vessel in lieu of proceeding under subsection (b). If a permit has been issued pursuant to this Act for such vessel, such officer shall note the issuance of any citation under this subsection, including the date thereof and the reason therefor, on the permit. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all citations issued pursuant to this subsection.

104-297

(d) JURISDICTION OF COURTS.--The district courts of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any case or controversy arising under the provisions of this Act. In the case of Guam or any possession of the United States in the Pacific Ocean, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Guam, except that in the case of American Samoa, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, and except that in the case of the Northern Mariana Islands, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any such court may, at any time--

Deleted: and

- (1) enter restraining orders or prohibitions;
- (2) issue warrants, process in rem, or other process;
- (3) prescribe and accept satisfactory bonds or other security; and
- (4) take such other actions as are in the interest of justice.

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(e) PAYMENT OF STORAGE, CARE, AND OTHER COSTS.--

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury may pay from sums received as fines, penalties, and forfeitures of property for violations of any provisions of this Act or of any other marine resource law enforced by the Secretary, including the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.)--

(A) the reasonable and necessary costs incurred in providing temporary storage, care, and maintenance of seized fish or other property pending disposition of any civil or criminal proceeding alleging a violation of any provision of this Act or any other marine resource law enforced by the Secretary with respect to that fish or other property;

(B) a reward of not less than 20 percent of the penalty collected or \$20,000, whichever is the lesser amount, to any person who furnishes information which leads to an arrest, conviction, civil penalty assessment, or forfeiture of property for any violation of any provision of this Act or any other fishery resource law enforced by the Secretary;

(C) any expenses directly related to investigations and civil or criminal enforcement proceedings, including any necessary expenses for equipment, training, travel, witnesses, and contracting services directly related to such investigations or proceedings;

(D) any valid liens or mortgages against any property that has been forfeited;

(E) claims of parties in interest to property disposed of under section 612(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1612(b)), as made applicable by section 310(c) of this Act or by any other marine resource law enforced by the Secretary, to seizures made by the Secretary, in amounts determined by the Secretary to be applicable to such claims at the time of seizure; and

(F) reimbursement to any Federal or State agency, including the Coast Guard, for services performed, or personnel, equipment, or facilities utilized, under any agreement with the Secretary entered into pursuant to subsection (a), or any similar agreement authorized by law.

(2) Any person found in an administrative or judicial proceeding to have violated this Act or any other marine resource law enforced by the Secretary shall be liable for the cost incurred in the sale, storage, care, and maintenance of any fish or other property lawfully seized in connection with the violation.

**(f) ENFORCEMENT OF NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN.--**

(1) ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS.--Beginning not later than October 1, 1993, the Secretary shall, if requested by the Governor of a State represented on the New England Fishery Management Council, enter into an agreement under subsection (a), with each of the States represented on such Council, that authorizes the marine law enforcement agency of such State to perform duties of the Secretary relating to enforcement of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT.--An agreement with a State under this subsection shall provide, subject to the availability of appropriations, for reimbursement of the State for expenses incurred in detection and prosecution of violations of any fishery management plan approved by the Secretary.

(3) COAST GUARD ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP.--

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.--The Commander of the First Coast Guard District shall establish an informal fisheries enforcement working group to improve the overall compliance with and effectiveness of the regulations issued under the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.--The working group shall consist of members selected by the Commander, and shall include--

- (i) individuals who are representatives of various fishing ports located in the States represented on the New England Fishery Management Council;
- (ii) captains of fishing vessels that operate in waters under the jurisdiction of that Council; and
- (iii) other individuals the Commander considers appropriate.

(C) NON-FEDERAL STATUS OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS.--An individual shall not receive any compensation for, and shall not be considered to be a Federal employee based on, membership in the working group.

(D) MEETINGS.--The working group shall meet, at the call of the Commander, at least four times each year. The meetings shall be held at various major fishing ports in States represented on the New England Fishery Management Council, as specified by the Commander.

(4) USE OF FINES AND PENALTIES.--Amounts available to the Secretary under this Act which are attributable to fines and penalties imposed for violations of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan shall be used by the Secretary pursuant to this section to enforce that Plan.

(g) **ENFORCEMENT IN THE PACIFIC INSULAR AREAS.**--The Secretary, in consultation with the Governors of the Pacific Insular Areas and the Western Pacific Council, shall to the extent practicable support cooperative enforcement agreements between Federal and Pacific Insular Area authorities.

(h) JOINT ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS.--

(1) IN GENERAL.--The Governor of an eligible State may apply to the Secretary for execution of a joint enforcement agreement with the Secretary that will authorize the deputization and funding of State law enforcement officers with marine law enforcement responsibilities to perform duties of the Secretary relating to law enforcement provisions under this title or any other marine resource law enforced by the Secretary. Upon receiving an application meeting the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary may enter into a joint enforcement agreement with the requesting State.

(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.--A State is eligible to participate in the cooperative enforcement agreements under this section if it is in, or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean (including the Caribbean Sea), the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or 1 or more of the Great Lakes.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.--Joint enforcement agreements executed under paragraph (1)--

(A) shall be consistent with the purposes and intent of this section to the extent applicable to the regulated activities;

(B) may include specifications for joint management responsibilities as provided by the first section of Public Law 91-412 (15 U.S.C. 1525); and

(C) shall provide for confidentiality of data and information submitted to the State under section 402.

(4) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.--The Secretary shall include in each joint enforcement agreement an allocation of funds to assist in management of the agreement. The allocation shall be fairly distributed among all eligible States participating in cooperative enforcement agreements under this subsection, based upon consideration of Federal marine enforcement needs, the specific marine conservation enforcement needs of each participating eligible State, and the capacity of the State to undertake the marine enforcement mission and assist with enforcement needs. The agreement may provide for amounts to be withheld by the Secretary for the cost of any technical or other assistance provided to the State by the Secretary under the agreement.

(i) IMPROVED DATA SHARING.--

(1) IN GENERAL.--Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, as soon as practicable but no later than 21 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall implement data-sharing measures to make any data required to be provided by this Act from satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, vessel monitoring systems, or similar systems--

(A) directly accessible by State enforcement officers authorized under subsection (a) of this section; and

(B) available to a State management agency involved in, or affected by, management of a fishery if the State has entered into an agreement with the Secretary under section 402(b)(1)(B) of this Act.

(2) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.--The Secretary shall promptly enter into an agreement

with a State under section 402(b)(1)(B) of this Act if—

(A) the Attorney General or highest ranking legal officer of the State provides a written opinion or certification that State law allows the State to maintain the confidentiality of information required by Federal law to be kept confidential; or

(B) the Secretary is provided other reasonable assurance that the State can and will protect the identity or business of any person to which such information relates.

99-659, 104-297

(i) DEFINITIONS⁵ .--For purposes of this section--

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(1) The term "provisions of this Act" includes (A) any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this Act, and (B) any provision of, or regulation issued pursuant to, any international fishery agreement under which foreign fishing is authorized by section 201(b) or (c), or section 204(d), with respect to fishing subject to the exclusive fishery management authority of the United States.

(2) The term "violation of any provision of this Act" includes (A) the commission of any act prohibited by section 307, and (B) the violation of any regulation, permit, or agreement referred to in paragraph (1).

P.L. 109-479, sec. 111(b)

REPORT.—Within 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Coast Guard shall transmit a joint report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources containing—

(1) a cost-to-benefit analysis of the feasibility, value, and cost of using vessel monitoring systems, satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or similar systems for fishery management, conservation, enforcement, and safety purposes with the Federal government bearing the capital costs of any such system;

(2) an examination of the cumulative impact of existing requirements for commercial vessels;

(3) an examination of whether satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or similar requirements would overlap existing requirements or render them redundant;

(4) an examination of how data integration from such systems could be addressed;

(5) an examination of how to maximize the data-sharing opportunities between relevant State and Federal agencies and provide specific information on how to develop these opportunities, including the provision of direct access to satellite-based maritime distress and safety system or similar system data to State enforcement officers, while considering the need to maintain or provide an appropriate level of individual vessel confidentiality where practicable; and

(6) an assessment of how the satellite-based maritime distress and safety system or similar systems could be developed, purchased, and distributed to regulated vessels.

⁵ Section 115(e) of Public Law 104-297 "amends" § 311(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act by: (1) inserting "201(b) or (c), or section 204(d)," and (2) striking "201(b), (c),". Since § 311 does not include a subsection (i), the editors assume Congress intended to revise subsection (h). Since the words "201(b), (c)," do not appear in § 311(h), the editors assume Congress intended to strike the words "201(b) or (c),".

(a) FISHERIES DISASTER RELIEF.--

(1) At the discretion of the Secretary or at the request of the Governor of an affected State or a fishing community, the Secretary shall determine whether there is a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster as a result of--

(A) natural causes;

(B) man-made causes beyond the control of fishery managers to mitigate through conservation and management measures, including regulatory restrictions (including those imposed as a result of judicial action) imposed to protect human health or the marine environment; or

(C) undetermined causes.

Deleted: measures;

(2) Upon the determination under paragraph (1) that there is a commercial fishery failure, the Secretary is authorized to make sums available to be used by the affected State, fishing community, or by the Secretary in cooperation with the affected State or fishing community for assessing the economic and social effects of the commercial fishery failure, or any activity that the Secretary determines is appropriate to restore the fishery or prevent a similar failure in the future and to assist a fishing community affected by such failure. Before making funds available for an activity authorized under this section, the Secretary shall make a determination that such activity will not expand the size or scope of the commercial fishery failure in that fishery or into other fisheries or other geographic regions.

(3) The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out under the authority of this subsection shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of that activity.

(4) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2013.

Deleted: 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999.

(b) FISHING CAPACITY REDUCTION PROGRAM.--

(1) The Secretary, at the request of the appropriate Council for fisheries under the authority of such Council, the Governor of a State for fisheries under State authority, or a majority of permit holders in the fishery, may conduct a voluntary fishing capacity reduction program (referred to in this section as the "program") in a fishery if the Secretary determines that the program--

Deleted: or the Governor of a State for fisheries under State authority, may conduct a fishing

(A) is necessary to prevent or end overfishing, rebuild stocks of fish, or achieve measurable and significant improvements in the conservation and management of the fishery;

(B) is consistent with the Federal or State fishery management plan or program in effect for such fishery, as appropriate, and that the fishery management plan--

(i) will prevent the replacement of fishing capacity removed by the program through a moratorium on new entrants, practicable restrictions on vessel upgrades,

⁶ Sections 116, 203, 204, 205, and 206 of Public Law 104-297 "amend" sections of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that do not exist (specifically, sections 312, 402, 403, 404, and 405). The editors assume Congress intended to "add" new sections.

and other effort control measures, taking into account the full potential fishing capacity of the fleet; and

(ii) establishes a specified or target total allowable catch or other measures that trigger closure of the fishery or adjustments to reduce catch; and

(C) is cost-effective and, in the instance of a program involving an industry fee system, prospectively capable of repaying any debt obligation incurred under section 1111 of title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936.

Deleted: cost-effective and

(2) The objective of the program shall be to obtain the maximum sustained reduction in fishing capacity at the least cost and in a minimum period of time. To achieve that objective, the Secretary is authorized to pay--

(A) the owner of a fishing vessel, if the permit authorizing the participation of the vessel in the fishery is surrendered for permanent revocation and the vessel owner and permit holder relinquish any claim associated with the vessel or permit that could qualify such owner or holder for any present or future limited access system permit in the fishery for which the program is established or in any other fishery and such vessel is (i) scrapped, or (ii) through the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, subjected to title restrictions (including loss of the vessel's fisheries endorsement) that permanently prohibit and effectively prevent its use in fishing in federal or state waters, or fishing on the high seas or in the waters of a foreign nation; or

(B) the holder of a permit authorizing participation in the fishery, if such permit is surrendered for permanent revocation, and such holder relinquishes any claim associated with the permit and vessel used to harvest fishery resources under the permit that could qualify such holder for any present or future limited access system permit in the fishery for which the program was established.

Deleted: (A) the owner of a fishing vessel, if such vessel is (i) scrapped, or (ii) through the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, subjected to title restrictions that permanently prohibit and effectively prevent its use in fishing, and if the permit authorizing the participation of the vessel in the fishery is surrendered for permanent revocation and the owner relinquishes any claim associated with the vessel and permit that could qualify such owner for any present or future limited access system permit in the fishery for which the program is established; or¶

(3) Participation in the program shall be voluntary, but the Secretary shall ensure compliance by all who do participate.

(4) The harvester proponents of each program and the Secretary shall consult, as appropriate and practicable, with Councils, Federal agencies, State and regional authorities, affected fishing communities, participants in the fishery, conservation organizations, and other interested parties throughout the development and implementation of any program under this section.

Deleted: The Secretary shall consult, as appropriate, with Councils,

(5) PAYMENT CONDITION.—The Secretary may not make a payment under paragraph (2) with respect to a vessel that will not be scrapped unless the Secretary certifies that the vessel will not be used for fishing in the waters of a foreign nation or fishing on the high seas.

(6) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary shall, within 12 months after the date of the enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 submit to the Congress a report—

(i) identifying and describing the 20 fisheries in United States waters with the most severe examples of excess harvesting capacity in the fisheries, based on value of each fishery and the amount of excess harvesting capacity as determined by the

Secretary:

(ii) recommending measures for reducing such excess harvesting capacity, including the retirement of any latent fishing permits that could contribute to further excess harvesting capacity in those fisheries; and

(iii) potential sources of funding for such measures.

(B) BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall base the recommendations made with respect to a fishery on—

(i) the most cost effective means of achieving voluntary reduction in capacity for the fishery using the potential for industry financing; and

(ii) including measures to prevent the capacity that is being removed from the fishery from moving to other fisheries in the United States, in the waters of a foreign nation, or on the high seas.

(c) PROGRAM FUNDING.--

(1) The program may be funded by any combination of amounts--

(A) available under clause (iv) of section 2(b)(1)(A) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713c-3(b)(1)(A); the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act);

(B) appropriated for the purposes of this section;

(C) provided by an industry fee system established under subsection (d) and in accordance with section 1111 of title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936; or

(D) provided from any State or other public sources or private or non-profit organizations.

(2) All funds for the program, including any fees established under subsection (d), shall be paid into the fishing capacity reduction fund established under section 1111 of title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936.

(d) INDUSTRY FEE SYSTEM.--

(1) (A) If an industry fee system is necessary to fund the program, the Secretary may conduct a referendum on such system. Prior to the referendum, the Secretary shall--

(i) identify, to the extent practicable, and notify all permit or vessel owners who would be affected by the program; and

(ii) make available to such owners information about the industry fee system describing the schedule, procedures, and eligibility requirements for the referendum, the proposed program, and the amount and duration and any other terms and conditions of the proposed fee system.

(B) The industry fee system shall be considered approved if the referendum votes which are cast in favor of the proposed system constitute at least a majority of the permit holders in the fishery, or 50 percent of the permitted allocation of the fishery, who participated in the fishery.

Deleted: Secretary, at the request of the appropriate Council,

Deleted: Secretary, in consultation with the Council,

Deleted: a two-thirds majority of the participants voting.

(2) Notwithstanding section 304(d) and consistent with an approved industry fee system, the Secretary is authorized to establish such a system to fund the program and repay debt obligations incurred pursuant to section 1111 of title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936. The fees for a program established under this section shall--

(A) be determined by the Secretary and adjusted from time to time as the Secretary considers necessary to ensure the availability of sufficient funds to repay such debt obligations;

(B) not exceed 5 percent of the ex-vessel value of all fish harvested from the fishery for which the program is established;

(C) be deducted by the first ex-vessel fish purchaser from the proceeds otherwise payable to the seller and accounted for and forwarded by such fish purchasers to the Secretary in such manner as the Secretary may establish, unless the Secretary determines that such fees should be collected from the seller; and

(D) be in effect only until such time as the debt obligation has been fully paid.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall propose and adopt framework regulations applicable to the implementation of all programs under this section.

(2) PROGRAM REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall implement each program under this section by promulgating regulations that, together with the framework regulations, establish each program and control its implementation.

(3) HARVESTER PROPONENTS' IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—The Secretary may not propose implementation regulations for a program to be paid for by an industry fee system until the harvester proponents of the program provide to the Secretary a proposed implementation plan that, among other matters—

(A) proposes the types and numbers of vessels or permits that are eligible to participate in the program and the manner in which the program shall proceed, taking into account—

(i) the requirements of this section;

(ii) the requirements of the framework regulations;

(iii) the characteristics of the fishery and affected fishing communities;

(iv) the requirements of the applicable fishery management plan and any amendment that such plan may require to support the proposed program;

(v) the general needs and desires of harvesters in the fishery;

(vi) the need to minimize program costs; and

(vii) other matters, including the manner in which such proponents propose to fund the program to ensure its cost effectiveness, as well as any relevant factors demonstrating the potential for, or necessary to obtain, the support and general cooperation of a substantial number of affected harvesters in the fishery (or portion of the fishery) for which the program is intended; and

(B) proposes procedures for program participation (such as submission of owner bids under an auction system or fair market-value assessment), including any terms and conditions for participation, that the harvester proponents deem to be reasonably necessary to meet the program's proposed objectives.

(4) PARTICIPATION CONTRACTS.—The Secretary shall contract with each person participating in a program, and each such contract shall, in addition to including such other matters as the Secretary deems necessary and appropriate to effectively implement each program (including penalties for contract nonperformance) be consistent with the framework

Deleted: establish;

Deleted: (e) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.--¶

(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate Council or State and other interested parties, shall prepare and publish in the Federal Register for a 60-day public comment period an implementation plan, including proposed regulations, for each program. The implementation plan shall--¶

(A) define criteria for determining types and numbers of vessels which are eligible for participation in the program taking into account characteristics of the fishery, the requirements of applicable fishery management plans, the needs of fishing communities, and the need to minimize program costs; and¶

-----Section Break (Continuous)-----

(B) establish procedures for program participation (such as submission of owner bid under an auction system or fair market-value assessment) including any terms and conditions for participation which the Secretary deems to be reasonably necessary to meet the goals of the program.¶

¶
(2) During the 60-day public comment period--¶

(A) the Secretary shall conduct a public hearing in each State affected by the program; and¶

(B) the appropriate Council or State shall submit its comments and recommendations, if any, regarding the plan and regulations.¶

¶
(3) Within 45 days after the close of the public comment period, the Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate Council or State, shall analyze the public comment received and publish in the Federal Register a final implementation plan for the program and regulations for its implementation. The Secretary may not adopt a final implementation plan involving industry fees or debt obligation unless an industry fee system has been approved by a referendum under this section.¶

and implementing regulations and all other applicable law.

(5) REDUCTION AUCTIONS.—Each program not involving fair market assessment shall involve a reduction auction that scores the reduction price of each bid offer by the data relevant to each bidder under an appropriate fisheries productivity factor. If the Secretary accepts bids, the Secretary shall accept responsive bids in the rank order of their bid scores, starting with the bid whose reduction price is the lowest percentage of the productivity factor, and successively accepting each additional responsive bid in rank order until either there are no more responsive bids or acceptance of the next bid would cause the total value of bids accepted to exceed the amount of funds available for the program.

(6) BID INVITATIONS.—Each program shall proceed by the Secretary issuing invitations to bid setting out the terms and conditions for participation consistent with the framework and implementing regulations. Each bid that the Secretary receives in response to the invitation to bid shall constitute an irrevocable offer from the bidder.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 113(c)

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA SALMON FISHERY.—Federally recognized Indian tribes and small businesses, including fishermen, fish processors, and related businesses serving the fishing industry, adversely affected by Federal closures and fishing restrictions in the Oregon and California 2006 fall Chinook salmon fishery are eligible to receive direct assistance under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) and section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)). The Secretary may use no more than 4 percent of any monetary assistance to pay for administrative costs.

101-627

SEC. 313. NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONSERVATION

16 U.S.C. 1862

104-297

(a) IN GENERAL.--The North Pacific Council may prepare, in consultation with the Secretary, a fisheries research plan for any fishery under the Council's jurisdiction except a salmon fishery which--

(1) requires that observers be stationed on fishing vessels engaged in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish and on United States fish processors fishing for or processing species under the jurisdiction of the Council, including the Northern Pacific halibut fishery, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation, management, and scientific understanding of any fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction; and

(2) establishes a system, or system, of fees, which may vary by fishery, management area, or observer coverage level, to pay for the cost of implementing the plan.

Deleted: all fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction except salmon fisheries

102-582

(b) STANDARDS.--

(1) Any plan or plan amendment prepared under this section shall be reasonably calculated to--

(A) gather reliable data, by stationing observers on all or a statistically reliable sample of the fishing vessels and United States fish processors included in the plan, necessary for the conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the fisheries covered by the plan;

(B) be fair and equitable to all vessels and processors;

Deleted: (2) establishes a system of fees to pay for the costs of implementing the plan.¶

(C) be consistent with applicable provisions of law; and
(D) take into consideration the operating requirements of the fisheries and the safety of observers and fishermen.

(2) Any system of fees established under this section shall--

(A) provide that the total amount of fees collected under this section not exceed the combined cost of (i) stationing observers, or electronic monitoring systems, on board fishing vessels and United States fish processors, (ii) the actual cost of inputting collected data, and (iii) assessments necessary for a risk-sharing pool implemented under subsection (e) of this section, less any amount received for such purpose from another source or from an existing surplus in the North Pacific Fishery Observer Fund established in subsection (d) of this section;

Deleted: observers

(B) be fair and equitable to all participants in the fisheries under the jurisdiction of the Council, including the Northern Pacific halibut fishery;

(C) provide that fees collected not be used to pay any costs of administrative overhead or other costs not directly incurred in carrying out the plan;

(D) not be used to offset amounts authorized under other provisions of law;

(E) be expressed as a fixed amount reflecting actual observer costs as described in subparagraph (A) or a percentage, not to exceed 2 percent, of the unprocessed ex-vessel value of the fish and shellfish harvested under the jurisdiction of the Council, including the Northern Pacific halibut fishery;

(F) be assessed against some or all fishing vessels and United States fish processors, including those not required to carry an observer or an electronic monitoring system under the plan, participating in fisheries under the jurisdiction of the Council, including the Northern Pacific halibut fishery;

(G) provide that fees collected will be deposited in the North Pacific Fishery Observer Fund established under subsection (d) of this section;

(H) provide that fees collected will only be used for implementing the plan established under this section;

Deleted: and

(I) provide that fees collected will be credited against any fee for stationing observers or electronic monitoring systems on board fishing vessels and United States fish processors and the actual cost of inputting collected data to which a fishing vessel or fish processor is subject under section 304(d) of this Act; and

(J) meet the requirements of section 9701(b) of title 31, United States Code.

Deleted: I

(c) ACTION BY SECRETARY.--

(1) Within 60 days after receiving a plan or plan amendment from the North Pacific Council under this section, the Secretary shall review such plan or plan amendment and either (A) remand such plan or plan amendment to the Council with comments if it does not meet the requirements of this section, or (B) publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations for implementing such plan or plan amendment.

(2) During the 60-day public comment period, the Secretary shall conduct a public hearing in each State represented on the Council for the purpose of receiving public comments on the proposed regulations.

(3) Within 45 days of the close of the public comment period, the Secretary, in consultation with the Council, shall analyze the public comment received and publish final regulations for implementing such plan.

(4) If the Secretary remands a plan or plan amendment to the Council for failure to meet the requirements of this section, the Council may resubmit such plan or plan amendment at any time after taking action the Council believes will address the defects identified by the Secretary. Any plan or plan amendment resubmitted to the Secretary will be treated as an original plan submitted to the Secretary under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(d) FISHERY OBSERVER FUND.--There is established in the Treasury a North Pacific Fishery Observer Fund. The Fund shall be available, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, only to the Secretary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, subject to the restrictions in subsection (b)(2) of this section. The Fund shall consist of all monies deposited into it in accordance with this section. Sums in the Fund that are not currently needed for the purposes of this section shall be kept on deposit or invested in obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States.

(e) SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING OBSERVERS.--

(1) The Secretary shall review--

(A) the feasibility of establishing a risk sharing pool through a reasonable fee, subject to the limitations of subsection (b)(2)(E) of this section, to provide coverage for vessels and owners against liability from civil suits by observers, and

(B) the availability of comprehensive commercial insurance for vessel and owner liability against civil suits by observers.

(2) If the Secretary determines that a risk sharing pool is feasible, the Secretary shall establish such a pool, subject to the provisions of subsection (b)(2) of this section, unless the Secretary determines that--

(A) comprehensive commercial insurance is available for all fishing vessels and United States fish processors required to have observers under the provisions of this section, and

(B) such comprehensive commercial insurance will provide a greater measure of coverage at a lower cost to each participant.

104-297

(f) BYCATCH REDUCTION.--In implementing section 303(a)(11) and this section, the North Pacific Council shall submit conservation and management measures to lower, on an annual basis for a period of not less than four years, the total amount of economic discards occurring in the fisheries under its jurisdiction.

104-297

(g) BYCATCH REDUCTION INCENTIVES.--

(1) Notwithstanding section 304(d), the North Pacific Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve, consistent with the provisions of this Act, a system of fines in a fishery to provide incentives to reduce bycatch and bycatch rates; except that such fines shall not exceed \$25,000 per vessel per season. Any fines collected shall be deposited in the North Pacific Fishery Observer Fund, and may be made available by the Secretary to offset costs related to the reduction of bycatch in the fishery from which such fines were derived, including conservation and management measures and research, and to the State of Alaska to offset costs incurred by the State in the fishery from which such penalties were derived or in fisheries in which the State is directly involved in management or enforcement and which are directly affected by the fishery from which such penalties were derived.

(2) (A) Notwithstanding section 303(d), and in addition to the authority provided in section 303(b)(10), the North Pacific Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve, conservation and management measures which provide allocations of regulatory discards to individual fishing vessels as an incentive to reduce per vessel bycatch and bycatch rates in a fishery, *Provided*, That--

(i) such allocations may not be transferred for monetary consideration and are made only on an annual basis; and

(ii) any such conservation and management measures will meet the requirements of subsection (h) and will result in an actual reduction in regulatory discards in the fishery.

(B) The North Pacific Council may submit restrictions in addition to the restriction imposed by clause (i) of subparagraph (A) on the transferability of any such allocations, and the Secretary may approve such recommendation.

104-297

(h) CATCH MEASUREMENT.--

(1) By June 1, 1997 the North Pacific Council shall submit, and the Secretary may approve, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures to ensure total catch measurement in each fishery under the jurisdiction of such Council. Such measures shall ensure the accurate enumeration, at a minimum, of target species, economic discards, and regulatory discards.

(2) To the extent the measures submitted under paragraph (1) do not require United States fish processors and fish processing vessels (as defined in chapter 21 of title 46, United States Code) to weigh fish, the North Pacific Council and the Secretary shall submit a plan to the Congress by January 1, 1998, to allow for weighing, including recommendations to assist such processors and processing vessels in acquiring necessary equipment, unless the Council determines that such weighing is not necessary to meet the requirements of this subsection.

104-297

(i) FULL RETENTION AND UTILIZATION.--

(1) The North Pacific Council shall submit to the Secretary by October 1, 1998 a report on the advisability of requiring the full retention by fishing vessels and full utilization by United States fish processors of economic discards in fisheries under its jurisdiction if such

economic discards, or the mortality of such economic discards, cannot be avoided. The report shall address the projected impacts of such requirements on participants in the fishery and describe any full retention and full utilization requirements that have been implemented.

(2) The report shall address the advisability of measures to minimize processing waste, including standards setting minimum percentages which must be processed for human consumption. For the purpose of the report, 'processing waste' means that portion of any fish which is processed and which could be used for human consumption or other commercial use, but which is not so used.

(j) Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab rationalization.

(1) By not later than January 1, 2005, the Secretary shall approve and hereafter implement by regulation the Voluntary Three-Pie Cooperative Program for crab fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands approved by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council between June 2002 and April 2003, and all trailing amendments including those reported to Congress on May 6, 2003. This section shall not preclude the Secretary from approving by January 1, 2005, and implementing any subsequent program amendments approved by the Council.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in carrying out paragraph (1) the Secretary shall approve all parts of the Program referred to in such paragraph. Further, no part of such Program may be implemented if, as approved by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, individual fishing quotas, processing quotas, community development quota allocation, voluntary cooperatives, binding arbitration, regional landing and processing requirements, community protections, economic data collection, or the loan program for crab fishing vessel captains and crew members, is invalidated subject to a judicial determination not subject to judicial appeal. If the Secretary determines that a processor has leveraged its Individual Processor Quota shares to acquire a harvesters open-delivery "B shares", the processor's Individual Processor Quota shares shall be forfeited.

(3) Subsequent to implementation pursuant to paragraph (1), the Council may submit and the Secretary may implement changes to or repeal of conservation and management measures, including measures authorized in this section, for crab fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands in accordance with applicable law, including this Act as amended by this subsection, to achieve on a continuing basis the purposes identified by the Council.

(4) The loan program referred to in paragraph (2) shall be carried out pursuant to the authority of sections 1111 and 1112 of title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (*46 U.S.C. App. 1279f, 1279g*).

(5) For purposes of implementing this section \$ 1,000,000 shall be made available each year until fully implemented from funds otherwise made available to the National Marine Fisheries Service for Alaska fisheries activities.

(6) Nothing in this Act shall constitute a waiver, either express or implied, of the antitrust laws of the United States. The Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, shall develop and implement a mandatory information collection and review process to provide any and all information necessary for the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to determine whether any illegal acts of anti-competition, anti-trust, or price collusion have occurred among persons receiving individual processing quotas under the Program. The Secretary may revoke any individual processing quota held by any person found to have violated a provision of the antitrust laws of the United States.

(7) An individual processing quota issued under the Program shall be considered a permit for the purposes of sections 307, 308, and 309 [16 USCS § § 1857, 1858, and 1859], and may be revoked or limited at any time in accordance with this Act. Issuance of an individual processing quota under the program shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder of such individual processing quota if it is revoked or limited and shall not create, or be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in or to any fish before the fish is purchased from an individual fishing quota holder.

(8) The restriction on the collection of economic data in section 303 shall not apply with respect to any fish processor who is eligible for, or who has received, individual processing quota under the Program. The restriction on the disclosure of information in section 402(b)(1) [16 USCS § 1881a] shall not apply when the information is used to determine eligibility for or compliance with an individual processing quota program.

(9) The provisions of sections 308, 310, and 311 [16 USCS § § 1858, 1860, and 1861] shall apply to the processing facilities and fish products of any person holding individual processing quota, and the provisions of subparagraphs (D), (E), and (L) of section 307(l) [16 USCS § 1857(1)] shall apply to any facility owned or controlled by a person holding individual processing quota.

102-567

**SEC. 314. NORTHWEST ATLANTIC OCEAN FISHERIES
REINVESTMENT PROGRAM.--**

16 U.S.C. 1863

104-297

(a) PROGRAM.—

(1) Not later than October 1, 1993, the Secretary shall establish a Northwest Atlantic Ocean Fisheries Reinvestment Program for the purposes of--

(A) promoting development of commercial fisheries and markets for underutilized species of the northwest Atlantic Ocean;

(B) developing alternative fishing opportunities for participants in the New England groundfish fishery;

(C) providing technical support and assistance to United States fishermen and fish processors to improve the value-added processing of underutilized species and to make participation in fisheries for underutilized species of the northwest Atlantic Ocean economically viable;

(D) creating new economic opportunities through the improved processing and expanded use of fish waste; and

(E) helping to restore overfished New England groundfish stocks through aquaculture or hatchery programs.

(2) CONSULTATION.--In establishing and implementing the Northwest [sic] Fisheries Reinvestment Program, the Secretary shall consult with representatives of the commercial fishing industry, the seafood processing industry, and the academic community (including the National Sea Grant Program).

(3) ACTIVITIES UNDER PROGRAM.--Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall award contracts, grants and other financial assistance to United States citizens to carry out the purposes of subsection (1), under the terms and conditions provided in section 2(c) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713(c)-3(c); commonly referred to as the "Saltonstall-Kennedy Act"), except that, in making awards under this section for projects involving participation in fisheries for underutilized species, the Secretary shall give the highest priority to a person who owns or operates a fishing vessel permitted under this Act to participate in the New England groundfish fishery who agrees to surrender that permit to the Secretary during the duration of the contract, grant or other assistance.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.--There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1993 through 1999 to carry out the purposes of this section. For fiscal year 1993 no more than \$1,000,000, and for fiscal year 1994 no more than \$2,000,000, of such funds may be provided from monies made available under section 2(b) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713c-3(b)).

(b) ASSISTANCE OF OTHER AGENCIES.--The Secretary shall actively seek the assistance of other Federal agencies in the development of fisheries for underutilized species of the northwest Atlantic Ocean, including, to the extent permitted by other applicable laws, assistance from the Secretary of Agriculture in including such underutilized species as agricultural commodities in the programs of the Foreign Agricultural Service for which amounts are authorized under the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624; 104 Stat. 3359).

(c) MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR UNDERUTILIZED SPECIES.--The New England Fishery Management Council, in consultation with other appropriate Councils, shall develop fishery management plans as soon as possible for any underutilized species of the northwest Atlantic Ocean that is not covered under such a plan, in order to prevent overfishing of that species.

(d) UNDERUTILIZED SPECIES DEFINED.--For purposes of this section, the term "underutilized species of the northwest Atlantic Ocean" means any fish species of the northwest Atlantic Ocean that is identified, by the Director of the Northeast Fisheries Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service, as an underutilized species.

SEC. 315. REGIONAL COASTAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, TRANSITION, AND RECOVERY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—When there is a catastrophic regional fishery disaster the Secretary may, upon the request of, and in consultation with, the Governors of affected States, establish a regional economic transition program to provide immediate disaster relief assistance to the fishermen, charter fishing operators, United States fish processors, and owners of related fishery infrastructure affected by the disaster.

(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the program shall

provide funds or other economic assistance to affected entities, or to governmental entities for disbursement to affected entities, for—

(A) meeting immediate regional shoreside fishery infrastructure needs, including processing facilities, cold storage facilities, ice houses, docks, including temporary docks and storage facilities, and other related shoreside fishery support facilities and infrastructure while ensuring that those projects will not result in an increase or replacement of fishing capacity;

(B) financial assistance and job training assistance for fishermen who wish to remain in a fishery in the region that may be temporarily closed as a result of environmental or other effects associated with the disaster;

(C) funding, pursuant to the requirements of section 312(b), to fishermen who are willing to scrap a fishing vessel and permanently surrender permits for fisheries named on that vessel; and

(D) any other activities authorized under section 312 of this Act or section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)).

(2) JOB TRAINING.—Any fisherman who decides to scrap a fishing vessel under the program shall be eligible for job training assistance.

(3) STATE PARTICIPATION OBLIGATION.—The participation by a State in the program shall be conditioned upon a commitment by the appropriate State entity to ensure that the relevant State fishery meets the requirements of section 312(b) of this Act to ensure excess capacity does not re-enter the fishery.

(4) NO MATCHING REQUIRED.—The Secretary may waive the matching requirements of section 312 of this Act, section 308 of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107), and any other provision of law under which the Federal share of the cost of any activity is limited to less than 100 percent if the Secretary determines that—

(A) no reasonable means are available through which applicants can meet the matching requirement; and

(B) the probable benefit of 100 percent Federal financing outweighs the public interest in imposition of the matching requirement.

(5) NET REVENUE LIMIT INAPPLICABLE.—Section 308(d)(3) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)(3)) shall not apply to assistance under this section.

(c) REGIONAL IMPACT EVALUATION.—Within 2 months after a catastrophic regional fishery disaster the Secretary shall provide the Governor of each State participating in the program a comprehensive economic and socio-economic evaluation of the affected region's fisheries to assist the Governor in assessing the current and future economic viability of affected fisheries, including the economic impact of foreign fish imports and the direct, indirect, or environmental impact of the disaster on the fishery and coastal communities.

(d) CATASTROPHIC REGIONAL FISHERY DISASTER DEFINED.—In this section the term 'catastrophic regional fishery disaster' means a natural disaster, including a hurricane or tsunami, or a regulatory closure (including regulatory closures resulting from judicial action) to protect human health or the marine environment, that—

(1) results in economic losses to coastal or fishing communities;

(2) affects more than 1 State or a major fishery managed by a Council or interstate fishery commission; and

(3) is determined by the Secretary to be a commercial fishery failure under section 312(a) of this Act or a fishery resource disaster or section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4107(d)).

SEC. 316. BYCATCH REDUCTION ENGINEERING PROGRAM.

(a) BYCATCH REDUCTION ENGINEERING PROGRAM.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Councils and other affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, shall establish a bycatch reduction program, including grants, to develop technological devices and other conservation engineering changes designed to minimize bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality in Federally managed fisheries. The program shall—

- (1) be regionally based;
- (2) be coordinated with projects conducted under the cooperative research and management program established under this Act;
- (3) provide information and outreach to fishery participants that will encourage adoption and use of technologies developed under the program; and
- (4) provide for routine consultation with the Councils in order to maximize opportunities to incorporate results of the program in Council actions and provide incentives for adoption of methods developed under the program in fishery management plans developed by the Councils.

(b) INCENTIVES.—Any fishery management plan prepared by a Council or by the Secretary may establish a system of incentives to reduce total bycatch and seabird interactions, amounts, bycatch rates, and post-release mortality in fisheries under the Council's or Secretary's jurisdiction, including—

- (1) measures to incorporate bycatch into quotas, including the establishment of collective or individual bycatch quotas;
- (2) measures to promote the use of gear with verifiable and monitored low bycatch and seabird interactions, rates; and
- (3) measures that, based on the best scientific information available, will reduce bycatch and seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, post-release mortality, or regulatory discards in the fishery.

(c) COORDINATION ON SEABIRD INTERACTIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Interior, is authorized to undertake projects in cooperation with industry to improve information and technology to reduce seabird bycatch, including—

- (1) outreach to industry on new technologies and methods;
- (2) projects to mitigate for seabird mortality; and
- (3) actions at appropriate international fishery organizations to reduce seabird interactions in fisheries.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall transmit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources that—

- (1) describes funding provided to implement this section;
- (2) describes developments in gear technology achieved under this section; and
- (3) describes improvements and reduction in bycatch and seabird interactions associated with implementing this section, as well as proposals to address remaining bycatch or seabird interaction problems.

SEC. 317. SHARK FEEDING.

Except to the extent determined by the Secretary, or under State law, as presenting no public

health hazard or safety risk, or when conducted as part of a research program funded in whole or in part by appropriated funds, it is unlawful to introduce, or attempt to introduce, food or any other substance into the water to attract sharks for any purpose other than to harvest sharks within the Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of the State of Hawaii and of the Commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States in the Pacific Ocean Area.

SEC. 318. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Councils, shall establish a cooperative research and management program to address needs identified under this Act and under any other marine resource laws enforced by the Secretary. The program shall be implemented on a regional basis and shall be developed and conducted through partnerships among Federal, State, and Tribal managers and scientists (including interstate fishery commissions), fishing industry participants (including use of commercial charter or recreational vessels for gathering data), and educational institutions.

(b) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall make funds available under the program for the support of projects to address critical needs identified by the Councils in consultation with the Secretary. The program shall promote and encourage efforts to utilize sources of data maintained by other Federal agencies, State agencies, or academia for use in such projects.

(c) FUNDING.—In making funds available the Secretary shall award funding on a competitive basis and based on regional fishery management needs, select programs that form part of a coherent program of research focused on solving priority issues identified by the Councils, and shall give priority to the following projects:

(1) Projects to collect data to improve, supplement, or enhance stock assessments, including the use of fishing vessels or acoustic or other marine technology.

(2) Projects to assess the amount and type of bycatch or post-release mortality occurring in a fishery.

(3) Conservation engineering projects designed to reduce bycatch, including avoidance of post-release mortality, reduction of bycatch in high seas fisheries, and transfer of such fishing technologies to other nations.

(4) Projects for the identification of habitat areas of particular concern and for habitat conservation.

(5) Projects designed to collect and compile economic and social data.

(d) EXPERIMENTAL PERMITTING PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall promulgate regulations that create an expedited, uniform, and regionally-based process to promote issuance, where practicable, of experimental fishing permits.

(e) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall establish guidelines to ensure that participation in a research project funded under this section does not result in loss of a participant's catch history or unexpended days-at-sea as part of a limited entry system.

(f) EXEMPTED PROJECTS.—The procedures of this section shall not apply to research funded by quota set-asides in a fishery.

SEC. 319. HERRING STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct a cooperative research program to study the

issues of abundance, distribution and the role of herring as forage fish for other commercially important fish stocks in the Northwest Atlantic, and the potential for local scale depletion from herring harvesting and how it relates to other fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic. In planning, designing, and implementing this program, the Secretary shall engage multiple fisheries sectors and stakeholder groups concerned with herring management.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall present the final results of this study to Congress within 3 months following the completion of the study, and an interim report at the end of fiscal year 2008.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2009 to conduct this study.

SEC. 320. RESTORATION STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct a study to update scientific information and protocols needed to improve restoration techniques for a variety of coast habitat types and synthesize the results in a format easily understandable by restoration practitioners and local communities.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for fiscal year 2007 to conduct this study.

TITLE IV -- FISHERY MONITORING AND RESEARCH

104-297

SEC. 401. REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

16 U.S.C. 1881

(a) STANDARDIZED FISHING VESSEL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.--The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the States, the Councils, and Marine Fisheries Commissions, develop recommendations for implementation of a standardized fishing vessel registration and information management system on a regional basis. The recommendations shall be developed after consultation with interested governmental and nongovernmental parties and shall--

(1) be designed to standardize the requirements of vessel registration and information collection systems required by this Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and any other marine resource law implemented by the Secretary, and, with the permission of a State, any marine resource law implemented by such State;

(2) integrate information collection programs under existing fishery management plans into a non-duplicative information collection and management system;

(3) avoid duplication of existing State, tribal, or Federal systems and shall utilize, to the maximum extent practicable, information collected from existing systems;

(4) provide for implementation of the system through cooperative agreements with appropriate State, regional, or tribal entities and Marine Fisheries Commissions;

(5) provide for funding (subject to appropriations) to assist appropriate State, regional, or tribal entities and Marine Fisheries Commissions in implementation;

(6) establish standardized units of measurement, nomenclature, and formats for the collection and submission of information;

(7) minimize the paperwork required for vessels registered under the system;

(8) include all species of fish within the geographic areas of authority of the Councils and all fishing vessels including charter fishing vessels, but excluding recreational fishing vessels;

(9) require United States fish processors, and fish dealers and other first ex-vessel purchasers of fish that are subject to the proposed system, to submit information (other than economic information) which may be necessary to meet the goals of the proposed system; and

(10) include procedures necessary to ensure--

(A) the confidentiality of information collected under this section in accordance with section 402(b); and

(B) the timely release or availability to the public of information collected under this section consistent with section 402(b).

(b) FISHING VESSEL REGISTRATION.--The proposed registration system should, at a minimum, obtain the following information for each fishing vessel--

(1) the name and official number or other identification, together with the name and address of the owner or operator or both;

(2) gross tonnage, vessel capacity, type and quantity of fishing gear, mode of operation (catcher, catcher processor, or other), and such other pertinent information with respect to vessel characteristics as the Secretary may require; and

(3) identification (by species, gear type, geographic area of operations, and season) of the fisheries in which the fishing vessel participates.

(c) FISHERY INFORMATION.--The proposed information management system should, at a minimum, provide basic fisheries performance information for each fishery, including--

(1) the number of vessels participating in the fishery including charter fishing vessels;

(2) the time period in which the fishery occurs;

(3) the approximate geographic location or official reporting area where the fishery occurs;

(4) a description of fishing gear used in the fishery, including the amount and type of such gear and the appropriate unit of fishing effort; and

(5) other information required under subsection 303(a)(5) or requested by the Council under section 402.

(d) USE OF REGISTRATION.--Any registration recommended under this section shall not be considered a permit for the purposes of this Act, and the Secretary may not propose to revoke, suspend, deny, or impose any other conditions or restrictions on any such registration or the use of such registration under this Act.

(e) PUBLIC COMMENT.--Within one year after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register for a 60-day public comment period a proposal that would provide for implementation of a standardized fishing vessel

registration and information collection system that meets the requirements of subsections (a) through (c). The proposal shall include--

- (1) a description of the arrangements of the Secretary for consultation and cooperation with the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the States, the Councils, Marine Fisheries Commissions, the fishing industry and other interested parties; and
- (2) any proposed regulations or legislation necessary to implement the proposal.

(f) CONGRESSIONAL TRANSMITTAL.--Within 60 days after the end of the comment period and after consideration of comments received under subsection (e), the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a recommended proposal for implementation of a national fishing vessel registration system that includes--

- (1) any modifications made after comment and consultation;
- (2) a proposed implementation schedule, including a schedule for the proposed cooperative agreements required under subsection (a)(4); and
- (3) recommendations for any such additional legislation as the Secretary considers necessary or desirable to implement the proposed system.

(g) RECREATIONAL FISHERIES.--

(1) FEDERAL PROGRAM.--The Secretary shall establish and implement a regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen in each of the 8 fishery management regions. The program, which shall not require a fee before January 1, 2011, shall provide for--

- (A) the registration (including identification and contact information) of individuals who engage in recreational fishing--**
- (i) in the Exclusive Economic Zone;**
 - (ii) for anadromous species; or**
 - (iii) for Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone;**

and

(B) if appropriate, the registration (including the ownership, operator, and identification of the vessel) of vessels used in such fishing.

(2) STATE PROGRAMS.--The Secretary shall exempt from registration under the program recreational fishermen and charter fishing vessels licensed, permitted, or registered under the laws of a State if the Secretary determines that information from the State program is suitable for the Secretary's use or is used to assist in completing marine recreational fisheries statistical surveys, or evaluating the effects of proposed conservation and management measures for marine recreational fisheries.

(3) DATA COLLECTION.--

(A) IMPROVEMENT OF THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS SURVEY.--Within 24 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with representatives of the recreational fishing industry and experts in statistics, technology, and other appropriate fields, shall establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information generated by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey, with a goal of achieving acceptable accuracy and utility for each individual fishery.

(B) NRC REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.--The program shall take into consideration and, to the extent feasible, implement the recommendations of the National

Deleted: (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.--Within 15 months after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall report to Congress on the need to include recreational fishing vessels into a national fishing vessel registration and information collection system. In preparing its report, the Secretary shall cooperate with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the States, the Councils, and Marine Fisheries Commissions, and consult with governmental and nongovernmental parties¶

Research Council in its report Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods (2006), including—

(i) redesigning the Survey to improve the effectiveness and appropriateness of sampling and estimation procedures, its applicability to various kinds of management decisions, and its usefulness for social and economic analyses; and

(ii) providing for ongoing technical evaluation and modification as needed to meet emerging management needs.

(C) METHODOLOGY.—Unless the Secretary determines that alternate methods will achieve this goal more efficiently and effectively, the program shall, to the extent possible, include—

(i) an adequate number of intercepts to accurately estimate recreational catch and effort;

(ii) use of surveys that target anglers registered or licensed at the State or Federal level to collect participation and effort data;

(iii) collection and analysis of vessel trip report data from charter fishing vessels;

(iv) development of a weather corrective factor that can be applied to recreational catch and effort estimates; and

(v) an independent committee composed of recreational fishermen, academics, persons with expertise in stock assessments and survey design, and appropriate personnel from the National Marine Fisheries Service to review the collection estimates, geographic, and other variables related to dockside intercepts and to identify deficiencies in recreational data collection, and possible correction measures.

(D) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall complete the program under this paragraph and implement the improved Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey not later than January 1, 2009.

(4) REPORT.—Within 24 months after establishment of the program, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that describes the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the program.

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SEC. 402. INFORMATION COLLECTION⁷

16 U.S.C. 1881a

(a) COLLECTION PROGRAMS.—

(1) COUNCIL REQUESTS.—If a Council determines that additional information would be beneficial for developing, implementing, or revising a fishery management plan or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Council may request that the Secretary implement an information collection program for the fishery which would provide the types of information specified by the Council. The Secretary shall undertake such an information collection program if he determines that the need is justified, and shall promulgate regulations to implement the program within 60 days after such determination is made. If the Secretary determines that the need for an information collection program is not justified, the Secretary shall inform the Council of the reasons for such determination in writing. The determinations of the Secretary under this paragraph regarding a Council request shall be made within a reasonable period of time after receipt of that request.

(2) SECRETARIAL INITIATION.—If the Secretary determines that additional information is necessary for developing, implementing, revising, or monitoring a fishery management plan, or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the

Deleted: (a) COUNCIL REQUESTS.--

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Secretary may, by regulation, implement an information collection or observer program requiring submission of such additional information for the fishery.

(b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—

(1) Any information submitted to the Secretary, a State fishery management agency, or a marine fisheries commission by any person in compliance with the requirements of this Act shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except—

(A) to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for fishery management plan development, monitoring, or enforcement;

(B) to State or Marine Fisheries Commission employees as necessary to further the Department's mission, subject to a confidentiality agreement that prohibits public disclosure of the identity of business of any person;

(C) to State employees who are responsible for fishery management plan enforcement, if the States employing those employees have entered into a fishery enforcement agreement with the Secretary and the agreement is in effect;

(D) when required by court order;

(E) when such information is used by State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission employees to verify catch under a limited access program, but only to the extent that such use is consistent with subparagraph (B);

(F) when the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person submitting such information to release such information to persons for reasons not otherwise provided for in this subsection, and such release does not violate other requirements of this Act;

(G) when such information is required to be submitted to the Secretary for any determination under a limited access program; or

(H) in support of homeland and national security activities, including the Coast Guard's homeland security missions as defined in section 888(a)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(a)(2)).

(2) Any observer information shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except in accordance with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (H) of paragraph (1), or—

(A) as authorized by a fishery management plan or regulations under the authority of the North Pacific Council to allow disclosure to the public of weekly summary bycatch information identified by vessel or for haul-specific bycatch information without vessel identification;

(B) when such information is necessary in proceedings to adjudicate observer certifications; or

(C) as authorized by any regulations issued under paragraph (3) allowing the collection of observer information, pursuant to a confidentiality agreement between the observers, observer employers, and the Secretary prohibiting disclosure of the information by the observers or observer employers, in order—

(i) to allow the sharing of observer information among observers and between observers and observer employers as necessary to train and prepare observers for deployments on specific vessels; or

(ii) to validate the accuracy of the observer information collected.

(3) The Secretary shall, by regulation, prescribe such procedures as may be necessary to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted in compliance with any requirement or regulation under this Act, except that the Secretary may release or make public any such information in any aggregate or summary form which does not directly or indirectly disclose

Deleted: (b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.--¶

(1) Any information submitted to the Secretary by any person in compliance with any requirement under this Act shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except--¶

(A) to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for fishery management plan development and monitoring;¶

(B) to State or Marine Fisheries Commission employees pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary that prevents public disclosure of the identity or business of any person;¶

(C) when required by court order;¶

(D) when such information is used to verify catch under

Deleted: an individual fishing quota

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... program;¶

(E) that observer information collected in fisheries under the authority of the North Pacific Council may be released to the public as specified in a fishery management plan or regulation for weekly summary bycatch information identified by vessel, and for haul-specific bycatch information without vessel identification; or¶

-----Section Break (Continuous)-----

(F) when the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person submitting such information to release such information to persons for reasons not otherwise provided for in this subsection, and such release does not violate other requirements of this Act.¶

Inserted: a limited access privilege¶

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the identity or business of any person who submits such information. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted or construed to prevent the use for conservation and management purposes by the Secretary, or with the approval of the Secretary, the Council, of any information submitted in compliance with any requirement or regulation under this Act or the use, release, or publication of bycatch information pursuant to paragraph (2)(A).

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(c) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.--

(1) The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to restrict the use, in civil enforcement or criminal proceedings under this Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), of information collected by voluntary fishery data collectors, including sea samplers, while aboard any vessel for conservation and management purposes if the presence of such a fishery data collector aboard is not required by any of such Acts or regulations thereunder.

(2) The Secretary may not require the submission of a Federal or State income tax return or statement as a prerequisite for issuance of a permit until such time as the Secretary has promulgated regulations to ensure the confidentiality of information contained in such return or statement, to limit the information submitted to that necessary to achieve a demonstrated conservation and management purpose, and to provide appropriate penalties for violation of such regulations.

(d) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may provide a grant, contract, or other financial assistance on a sole-source basis to a State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission for the purpose of carrying out information collection or other programs if--

(1) the recipient of such a grant, contract, or other financial assistance is specified by statute to be, or has customarily been, such State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission; or

(2) the Secretary has entered into a cooperative agreement with such State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission.

(e) RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS.--

(1) The Secretary may use the private sector to provide vessels, equipment, and services necessary to survey the fishery resources of the United States when the arrangement will yield statistically reliable results.

(2) The Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate Council and the fishing industry--

(A) may structure competitive solicitations under paragraph (1) so as to compensate a contractor for a fishery resources survey by allowing the contractor to retain for sale fish harvested during the survey voyage;

(B) in the case of a survey during which the quantity or quality of fish harvested is not expected to be adequately compensatory, may structure those solicitations so as to provide that compensation by permitting the contractor to harvest on a subsequent voyage and retain for sale a portion of the allowable catch of the surveyed fishery; and

(C) may permit fish harvested during such survey to count toward a vessel's catch history under a fishery management plan if such survey was conducted in a manner that precluded a vessel's participation in a fishery that counted under the plan for purposes of determining catch history.

(3) The Secretary shall undertake efforts to expand annual fishery resource assessments in all regions of the Nation.

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SEC. 403. OBSERVERS⁷

16 U.S.C. 1881b

(a) GUIDELINES FOR CARRYING OBSERVERS.--Within one year after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations, after notice and opportunity for public comment, for fishing vessels that carry observers. The regulations shall include guidelines for determining--

(1) when a vessel is not required to carry an observer on board because the facilities of such vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized; and

(2) actions which vessel owners or operators may reasonably be required to take to render such facilities adequate and safe.

(b) TRAINING.--The Secretary, in cooperation with the appropriate States and the National Sea Grant College Program, shall--

(1) establish programs to ensure that each observer receives adequate training in collecting and analyzing the information necessary for the conservation and management purposes of the fishery to which such observer is assigned;

(2) require that an observer demonstrate competence in fisheries science and statistical analysis at a level sufficient to enable such person to fulfill the responsibilities of the position;

(3) ensure that an observer has received adequate training in basic vessel safety; and

(4) make use of university and any appropriate private nonprofit organization training facilities and resources, where possible, in carrying out this subsection.

(c) OBSERVER STATUS.--An observer on a vessel and under contract to carry out responsibilities under this Act or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) shall be deemed to be a Federal employee for the purpose of compensation under the Federal Employee Compensation Act (5 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.).

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SEC. 404 FISHERIES RESEARCH⁷

16 U.S.C. 1881c

(a) IN GENERAL.--The Secretary shall initiate and maintain, in cooperation with the Councils, a comprehensive program of fishery research to carry out and further the purposes, policy, and provisions of this Act. Such program shall be designed to acquire knowledge and information, including statistics, on fishery conservation and management and on the economics and social characteristics of the fisheries.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN.--Within one year after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, and at least every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall develop and publish in

the Federal Register a strategic plan for fisheries research for the 5 years immediately following such publication. The plan shall--

- (1) identify and describe a comprehensive program with a limited number of priority objectives for research in each of the areas specified in subsection (c);
- (2) indicate goals and timetables for the program described in paragraph (1);
- (3) provide a role for commercial fishermen in such research, including involvement in field testing;
- (4) provide for collection and dissemination, in a timely manner, of complete and accurate information concerning fishing activities, catch, effort, stock assessments, and other research conducted under this section; and
- (5) be developed in cooperation with the Councils and affected States, and provide for coordination with the Councils, affected States, and other research entities.

(c) AREAS OF RESEARCH.--Areas of research are as follows:

- (1) Research to support fishery conservation and management, including but not limited to, biological research concerning the abundance and life history parameters of stocks of fish, the interdependence of fisheries or stocks of fish, the identification of essential fish habitat, the impact of pollution on fish populations, the impact of wetland and estuarine degradation, and other factors affecting the abundance and availability of fish.
- (2) Conservation engineering research, including the study of fish behavior and the development and testing of new gear technology and fishing techniques to minimize bycatch and any adverse effects on essential fish habitat and promote efficient harvest of target species.
- (3) Research on the fisheries, including the social, cultural, and economic relationships among fishing vessel owners, crew, United States fish processors, associated shoreside labor, seafood markets and fishing communities.
- (4) Information management research, including the development of a fishery information base and an information management system that will permit the full use of information in the support of effective fishery conservation and management.

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(d) PUBLIC NOTICE.--In developing the plan required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with relevant Federal, State, and international agencies, scientific and technical experts, and other interested persons, public and private, and shall publish a proposed plan in the Federal Register for the purpose of receiving public comment on the plan. The Secretary shall ensure that affected commercial fishermen are actively involved in the development of the portion of the plan pertaining to conservation engineering research. Upon final publication in the Federal Register, the plan shall be submitted by the Secretary to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

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SEC. 405. INCIDENTAL HARVEST RESEARCH⁷

16 U.S.C. 1881d

(a) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.--Within nine months after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall, after consultation with the Gulf Council and South Atlantic Council, conclude the collection of information in the program to assess the impact on fishery resources of incidental harvest by the shrimp trawl fishery within

the authority of such Councils. Within the same time period, the Secretary shall make available to the public aggregated summaries of information collected prior to June 30, 1994 under such program.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF STOCK.--The program concluded pursuant to subsection (a) shall provide for the identification of stocks of fish which are subject to significant incidental harvest in the course of normal shrimp trawl fishing activity.

(c) COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC STOCK INFORMATION.--For stocks of fish identified pursuant to subsection (b), with priority given to stocks which (based upon the best available scientific information) are considered to be overfished, the Secretary shall conduct--

- (1) a program to collect and evaluate information on the nature and extent (including the spatial and temporal distribution) of incidental mortality of such stocks as a direct result of shrimp trawl fishing activities;
- (2) an assessment of the status and condition of such stocks, including collection of information which would allow the estimation of life history parameters with sufficient accuracy and precision to support sound scientific evaluation of the effects of various management alternatives on the status of such stocks; and
- (3) a program of information collection and evaluation for such stocks on the magnitude and distribution of fishing mortality and fishing effort by sources of fishing mortality other than shrimp trawl fishing activity.

(d) BYCATCH REDUCTION PROGRAM.--Not later than 12 months after the enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall, in cooperation with affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, complete a program to--

- (1) develop technological devices and other changes in fishing operations necessary and appropriate to minimize the incidental mortality of bycatch in the course of shrimp trawl activity to the extent practicable, taking into account the level of bycatch mortality in the fishery on November 28, 1990;
- (2) evaluate the ecological impacts and the benefits and costs of such devices and changes in fishing operations; and
- (3) assess whether it is practicable to utilize bycatch which is not avoidable.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.--The Secretary shall, within one year of completing the programs required by this section, submit a detailed report on the results of such programs to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION CRITERIA.--To the extent practicable, any conservation and management measure implemented under this Act to reduce the incidental mortality of bycatch in the course of shrimp trawl fishing shall be consistent with--

- (1) measures applicable to fishing throughout the range in United States waters of the bycatch species concerned; and
- (2) the need to avoid any serious adverse environmental impacts on such bycatch species or the ecology of the affected area.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PANEL.**--Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall establish an advisory panel under this Act to develop recommendations to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management activities.

(b) **PANEL MEMBERSHIP.**--The advisory panel shall consist of not more than 20 individuals and include--

- (1) individuals with expertise in the structures, functions, and physical and biological characteristics of ecosystems; and
- (2) representatives from the Councils, States, fishing industry, conservation organizations, or others with expertise in the management of marine resources.

(c) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**--Prior to selecting advisory panel members, the Secretary shall, with respect to panel members described in subsection (b)(1), solicit recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences.

(d) **REPORT.**--Within 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a completed report of the panel established under this section, which shall include--

- (1) an analysis of the extent to which ecosystem principles are being applied in fishery conservation and management activities, including research activities;
- (2) proposed actions by the Secretary and by the Congress that should be undertaken to expand the application of ecosystem principles in fishery conservation and management; and
- (3) such other information as may be appropriate.

(e) **PROCEDURAL MATTER.**--The advisory panel established under this section shall be deemed an advisory panel under section 302(g).

(f) REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH.—

(1) STUDY.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall undertake and complete a study on the state of the science for advancing the concepts and integration of ecosystem considerations in regional fishery management. The study should build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel and include—

- (A) recommendations for scientific data, information and technology requirements for understanding ecosystem processes, and methods for integrating such information from a variety of federal, state, and regional sources;
- (B) recommendations for processes for incorporating broad stake holder participation;
- (C) recommendations for processes to account for effects of environmental variation on fish stocks and fisheries; and
- (D) a description of existing and developing council efforts to implement ecosystem

approaches, including lessons learned by the councils.
(2) AGENCY TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary is authorized to provide necessary technical advice and assistance, including grants, to the Councils for the development and design of regional pilot programs that build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel and, when completed, the study.

104-297, 106-554

SEC. 407 GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER RESEARCH

16 U.S.C. 1883

(a) INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW.--

(1) Within 30 days of the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall initiate an independent peer review to evaluate--

(A) the accuracy and adequacy of fishery statistics used by the Secretary for the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico to account for all commercial, recreational, and charter fishing harvests and fishing effort on the stock;

(B) the appropriateness of the scientific methods, information, and models used by the Secretary to assess the status and trends of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper stock and as the basis for the fishery management plan for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery;

(C) the appropriateness and adequacy of the management measures in the fishery management plan for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico for conserving and managing the red snapper fishery under this Act; and

(D) the costs and benefits of all reasonable alternatives to a limited access privilege program for the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico.

Deleted: an individual fishing quota

(2) The Secretary shall ensure that commercial, recreational, and charter fishermen in the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico are provided an opportunity to--

(A) participate in the peer review under this subsection; and

(B) provide information to the Secretary concerning the review of fishery statistics under this subsection without being subject to penalty under this Act or other applicable law for any past violation of a requirement to report such information to the Secretary.

(3) The Secretary shall submit a detailed written report on the findings of the peer review conducted under this subsection to the Gulf Council no later than one year after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

(b) PROHIBITION.--In addition to the restrictions under section 303(d)(1)(A), the Gulf Council may not, prior to October 1, 2002, undertake or continue the preparation of any fishery management plan, plan amendment or regulation under this Act for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery that creates an individual fishing quota program or that authorizes the consolidation of licenses, permits, or endorsements that result in different trip limits for vessels in the same class.

(c) REFERENDUM.--

(1) On or after October 1, 2002, the Gulf Council may prepare and submit a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery that creates a limited access privilege program or that authorizes the

Deleted: an individual fishing quota

consolidation of licenses, permits, or endorsements that result in different trip limits for vessels in the same class, only if the preparation of such plan, amendment, or regulation is approved in a referendum conducted under paragraph (2) and only if the submission to the Secretary of such plan, amendment, or regulation is approved in a subsequent referendum conducted under paragraph (2).

(2) The Secretary, at the request of the Gulf Council, shall conduct referendums under this subsection. Only a person who held an annual vessel permit with a red snapper endorsement for such permit on September 1, 1996 (or any person to whom such permit with such endorsement was transferred after such date) and vessel captains who harvested red snapper in a commercial fishery using such endorsement in each red snapper fishing season occurring between January 1, 1993, and such date may vote in a referendum under this subsection. The referendum shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast. The Secretary shall develop a formula to weigh votes based on the proportional harvest under each such permit and endorsement and by each such captain in the fishery between January 1, 1993, and September 1, 1996. Prior to each referendum, the Secretary, in consultation with the Council, shall--

(A) identify and notify all such persons holding permits with red snapper endorsements and all such vessel captains; and

(B) make available to all such persons and vessel captains information about the schedule, procedures, and eligibility requirements for the referendum and the proposed individual fishing quota program.

(d) CATCH LIMITS.--Any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation submitted by the Gulf Council for the red snapper fishery after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act shall contain conservation and management measures that--

(1) establish separate quotas for recreational fishing (which, for the purposes of this subsection shall include charter fishing) and commercial fishing that, when reached, result in a prohibition on the retention of fish caught during recreational fishing and commercial fishing, respectively, for the remainder of the fishing year; and

(2) ensure that such quotas reflect allocations among such sectors and do not reflect any harvests in excess of such allocations.

SEC. 408. DEEP SEA CORAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.--The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate regional fishery management councils and in coordination with other federal agencies and educational institutions, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish a program--

(1) to identify existing research on, and known locations of, deep sea corals and submit such information to the appropriate Councils;

(2) to locate and map locations of deep sea corals and submit such information to the Councils;

(3) to monitor activity in locations where deep sea corals are known or likely to occur, based on best scientific information available, including through underwater or remote sensing technologies and submit such information to the appropriate Councils;

(4) to conduct research, including cooperative research with fishing industry participants, on deep sea corals and related species, and on survey methods;

(5) to develop technologies or methods designed to assist fishing industry participants in reducing interactions between fishing gear and deep sea corals; and

(6) to prioritize program activities in areas where deep sea corals are known to occur, and in areas where scientific modeling or other methods predict deep sea corals are likely to be present.

(b) REPORTING.—Beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall submit biennial reports to Congress and the public on steps taken by the Secretary to identify, monitor, and protect deep sea coral areas, including summaries of the results of mapping, research, and data collection performed under the program.

Appendix

Uncodified Text and Mandates to Prepare Reports, Make Recommendations, or Conduct Studies

P.L. 109-479, sec. 106(c) [uncodified]

INVESTMENT IN UNITED STATES SEAFOOD PROCESSING FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Commerce shall work with the Small Business Administration and other Federal agencies to develop financial and other mechanisms to encourage United States investment in seafood processing facilities in the United States for fisheries that lack capacity needed to process fish harvested by United States vessels in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

P.L. 109-479, sec. 112(b) [uncodified]

TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Sections 116, 203, 204, 205, and 206 of the Sustainable Fisheries Act are deemed to have added sections 312, 402, 403, 404, and 405, respectively to the Act as of the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 113(b) [uncodified]

SALMON PLAN AND STUDY.—

(1) RECOVERY PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall complete a recovery plan for Klamath River Coho salmon and make it available to the public.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on—

(A) the actions taken under the recovery plan and other law relating to recovery of Klamath River Coho salmon, and how those actions are specifically contributing to its recovery;

(B) the progress made on the restoration of salmon spawning habitat, including water conditions as they relate to salmon health and recovery, with emphasis on the Klamath River and its tributaries below Iron Gate Dam;

(C) the status of other Klamath River anadromous fish populations, particularly Chinook salmon; and

(D) the actions taken by the Secretary to address the calendar year 2003 National Research Council recommendations regarding monitoring and research on Klamath River Basin salmon stocks.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 114 [uncodified]

FISHERY FINANCE PROGRAM HURRICANE ASSISTANCE.

(a) LOAN ASSISTANCE.—Subject to availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Commerce shall provide assistance to eligible holders of fishery finance program loans and allocate such assistance among eligible holders based upon their outstanding principal balances as of December 2, 2005, for any of the following purposes:

(1) To defer principal payments on the debt for 1 year and re-amortize the debt over the remaining term of the loan.

(2) To allow for an extension of the term of the loan for up to 1 year beyond the remaining term of the loan, or September 30, 2013, whichever is later.

(3) To pay the interest costs for such loans over fiscal years 2007 through 2013, not to exceed amounts authorized under subsection (d).

(4) To provide opportunities for loan forgiveness, as specified in subsection (c).

(b) LOAN FORGIVENESS.—Upon application made by an eligible holder of a fishery finance program loan, made at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, the Secretary, on a calendar year basis beginning in 2005, may, with respect to uninsured

losses—

(1) offset against the outstanding balance on the loan an amount equal to the sum of the amounts expended by the holder during the calendar year to repair or replace covered vessels or facilities, or to invest in new fisheries infrastructure within or for use within the declared fisheries disaster area; or

(2) cancel the amount of debt equal to 100 hundred percent of actual expenditures on eligible repairs, reinvestment, expansion, or new investment in fisheries infrastructure in the disaster region, or repairs to, or replacement of, eligible fishing vessels.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DECLARED FISHERIES DISASTER AREA.—The term “declared fisheries disaster area” means fisheries located in the major disaster area designated by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

(2) ELIGIBLE HOLDER.—The term “eligible holder” means the holder of a fishery finance program loan if—

(A) that loan is used to guarantee or finance any fishing vessel or fish processing facility home-ported or located within the declared fisheries disaster area; and

(B) the holder makes expenditures to repair or replace such covered vessels or facilities, or invests in new fisheries infrastructure within or for use within the declared fisheries disaster area, to restore such facilities following the disaster.

(3) FISHERY FINANCE PROGRAM LOAN.—The term “fishery finance program loan” means a loan made or guaranteed under the fishery finance program under chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for the purposes of this section not more than \$15,000,000 for each eligible holder for the period beginning with fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2013.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 115 [uncodified]

FISHERIES HURRICANE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish an assistance program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial and recreational fishing industry.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Under the program, the Secretary shall allocate funds appropriated to carry out the program among the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas in proportion to the percentage of the fishery (including crawfish) catch landed by each State before August 29, 2005, except that the amount allocated to Florida shall be based exclusively on the proportion of such catch landed by the Florida Gulf Coast fishery.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available to each State under the program—

(1) 2 percent shall be retained by the State to be used for the distribution of additional payments to fishermen with a demonstrated record of compliance with turtle excluder and bycatch reduction device regulations; and

(2) the remainder of the amounts shall be used for—

(A) personal assistance, with priority given to food, energy needs, housing assistance, transportation fuel, and other urgent needs;

(B) assistance for small businesses, including fishermen, fish processors, and related businesses serving the fishing industry;

(C) domestic product marketing and seafood promotion;

(D) State seafood testing programs;

(E) the development of limited entry programs for the fishery;

(F) funding or other incentives to ensure widespread and proper use of turtle excluder devices and bycatch reduction devices in the fishery; and

(G) voluntary capacity reduction programs for shrimp fisheries under limited access programs.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce \$17,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 to carry out this section.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 117 [uncodified]

COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR FISHERY AND COASTAL HABITATS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a community-based fishery and coastal habitat restoration program to implement and support the restoration of fishery and coastal habitats.

(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary may—

(1) provide funding and technical expertise to fishery and coastal communities to assist them in restoring fishery and coastal habitat;

(2) advance the science and monitoring of coastal habitat restoration;

(3) transfer restoration technologies to the private sector, the public, and other governmental agencies;

(4) develop public-private partnerships to accomplish sound coastal restoration projects;

(5) promote significant community support and volunteer participation in fishery and coastal habitat restoration;

(6) promote stewardship of fishery and coastal habitats; and

(7) leverage resources through national, regional, and local public-private partnerships.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 120 [uncodified]

CLARIFICATION OF FLEXIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce has the discretion under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) to extend the time for rebuilding the summer flounder fishery to not later than January 1, 2013, only if—

(1) the Secretary has determined that—

(A) overfishing is not occurring in the fishery and that a mechanism is in place to ensure overfishing does not occur in the fishery; and

(B) stock biomass levels are increasing;

(2) the biomass rebuilding target previously applicable to such stock will be met or exceeded within the new time for rebuilding;

(3) the extension period is based on the status and biology of the stock and the rate of rebuilding;

(4) monitoring will ensure rebuilding continues;

(5) the extension meets the requirements of section 301(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1)); and

(6) the best scientific information available shows that the extension will allow continued rebuilding.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) or to limit or otherwise alter the authority of the Secretary under that Act concerning other species.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 122 [uncodified]

CONVERSION TO CATCHER/PROCESSOR SHARES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) AMENDMENT OF PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall amend the fishery management plan for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs for the Northern Region (as that term is used in the plan) to authorize—

(A) an eligible entity holding processor quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding processor quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any catcher vessel quota shares for the Northern Region with their processor quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner

quota shares for the Northern Region; and

(B) an eligible entity holding catcher vessel quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding catcher vessel quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any processor quota shares for the Northern Region with their catcher vessel quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region.

(2) ELIGIBILITY AND LIMITATIONS.—

(A) The authority provided in paragraph (1)(A) shall—

(i)(I) apply only to an entity which was initially awarded both catcher/processor owner quota shares, and processor quota shares under the plan (in combination with the processor quota shares of its commonly owned affiliates) of less than 7 percent of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island processor quota shares; or

(II) apply only to an entity which was initially awarded both catcher/processor owner quota shares under the plan and processor quota shares under section 417(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 120 Stat. 546);

(ii) be limited to processor quota shares initially awarded to such entities and their commonly owned affiliates under the plan or section 417(a) of that Act; and

(iii) shall not exceed 1 million pounds per entity during any calendar year.

(B) The authority provided in paragraph (1)(B) shall—

(i) apply only to an entity which was initially awarded both catcher/processor owner quota shares, and processor quota shares under the plan (in combination with the processor quota shares of its commonly owned affiliates) of more than 7 percent of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island processor quota shares;

(ii) be limited to catcher vessel quota shares initially awarded to such entity and its commonly owned affiliates; and

(iii) shall not exceed 1 million pounds per entity during any calendar year.

(3) EXCHANGE RATE.—The entities referred to in paragraph (1) shall receive under the amendment 1 unit of newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares in exchange for 1 unit of catcher vessel owner quota shares and 0.9 units of processor quota shares.

(4) AREA OF VALIDITY.—Each unit of newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares under this subsection shall only be valid for the Northern Region.

(b) FEES.—

(1) LOCAL FEES.—The holder of the newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares under subsection (a) shall pay a fee of 5 percent of the ex-vessel value of the crab harvested pursuant to those shares to any local governmental entities in the Northern Region if the processor quota shares used to produce those newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares were originally derived from the processing activities that occurred in a community under the jurisdiction of those local governmental entities.

(2) STATE FEE.—The State of Alaska may collect from the holder of the newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares under subsection (a) a fee of 1 percent of the ex-vessel value of the crab harvested pursuant to those shares.

(c) OFF-LOADING REQUIREMENT.—Crab harvested pursuant to catcher/processor owner quota shares created under this subsection shall be off-loaded in those communities receiving the local governmental entities fee revenue set forth in subsection (b)(1).

(d) PERIODIC COUNCIL REVIEW.—As part of its periodic review of the plan, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council may review the effect, if any, of this subsection upon communities in the Northern Region. If the Council determines that this section adversely affects the communities, the Council may recommend to the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary may approve, such changes to the plan as are necessary to mitigate those adverse effects.

(e) USE CAPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 680.42(b)(ii)(2) and 680.7(a)(ii)(7) of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, custom processing arrangements shall not count against any use cap for the

processing of opilio crab in the Northern Region so long as such crab is processed in the Northern Region by a shore-based crab processor.

(2) SHORE-BASED CRAB PROCESSOR DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “shore-based crab processor” means any person or vessel that receives, purchases, or arranges to purchase unprocessed crab, that is located on shore or moored within the harbor.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 208 [uncodified]

FISHERIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a fund, to be known as the “Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund”, which shall consist of amounts retained and deposited into the Fund under subsection (c).

(b) PURPOSES.—Subject to the allocation of funds described in subsection (d), amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Secretary of Commerce, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, to disburse as described in subsection (e) for—

(1) efforts to improve fishery harvest data collection including—

(A) expanding the use of electronic catch reporting programs and technology; and

(B) improvement of monitoring and observer coverage through the expanded use of electronic monitoring devices and satellite tracking systems such as VMS on small vessels;

(2) cooperative fishery research and analysis, in collaboration with fishery participants, academic institutions, community residents, and other interested parties;

(3) development of methods or new technologies to improve the quality, health safety, and value of fish landed;

(4) conducting analysis of fish and seafood for health benefits and risks, including levels of contaminants and, where feasible, the source of such contaminants;

(5) marketing of sustainable United States fishery products, including consumer education regarding the health or other benefits of wild fishery products harvested by vessels of the United States;

(6) improving data collection under the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey in accordance with section 401(g)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881(g)(3)); and

(7) providing financial assistance to fishermen to offset the costs of modifying fishing practices and gear to meet the requirements of this Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and other Federal laws in pari materia.

(c) DEPOSITS TO THE FUND.—

(1) QUOTA SET-ASIDES.—Any amount generated through quota set-asides established by a Council under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and designated by the Council for inclusion in the Fishery Conservation and Management Fund, may be deposited in the Fund.

(2) OTHER FUNDS.—In addition to amounts received pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Fishery Conservation and Management Fund may also receive funds from—

(A) appropriations for the purposes of this section; and

(B) States or other public sources or private or nonprofit organizations for purposes of this section.

(d) REGIONAL ALLOCATION.—The Secretary shall, every 2 years, apportion monies from the Fund among the eight Council regions according to recommendations of the Councils, based on regional priorities identified through the Council process, except that no region shall receive less than 5 percent of the Fund in each allocation period.

(e) LIMITATION ON THE USE OF THE FUND.—No amount made available from the Fund may be used to defray the costs of carrying out requirements of this Act or the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) other than those uses identified in this section.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 212 [uncodified]

IMPACT OF TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICES ON SHRIMPING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere shall execute an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct, jointly, a multi-year, comprehensive in-water study designed—

(1) to measure accurately the efforts and effects of shrimp fishery efforts to utilize turtle excluder devices;

(2) to analyze the impact of those efforts on sea turtle mortality, including interaction between turtles and shrimp trawlers in the inshore, nearshore, and offshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico and similar geographical locations in the waters of the Southeastern United States; and

(3) to evaluate innovative technologies to increase shrimp retention in turtle excluder devices while ensuring the protection of endangered and threatened sea turtles.

(b) OBSERVERS.—In conducting the study, the Undersecretary shall ensure that observers are placed onboard commercial shrimp fishing vessels where appropriate or necessary.

(c) INTERIM REPORTS.—During the course of the study and until a final report is submitted to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources, the National Academy of Sciences shall transmit interim reports to the Committees biannually containing a summary of preliminary findings and conclusions from the study.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 213 [uncodified]

HURRICANE EFFECTS ON COMMERCIAL AND RECREATION FISHERY HABITATS.

(a) FISHERIES REPORT.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on—

(1) commercial and recreational fisheries in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas;

(2) shrimp fishing vessels in those States; and

(3) the oyster industry in those States.

(b) HABITAT REPORT.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on habitat, including the habitat of shrimp and oysters in those States.

(c) HABITAT RESTORATION.—The Secretary shall carry out activities to restore fishery habitats, including the shrimp and oyster habitats in Louisiana and Mississippi.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 215 [uncodified]

NEW ENGLAND GROUND FISH FISHERY.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a unique, thorough examination of the potential impact on all affected and interested parties of Framework 42 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report the Secretary's findings under subsection (a) within 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall include in the report a detailed discussion of each of the following:

(1) The economic and social implications for affected parties within the fishery, including potential losses to infrastructure, expected from the imposition of Framework 42.

(2) The estimated average annual income generated by fishermen in New England, separated by State and vessel size, and the estimated annual income expected after the imposition of Framework 42.

(3) Whether the differential days-at-sea counting imposed by Framework 42 would result in a reduction in the number of small vessels actively participating in the New England Fishery.

(4) The percentage and approximate number of vessels in the New England fishery, separated by State and vessel type, that are incapable of fishing outside the areas designated in Framework 42 for

differential days-at-sea counting.

(5) The percentage of the annual groundfish catch in the New England fishery that is harvested by small vessels.

(6) The current monetary value of groundfish permits in the New England fishery and the actual impact that the potential imposition of Framework 42 is having on such value.

(7) Whether permitting days-at-sea to be leased is altering the market value for groundfish permits or days-at-sea in New England.

(8) Whether there is a substantially high probability that the biomass targets used as a basis for Amendment 13 remain achievable.

(9) An identification of the year in which the biomass targets used as a basis for Amendment 13 were last evident or achieved, and the evidence used to determine such date.

(10) Any separate or non-fishing factors, including environmental factors, that may be leading to a slower rebuilding of groundfish than previously anticipated.

(11) The potential harm to the non-fishing environment and ecosystem from the reduction in fishing resulting from Framework 42 and the potential redevelopment of the coastal land for other purposes, including potential for increases in non-point source of pollution and other impacts.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 216 [uncodified]

REPORT ON COUNCIL MANAGEMENT COORDINATION.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Council, in consultation with the New England Fishery Council, shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation within 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) describing the role of council liaisons between the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils, including an explanation of council policies regarding the liaison's role in Council decision-making since 1996;

(2) describing how management actions are taken regarding the operational aspects of current joint fishery management plans, and how such joint plans may undergo changes through amendment or framework processes;

(3) evaluating the role of the New England Fishery Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Council liaisons in the development and approval of management plans for fisheries in which the liaisons or members of the non-controlling Council have a demonstrated interest and significant current and historical landings of species managed by either Council;

(4) evaluating the effectiveness of the various approaches developed by the Councils to improve representation for affected members of the non-controlling Council in Council decision-making, such as use of liaisons, joint management plans, and other policies, taking into account both the procedural and conservation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and

(5) analyzing characteristics of North Carolina and Florida that supported their inclusion as voting members of more than one Council and the extent to which those characteristics support Rhode Island's inclusion on a second Council (the Mid-Atlantic Council).

P.L. 109-479, sec. 217 [uncodified]

STUDY OF SHORTAGE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WITH POST-BACCALAUREATE DEGREES IN SUBJECTS RELATED TO FISHERY SCIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Education shall collaborate to conduct a study of—

(1) whether there is a shortage in the number of individuals with post-baccalaureate degrees in subjects related to fishery science, including fishery oceanography, fishery ecology, and fishery anthropology, who have the ability to conduct high quality scientific research in fishery stock assessment, fishery population dynamics, and related fields, for government, nonprofit, and private sector entities;

(2) what Federal programs are available to help facilitate the education of students hoping to pursue these degrees; and

(3) what institutions of higher education, the private sector, and the Congress could do to try to increase the number of individuals with such post-baccalaureate degrees.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 8 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of Commerce and Education shall transmit a report to each committee of Congress with jurisdiction over the programs referred to in subsection (a), detailing the findings and recommendations of the study under this section.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 302(f) [uncodified]

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Pacific Fishery Management Council shall develop a proposal for the appropriate rationalization program for the Pacific trawl groundfish and whiting fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery under its jurisdiction. The proposal may include only the Pacific whiting fishery, including the shore-based sector, if the Pacific Council determines that a rationalization plan for the fishery as a whole cannot be achieved before the report is required to be submitted under paragraph (3).

(2) REQUIRED ANALYSIS.—In developing the proposal to rationalize the fishery, the Pacific Council shall fully analyze alternative program designs, including the allocation of limited access privileges to harvest fish to fishermen and processors working together in regional fishery associations or some other cooperative manner to harvest and process the fish, as well as the effects of these program designs and allocations on competition and conservation. The analysis shall include an assessment of the impact of the proposal on conservation and the economics of communities, fishermen, and processors participating in the trawl groundfish fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery.

(3) REPORT.—The Pacific Council shall submit the proposal and related analysis to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources no later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 407 [uncodified]

UNITED STATES CATCH HISTORY.

In establishing catch allocations under international fisheries agreements, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, and the Secretary of State, shall ensure that all catch history associated with a vessel of the United States remains with the United States and is not transferred or credited to any other nation or vessel of such nation, including when a vessel of the United States is sold or transferred to a citizen of another nation or to an entity controlled by citizens of another nation.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 408 [uncodified]

SECRETARIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall designate a Senate-confirmed, senior official within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to perform the duties of the Secretary with respect to international agreements involving fisheries and other living marine resources, including policy development and representation as a U.S. Commissioner, under any such international agreements.

(b) ADVICE.—The designated official shall, in consultation with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, advise the Secretary, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and other senior officials of the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on development of policy on international fisheries conservation and management matters.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The designated official shall consult with the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Resources on matters pertaining to any regional or international negotiation concerning living marine resources, including shellfish.

(d) DELEGATION.—The designated official may delegate and authorize successive re-delegation of

such functions, powers, and duties to such officers and employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as deemed necessary to discharge the responsibility of the Office.
(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on January 1, 2009.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 701 [uncodified]

STUDY OF THE ACIDIFICATION OF THE OCEANS AND EFFECT ON FISHERIES.

The Secretary of Commerce shall request the National Research Council to conduct a study of the acidification of the oceans and how this process affects the United States.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 108(f), M-S Act § 303 note

INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA REPORT.--

(1) Not later than October 1, 1998, the National Academy of Sciences, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Regional Fishery Management Councils, shall submit to the Congress a comprehensive final report on individual fishing quotas, which shall include recommendations to implement a national policy with respect to individual fishing quotas. The report shall address all aspects of such quotas, including an analysis of--

(A) the effects of limiting or prohibiting the transferability of such quotas;

(B) mechanisms to prevent foreign control of the harvest of United States fisheries under individual fishing quota programs, including mechanisms to prohibit persons who are not eligible to be deemed a citizen of the United States for the purpose of operating a vessel in the coastwise trade under section 2(a) and section 2(c) of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 U.S.C. 802 (a) and (c)) from holding individual fishing quotas;

(C) the impact of limiting the duration of individual fishing quota programs;

(D) the impact of authorizing Federal permits to process a quantity of fish that correspond to individual fishing quotas, and of the value created for recipients of any such permits, including a comparison of such value to the value of the corresponding individual fishing quotas;

(E) mechanisms to provide for diversity and to minimize adverse social and economic impacts on fishing communities, other fisheries affected by the displacement of vessels, and any impacts associated with the shifting of capital value from fishing vessels to individual fishing quotas, as well as the use of capital construction funds to purchase individual fishing quotas;

(F) mechanisms to provide for effective monitoring and enforcement, including the inspection of fish harvested and incentives to reduce bycatch, and in particular economic discards;

(G) threshold criteria for determining whether a fishery may be considered for individual fishing quota management, including criteria related to the geographical range, population dynamics and condition of a fish stock, the socioeconomic characteristics of a fishery (including participants' involvement in multiple fisheries in the region), and participation by commercial, charter, and recreational fishing sectors in the fishery;

(H) mechanisms to ensure that vessel owners, vessel masters, crew members, and United States fish processors are treated fairly and equitably in initial allocations, to require persons holding individual fishing quotas to be on board the vessel using such quotas, and to facilitate new entry under individual fishing quota programs;

(I) potential social and economic costs and benefits to the nation, individual fishing quota recipients, and any recipients of Federal permits described in subparagraph (D) under individual fishing quota programs, including from capital gains revenue, the allocation of such quotas or permits through Federal auctions, annual fees and transfer fees at various levels, or other measures;

(J) the value created for recipients of individual fishing quotas, including a comparison of such value to the value of the fish harvested under such quotas and to the value of permits created by other types of limited access systems, and the effects of creating such value on fishery management and conservation; and

(K) such other matters as the National Academy of Sciences deems appropriate.

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(2) The report shall include a detailed analysis of individual fishing quota programs already implemented in the United States, including the impacts: of any limits on transferability, on past and present participants, on fishing communities, on the rate and total amount of bycatch (including economic and regulatory discards) in the fishery, on the safety of life and vessels in the fishery, on any excess harvesting or processing capacity in the fishery, on any gear conflicts in the fishery, on product quality from the fishery, on the effectiveness of enforcement in the fishery, on the size and composition of fishing vessel fleets, on the economic value created by individual fishing quotas for initial recipients and non-recipients, on conservation of the fishery resource, on fishermen who rely on participation in several fisheries, on the success in meeting any fishery management plan goals, and the fairness and effectiveness of the methods used for allocating quotas and controlling transferability. The report shall also include any information about individual fishing quota programs in other countries that may be useful.

(3) The report shall identify and analyze alternative conservation and management measures, including other limited access systems such as individual transferable effort systems, that could accomplish the same objectives as individual fishing quota programs, as well as characteristics that are unique to individual fishing quota programs.

(4) The Secretary of Commerce shall, in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences, the Councils, the fishing industry, affected States, conservation organizations and other interested persons, establish two individual fishing quota review groups to assist in the preparation of the report, which shall represent:

(A) Alaska, Hawaii, and the other Pacific coastal States; and

(B) Atlantic coastal States and the Gulf of Mexico coastal States. The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, achieve a balanced representation of viewpoints among the individuals on each review group. The review groups shall be deemed to be advisory panels under section 302(g) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act.

(5) The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences and the Councils, shall conduct public hearings in each Council region to obtain comments on individual fishing quotas for use by the National Academy of Sciences in preparing the report required by this subsection. The National Academy of Sciences shall submit a draft report to the Secretary of Commerce by January 1, 1998. The Secretary of Commerce shall publish in the Federal Register a notice and opportunity for public comment on the draft of the report, or any revision thereof. A detailed summary of comments received and views presented at the hearings, including any dissenting views, shall be included by the National Academy of Sciences in the final report.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 108(h), M-S Act § 305 note

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA REPORT.--Not later than October 1, 1998, the National Academy of Sciences, in consultation with the Secretary, the North Pacific and Western Pacific Councils, communities and organizations participating in the program, participants in affected fisheries, and the affected States, shall submit to the Secretary of Commerce and Congress a comprehensive report on the performance and effectiveness of the community development quota programs under the authority of the North Pacific and Western Pacific Councils. The report shall--

(1) evaluate the extent to which such programs have met the objective of providing communities with the means to develop ongoing commercial fishing activities;

(2) evaluate the manner and extent to which such programs have resulted in the communities and residents--

(A) receiving employment opportunities in commercial fishing and processing; and

(B) obtaining the capital necessary to invest in commercial fishing, fish processing, and commercial fishing support projects (including infrastructure to support commercial fishing);

(3) evaluate the social and economic conditions in the participating communities and the extent to which alternative private sector employment opportunities exist;

(4) evaluate the economic impacts on participants in the affected fisheries, taking into account the condition of the fishery resource, the market, and other relevant factors;

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(5) recommend a proposed schedule for accomplishing the developmental purposes of community development quotas; and

(6) address such other matters as the National Academy of Sciences deems appropriate.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 116(b), M-S Act § 312 note

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STUDY OF FEDERAL INVESTMENT.--The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a task force comprised of interested parties to study and report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives within 2 years of the date of enactment of this Act on the role of the Federal Government in--

(1) subsidizing the expansion and contraction of fishing capacity in fishing fleets managed under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); and

(2) otherwise influencing the aggregate capital investments in fisheries.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 208, M-S Act § 404 note

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STUDY OF CONTRIBUTION OF BYCATCH TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) **STUDY.**--The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a study of the contribution of bycatch to charitable organizations by commercial fishermen. The study shall include determinations of--

(1) the amount of bycatch that is contributed each year to charitable organizations by commercial fishermen;

(2) the economic benefits to commercial fishermen from those contributions; and

(3) the impact on fisheries of the availability of those benefits.

(b) **REPORT.** Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Congress a report containing determinations made in the study under subsection (a).

(c) **BYCATCH DEFINED.**--In this section the term 'bycatch' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by section 102 of this Act.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 104(g) [uncodified]

RUSSIAN FISHING IN THE BERING SEA.--No later than September 30, 1997, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, in consultation with the North Pacific and Bering Sea Advisory Body, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the institutional structures in Russia pertaining to stock assessment, management, and enforcement for fishery harvests in the Bering Sea, and recommendations for improving coordination between the United States and Russia for managing and conserving Bering Sea fishery resources of mutual concern.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 108(g) [uncodified]

NORTH PACIFIC LOAN PROGRAM.--

(1) By not later than October 1, 1997 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council shall recommend to the Secretary of Commerce a program which uses the full amount of fees authorized to be used under section 303(d)(4) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this Act, in the halibut and sablefish fisheries off Alaska to guarantee obligations in accordance with such section.

(2)(A) For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase 'fishermen who fish from small vessels' in section 303(d)(4)(A)(i) of such Act shall mean fishermen wishing to purchase individual fishing quotas for use from Category B, Category C, or Category D vessels, as defined in part 676.20(c) of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as revised as of October 1, 1995), whose aggregate ownership of individual fishing quotas will not exceed the equivalent of a total of 50,000 pounds of halibut and sablefish harvested in the fishing year in which a guarantee application is made if the guarantee is approved, who will participate aboard the fishing vessel in the harvest of fish caught under such quotas, who have at least 150 days of experience working as part of the harvesting crew in any United States commercial fishery, and who do not own in whole or in part any Category A or Category B vessel, as defined in such part and title of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(B) For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase "entry level fishermen" in section 303(d)(4)(A)(ii) of such Act shall mean fishermen who do not own any individual fishing quotas, who wish to obtain the equivalent of not more than a total of 8,000 pounds of halibut and sablefish harvested in the fishing year in which a guarantee application is made, and who will participate aboard the fishing vessel in the harvest of fish caught under such quotas.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 209 [uncodified]

STUDY OF IDENTIFICATION METHODS FOR HARVEST STOCKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.--The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a study to determine the best possible method of identifying various Atlantic and Pacific salmon and steelhead stocks in the ocean at time of harvest. The study shall include an assessment of--

- (1) coded wire tags;
- (2) fin clipping; and
- (3) other identification methods.

(b) REPORT.--The Secretary shall report the results of the study, together with any recommendations for legislation deemed necessary based on the study, within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

P.L. 104-297, sec. 210 [uncodified]

REVIEW OF NORTHEAST FISHERY STOCK ASSESSMENTS.

The National Academy of Sciences, in consultation with regionally recognized fishery experts, shall conduct a peer review of Canadian and United States stock assessments, information collection methodologies, biological assumptions and projections, and other relevant scientific information used as the basis for conservation and management in the Northeast multispecies fishery. The National Academy of Sciences shall submit the results of such review to the Congress and the Secretary of Commerce no later than March 1, 1997.

104-297, 106-554**(d) INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTAS.--**

(1) (A) A Council may not submit and the Secretary may not approve or implement before October 1, 2002, any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation under this Act which creates a new individual fishing quota program.

(B) Any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation approved by the Secretary on or after January 4, 1995, which creates any new individual fishing quota program shall be repealed and immediately returned by the Secretary to the appropriate Council and shall not be resubmitted, reapproved, or implemented during the moratorium set forth in subparagraph (A).

(2) (A) No provision of law shall be construed to limit the authority of a Council to submit and the Secretary to approve the termination or limitation, without compensation to holders of any limited access system permits, of a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation that provides for a limited access system, including an individual fishing quota program.

(B) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a Council from submitting, or the Secretary from approving and implementing, amendments to the North Pacific halibut and sablefish, South Atlantic wreckfish, or Mid-Atlantic surf clam and ocean (including mahogany) quahog individual fishing quota programs.

(3) An individual fishing quota or other limited access system authorization--
 (A) shall be considered a permit for the purposes of sections 307, 308, and 309;
 (B) may be revoked or limited at any time in accordance with this Act;
 (C) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder of such individual fishing quota or other such limited access system authorization if it is revoked or limited; and
 (D) shall not create, or be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested.

(4) (A) A Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve and implement, a program which reserves up to 25 percent of any fees collected from a fishery under section 304(d)(2) to be used, pursuant to section 1104A(a)(7) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1274(a)(7)), to issue obligations that aid in financing the--
 (i) purchase of individual fishing quotas in that fishery by fishermen who fish from small vessels; and
 (ii) first-time purchase of individual fishing quotas in that fishery by entry level fishermen.

(B) A Council making a submission under subparagraph (A) shall recommend criteria, consistent with the provisions of this Act, that a fisherman must meet to qualify for guarantees under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) and the portion of funds to be allocated for guarantees under each clause.

(5) In submitting and approving any new individual fishing quota program on or after October 1, 2002, the Councils and the Secretary shall consider the report of the National Academy of Sciences required under section 108(f) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, and any recommendations contained in such report, and shall ensure that any such program--

(A) establishes procedures and requirements for the review and revision of the terms of any such program (including any revisions that may be necessary once a national policy with respect to individual fishing quota programs is implemented), and, if appropriate, for the renewal, reallocation, or reissuance of individual fishing quotas;

(B) provides for the effective enforcement and management of any such program, including adequate observer coverage, and for fees under section 304(d)(2) to recover actual costs directly related to such enforcement and management; and

(C) provides for a fair and equitable initial allocation of individual fishing quotas, prevents any person from acquiring an excessive share of the individual fishing quotas issued, and considers the allocation of a portion of the annual harvest in the fishery for entry-level fishermen, small vessel owners, and crew members who do not hold or qualify for individual fishing quotas.

Summary of selected new provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 Act (MSRA) with an emphasis on matters associated with Pacific Fishery Management Council Activities.

Category	Topic	Provision	Schedule for Implementation	MSA Section¹
Council Function	Establishing Annual Catch Limits	The Council shall establish annual catch limits for each managed fishery that may not exceed the fishing level recommendations of its SSC.	Immediate	302(h)(6) Page 51
Council Committees and Advisory Panels	Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Function	Councils shall maintain an SSC to assist in the development, collection, evaluation, and peer review of statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information relevant to development and amendment of any FMP. The SSC shall provide recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum sustainable yield, and achieving rebuilding targets, and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat	Immediate	302(g) Page 49-50
Action By Secretary - NEPA	Environmental Review Process	The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Councils revise agency procedures to integrate applicable environmental analytical procedures with procedures for preparation or amendment of FMPs to provide clear and concise analyses for decision makers, reduce paperwork, and maintain time frames for effective public involvement.	Initial concepts presented at April Council meeting, proposed revised procedures in six months and final procedures in one year.	304(i) Page 74
Actions by the Secretary - Rebuilding	Rebuilding Provisions	For stocks designated as overfished, Councils shall end overfishing <u>immediately</u> and implement rebuilding plans within two years (formerly one year). If not accomplished by the Council the Secretary shall submit a plan within nine months.	Within 30 days	304(e) Pages 71-72

¹ Page numbers reference the draft Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 2)

Category	Topic	Provision	Schedule for Implementation	MSA Section ¹
Definitions	Individual Quota Programs	Adds a new term intended to replace the term Individual Quota - Limited Access Privilege (LAP) defined as “ <i>a Federal permit, issued as part of a limited access system under section 303A to harvest a quantity of fish expressed by a unit or units representing a portion of the total allowable catch of the fishery that may be received or held for exclusive use by a person; and(B) includes an individual fishing quota; but(C) does not include community development quotas as described in section 305(i).</i> ”	NA	Sec.3 Definitions (26) Page 8
Contents of FMPs	Limited Access Privilege Programs	Establishes national guidelines for LAP Programs which include IQ programs and allows allocation of harvest privileges to fisheries currently under a limited access system, fishing communities or regional fishery associations. Does not establish a separate processor quotas but processors could be eligible to hold LAPs per Council allocation process.	Report due to Congress on rationalization of groundfish trawl and Pacific whiting fisheries in two years .	Sec. 303A Pages 61-67; two year reporting req. in Appendix (uncodified text) Page 139
Contents of FMPs	Required FMP Provisions	An FMP prepared by the Council or the Secretary shall “ <i>establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.</i> ”	FMP amendments and regulations in place by fishing year 2010 for fisheries experiencing overfishing and 2011 for all others.	303(a)(15) Page 58
Findings, Purposes, and Policy	Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management	A number of the Fishery Management Councils have demonstrated significant progress in integrating ecosystem considerations in fisheries management using the existing authorities provided under this Act	NA	Sec. 2 - Findings, Purposes, and Policy

Category	Topic	Provision	Schedule for Implementation	MSA Section ¹
Fisheries Systems Research	Regional Ecosystem Research	The Secretary with the Councils shall complete a study on the state of the science for advancing the concepts and integration of ecosystem considerations in regional fishery management.	Report within 180 days (July 2007)	406(f) Pages 128-129
Council Committees and Advisory Panels	Stipends for the SSC or Advisory Bodies	<i>“The Secretary shall, <u>subject to the availability of appropriations</u>, pay a stipend to members of the SSC or advisory panels who are not employed by the Federal Govt. or a State marine fisheries agency.”</i>	TBD, Council staff to report number of work days per memo (Agenda Item D.2.a, Att. 6)	302(g)(1)(F) Pages 49-50
Council Training	Council Member Training Program	Requires training course for members appointed after January 2007 and acknowledges training received in the last two years.	Revised training Course developed within six months	302(k) Pages 55-56
Council Voting Members	Tribal representative alternate	<i>“The tribal representative appointed under subparagraph (A) may designate as an alternate, during the period of the representative’s term, an individual knowledgeable concerning tribal rights, tribal law, and the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned.”</i>	Immediate	302(b)(5)(D) Page 47
Council Coordination	Council Coordination Committee (CCC)	Establishes the CCC made up of Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Executive Directors of the eight Regional Councils and exempts CCC meetings from requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.	Immediate	302(l) Page 56
Enforcement	Joint Enforcement Agreements and Data Sharing	A State management agency or officer authorized by agreement with the Secretary may “ <i>access, directly or indirectly, for enforcement purposes any data or information required to be provided under this title or regulations under this title, including data from <u>vessel monitoring systems</u>, satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, or any similar system, subject to the confidentiality provisions of section 402”</i>	As soon as practicable but no later than 21 months.	311(b)(1)(A) Page 101

Category	Topic	Provision	Schedule for Implementation	MSA Section¹
Mandates to Prepare Reports	Recovery Plan for Klamath River Coho	The Secretary shall complete a recovery plan for Klamath River coho and report on activities to achieve coho recovery, restore habitat, and improve other Klamath River anadromous stocks, including chinook.	Recovery Plan developed in six months with first report in two years and annually thereafter.	Appendix (uncodified text) Page 132
Council Member and SSC - Conflict of Interest	Disclosure of Financial Interest and Recusal	Broadens financial disclosure requirements for to include advocacy or lobbying organizations for which a Council member is an officer, director, trustee , partner of employee of, requires. Requires Secretary to report to Congress on activities to meet disclosure and recusal requirements and to report any conflict of interest problems with respect to Council and SSCs.	Report to Congress due January 1, 2008 and annually thereafter.	302(j) Pages 54-55
Bycatch	Bycatch Reduction Engineering program	<i>“The Secretary, in cooperation with the Councils and other affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, shall establish a bycatch reduction program, including grants, to develop technological devices and other conservation engineering changes designed to minimize bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality in Federally managed fisheries.”</i>	Within one year.	Sec. 316 Pages 117-118
Cooperative Research	Cooperative Research and Management Program	Establishes regional cooperative research programs and prioritizes funding for projects which improve stock assessment science, asses and reduce bycatch and post-release mortality, assess and protect habitat, and collect economic and social data.	Regulations to create a expedited, uniform, and regionally-based process for experimental fishing permits in 180 days.	Sec. 318 Page 118.

Category	Topic	Provision	Schedule for Implementation	MSA Section¹
FMP Discretionary Provisions	Deep Sea Coral Protection	An FMP may designate zones to protect deep sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep sea corals, after considering long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in such areas; and with respect to any closure of an area under this Act that prohibits all fishing, ensure that such closure is based on the best scientific information available; includes criteria to assess the conservation benefit of the closed area; establishes a timetable for review of the closed area's performance; and is based on an assessment of the benefits and impacts of the closure, including the benefits and impacts of limiting access to: users of the area, overall fishing activity, fishery science, and fishery and marine conservation;	Immediate for protective measures, MSA Section 408 requires the Secretary in consultation with the Council and in coordination with other federal agencies and education institutions, to establish a program for deep sea coral research and monitoring with a report due to Congress in one year and biennially thereafter.	303(b)(2)(B) Page 59 and 408 Pages 130-131
International and High Seas Fisheries	Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing (IUUF).	The Secretary shall define IUUF, promote improved monitoring, compliance, and surveillance of high seas fisheries, provide a biennial report on the status of stocks and nations whose vessels are engaged in IUUF, and include IUUF as justification for sanctions such as prohibition of imports of fish from nations engaged in IUUF.	Definition of IUUF in six months and biennial reporting requirements.	Section 403 of the MSRA and MSA Section 206a.(b) Page 39
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC) Implementation Act	Appointment of U.S. Commissioners	Specifies 5 U.S. seats on the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean - including an employee of the Dept. of Commerce, the chair or member of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and <u>the chair or member of the PFMC.</u>	Immediate	NA Title V of the MSRA

Category	Topic	Provision	Schedule for Implementation	MSA Section¹
WCPFC Implementation Act	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	For highly migratory species in the Pacific, the Secretary shall develop a memorandum of understanding with the Western Pacific, Pacific, and North Pacific Fishery Management Councils, that clarifies the role of the relevant Councils with respect to coordination and participation in U.S. delegations to international fishery organizations, providing formal recommendations regarding necessary measures for both domestic and foreign vessels, and recommending domestic fishing regulations that are consistent with the actions of the international fishery organization, for approval and implementation under MSA.	Immediate	NA Title V of the MSRA
Actions by the Secretary - International Fisheries	International Overfishing	For a fishery that the Secretary determines is overfished due to excessive international fishing pressure for which there are no measures to end overfishing under an international agreement the Secretary shall immediately take appropriate action at the international level to end the overfishing; and within 1 year the appropriate Council, or Secretary, <u>shall develop recommendations for domestic regulations</u> to address the relative impact of fishing vessels of the US on the stock and, if developed by a Council, the Council shall submit such recommendations to the Secretary; and develop and submit recommendations international actions that end overfishing and rebuild the affected stocks, taking into account the relative impact of vessels of other nations and vessels of the United States.	Immediate	304(i) Page 75

Category	Topic	Provision	Schedule for Implementation	MSA Section¹
Highly Migratory Species	Promotion of Stock Management-Rebuilding	<i>“If a relevant international fisheries organization does not have a process for developing a formal plan to rebuild a depleted stock, an overfished stock, or a stock that is approaching a condition of being overfished, the provisions of this Act in this regard shall be communicated to and promoted by the United States in the international or regional fisheries organization.”</i>	Immediate	Sec. 102(c) Page 12
MSRA Title VI The Pacific Whiting Act of 2006	Implementation of the U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Treaty	Specifies U.S. Representation on various management and scientific committees and establishes rulemaking and enforcement requirements for the international management of Pacific whiting.	Immediate	Title VI of the MSRA

International Provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act



NOAA Fisheries Office of International Affairs
January 2007

Overview

- International Overfishing
- International Monitoring and Compliance
- Definitions of IUU, Protected LMRs
- IUU Fishing, Bycatch of Protected Living Marine Resources (LMRs)
 - Biennial Report
 - Certification Procedures

Overview

- Required Actions to Strengthen RFMOs
- U.S. Catch History
- Secretarial Representative for International Fisheries
- Other International Provisions
 - ATCA
 - WCPFC
 - Pacific Hake/Whiting

International Overfishing

International Overfishing

Requires immediate action to end overfishing at the international level if:

- Commerce Secretary determines a fishery is overfished, or approaching a condition of being overfished, due to excessive international pressure
- No international agreement is in place



International Overfishing

Within one year after a Secretarial determination, Councils (or the Secretary) are required to:

- Develop recommendations for domestic regulations
- Develop and submit recommendations to Secretary of State and Congress for international actions to end overfishing and rebuild stocks

International Monitoring and Compliance

International Monitoring and Compliance

Commerce Secretary is authorized to undertake activities to promote improved monitoring, compliance, and surveillance for high seas or RFMO fisheries



International Monitoring and Compliance

These activities may include:

- Information sharing
- Participating in efforts to build an international MCS network
- Supporting efforts to create an international registry/database of fishing vessels
- Enhancing enforcement through remote sensing technology to locate or identify IUU fishing vessels
- Providing technical or other assistance for MCS
- Supporting efforts to ensure VMS on high seas large-scale fishing vessels by 12/31/08

Definitions of IUU and Protected LMRs

Definition of IUU

Within 3 months after enactment, Commerce Secretary must publish definition of “IUU fishing” for purposes of the Act; definition must include:

- Fishing activities that violate conservation and management measures required under an international agreement to which U.S. is a party
- Overfishing of fish stocks shared with U.S. for which there are no applicable international measures, or in areas with no RFMO or international agreement
- Fishing activity that has adverse impacts on seamounts, hydrothermal vents, and cold water corals beyond national jurisdiction for which there are no applicable international measures, or in areas with no RFMO or international agreement

Definition of Protected LMRs

Protected LMRs are defined as:

- Non-target fish, sea turtles, or marine mammals that are protected under U.S. law or international agreement, including MMPA, ESA, SFPA, and CITES
- With exception of sharks, protected LMRs do not include species managed under MSA, ATCA, or any international fishery management agreement

Biennial Report on IUU Fishing and Bycatch of Protected LMRs

Biennial Report

Status of Stocks

- State of knowledge on status of international LMRs shared by the U.S. or subject to treaties/agreements to which U.S. is a party
- List of fish stocks classified as overfished, overexploited, depleted, endangered, or threatened by any authority with management or conservation responsibility over living marine resources

Biennial Report

IUU Fishing

- Identify nations whose vessels are engaged, or have been engaged during the last two years, in IUU fishing
- If the relevant RFMO has failed to implement effective measures to end IUU fishing activity; or
- Nation is not party to or does not maintain cooperating status with the relevant RFMO; or
- No RFMO regulates IUU fishing

Biennial Report

Protected Living Marine Resources (LMRs)

- Identify nations whose vessels are engaged, or have been engaged during the past calendar year, in fishing activities or practices that result in:
 - (1) bycatch of protected LMRs in waters beyond any national jurisdiction; or
 - (2) bycatch of protected LMRs shared by the United States beyond the U.S. EEZ

Biennial Report

Protected Living Marine Resources (LMRs)

- Identify whether the relevant RFMO has failed to implement effective measures to end or reduce bycatch; or
- Nation is not party to or does not maintain cooperating status with RFMO; and
- Nation has not adopted a regulatory program to end or reduce bycatch that is comparable to that of the U.S.

Biennial Report

Identification of Nations

- Identification of nations in the biennial report is deemed to be an identification under the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act
- Upon identification, the Commerce Secretary must notify the U.S. President of such identification

Biennial Report

Corrective Actions

- Description of efforts by nations to comply or take appropriate corrective actions on IUU fishing or bycatch
- Evaluation of progress of these efforts, including steps taken by U.S. to implement the Act's requirements on IUU and bycatch and improve international compliance

Biennial Report

Corrective Actions

- Progress at the international level to strengthen efforts of RFMOs to end IUU fishing
- Steps taken by the Commerce Secretary to adopt international measures (comparable to those of the United States) to reduce impacts of fishing and other practices on protected LMRs, if there is no international agreement, or if the existing RFMO has failed to implement effective measures to end or reduce adverse impacts on LMRs

Biennial Report

No later than 60 days after submitting the biennial report to Congress, the Commerce Secretary, acting through Secretary of State, must:

- Notify nations of their identification in the biennial report and the Act's requirements to address IUU fishing
- Initiate consultations to encourage these nations to take appropriate corrective actions
- Notify any relevant RFMO of actions taken by U.S. to address IUU fishing

Biennial Report

Commerce Secretary, acting through Secretary of State, must also:

- Notify nations whose vessels engage in fishing activities or practices that result in bycatch of protected LMRs about the Act's requirements
- Initiate discussions as soon as possible with these governments to enter into treaties
- Seek agreements calling for international restrictions on bycatch through UN, FAO COFI, and others
- Initiate amendment of existing treaties

Certification Procedures for IUU Fishing, Bycatch of Protected LMRs

Certification Procedures

- Commerce Secretary must establish separate procedures to certify to the Congress whether nations are taking appropriate actions to address IUU fishing and bycatch of protected LMRs
- Each certification procedure must provide notice and opportunity for comment by nations
- Identified nations will receive either “positive” or “negative” certification
- Alternative certification procedures may be developed

Certification Procedures

Any nation identified in the biennial report that is not certified, or that is negatively certified, is subject to the sanctions of the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act

Sanctions do not apply to:

- Nations that receive a positive certification
- Sport fishing equipment
- Fish or fish products not managed under an international agreement
- Fish or fish products caught by vessels not engaged in IUU fishing ,if there is no international agreement

IUU Certification Procedure

Under the IUU certification procedure, Commerce Secretary must certify to the Congress, on a biennial basis:

- Whether an identified nation has taken corrective action regarding activities in the biennial report; or
- Whether the relevant RFMO has implemented effective measures to end IUU fishing by vessels of that nation

Bycatch Certification Procedure

Under the bycatch certification procedure, the Commerce Secretary must determine if nations identified as having vessels engaged in bycatch of protected LMRs have:

- Adopted a regulatory program; and
- Established a management plan with requirements that assist in gathering species-specific data to support international stock assessments and conservation enforcement efforts

International Assistance for Certification

To the greatest extent possible, based on the availability of funds, the Secretary must:

- Provide assistance to nations identified by the Secretary as having vessels engaged in bycatch of protected LMRs and the relevant RFMO to help the nation qualify for certification
- Undertake cooperative research with these nations or RFMOs, where appropriate

International Assistance for Certification

To the greatest extent possible, based on the availability of funds, the Secretary must also:

- Encourage and facilitate the transfer of technology to these nations and RFMOs to assist them in qualifying for certification
- Provide assistance to these nations and RFMOs in designing and implementing appropriate fish harvesting plans

Required Actions to Strengthen RFMOs

Required Actions to Strengthen RFMOs

Commerce Secretary, in consultation with Secretary of State and in cooperation with relevant Councils and advisory committees, must take actions to improve the effectiveness of RFMOs

Required actions:

- Urge other nations at bilateral, regional, and international levels to take steps necessary to prevent fish and other LMRs harvested by vessels engaged in IUU fishing from being traded or imported into their nation or territories

Required Actions to Strengthen RFMOs



Urge RFMOs to:

- Seek adoption of lists identifying fishing vessels and vessel owners engaged in IUU fishing
- Seek international adoption of centralized VMS
- Increase use of observers & technologies for monitoring compliance
- Seek adoption of stronger port state controls

Required Actions to Strengthen RFMOs

Urge RFMOs and member countries to adopt and expand use of market-related measures to combat IUU fishing, including:

- Import prohibitions, landing restrictions, or other measures to enforce compliance
- Measures to prevent trade or import of fish caught by vessels identified multilaterally as engaging in IUU fishing
- Catch documentation and certification schemes to improve tracking & identification of IUU catch

U.S. Catch History

U.S. Catch History

When establishing catch allocations under international agreements, the Commerce Secretary, in consultation with the Coast Guard and the Secretary of State, must ensure catch history associated with a U.S. vessel remains with the U.S., even if a U.S. vessel is sold or transferred to another nation or foreign owner



Secretarial Representative for International Fisheries

Secretarial Representative for International Fisheries

In January 2009, Commerce Secretary must designate a Senate-confirmed, senior official within NOAA to perform the duties of the Secretary with respect to international agreements involving fisheries and other LMRs

Other International Provisions

Other International Provisions

- Reauthorizes the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act; establishes an Atlantic billfish cooperative research program
- Implements the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention
- Implements the Agreement Between U.S. and Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting (Nov. 2003)

Summary

Summary

- The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act presents many opportunities and challenges for NMFS and the Councils to address international overfishing, IUU fishing, and bycatch of protected LMRs
- The Act will also require a commitment towards strengthening RFMOs and helping nations develop management capacity and tools to address these important issues

Summary

- The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act recognizes that RFMOs have a critical role to play to combat IUU fishing and reduce the bycatch of protected LMRs
- Implementation of this Act will require full cooperation between NOAA and the RFMOs

Agenda Item D.2.a
Attachment 5
March 2007

DRAFT

DRAFT

1/10/2007

DRAFT List of Tasks linked to MSA Reauthorization - revision date:
The following tasks are those that must be implemented by some date after reauthorization of MSA

Using file: H.R.5946_enrolled bill 1-3-07.pdf

Topic	Sub-Topic	Provision	Bill Citation	Bill Page #	MSA Cite	Deadline (mos)	Required Outcome	Specific product
New England Groundfish Fishery	Framework 42 study	The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a unique, thorough examination of the potential impact on all affected and interested parties of Framework 42 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and report the Secretary's findings. The report shall include a detailed discussion of the provisions specified in the section.	215(b)	46	n/a	1	Report in 30 days	Report
International Fisheries	Certification	The Secretary shall certify to the Congress by January 31, 2007, and biennially thereafter whether each such nation has provided the documentary evidence described in paragraph 610(1)(A) and established a management plan described in paragraph 610(1)(B).	403	57	n/a	1	Certification	
Groundfish	Secretarial Action on State Groundfish Fishing	The Secretary of Commerce shall determine whether fishing in State waters— (A) without a New England Multispecies groundfish fishery permit on regulated species within the multispecies complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan; or (B) without a Federal bottomfish and seamount groundfish permit in the Hawaiian archipelago on regulated species within the complex is not consistent with the applicable Federal fishery management plan or State data are not sufficient to make such a determination. If the Secretary makes a determination that such actions are not consistent with the plan, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Council, and after notifying the affected State, develop and implement measures to cure the inconsistency pursuant to section 306(b).	110	22	305	2	Determination (letter to states?); remedy (if needed) in 60 days	Determination
FMP Req'ts	BSAI King and Tanner Crabs	Sec. Comm shall amend the FMP for the BSAI King and Tanner Crabs for the Northern Region (as that term is used in the plan) to authorize—(A) an eligible entity holding processor quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding processor quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any catcher vessel quota shares for the Northern Region with their processor quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region; and (B) an eligible entity holding catcher vessel quota shares to elect on an annual basis to work together with other entities holding catcher vessel quota shares and affiliated with such eligible entity through common ownership to combine any processor quota shares for the Northern Region with their catcher vessel quota shares and to exchange them for newly created catcher/processor owner quota shares for the Northern Region.	122(a)	35	n/a	3	Plan amendment in 90 days	FMP Amendment
International fisheries	IUUF	The Secretary shall publish a definition of the term 'illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing' for purposes of this Act, including in the definition, at a minimum—(A) fishing activities that violate conservation and management measures required under an international fishery management agreement to which the United States is a party, including catch limits or quotas, capacity restrictions, and bycatch reduction requirements; (B) overfishing of fish stocks shared by the United States, for which there are no applicable international conservation or management measures or in areas with no applicable international fishery management organization or agreement, that has adverse impacts on such stocks; and (C) fishing activity that has an adverse impact on seamounts, hydrothermal vents, and cold water corals located beyond national jurisdiction, for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures or in areas with no applicable international fishery management organization or agreement.	403	55	n/a	3	Regulations	Regulations
Miscellaneous	Tsunami	The Administrator shall establish a process for monitoring and certifying contractor performance in carrying out the requirements of any contract to construct or deploy tsunami detection equipment, including procedures and penalties to be imposed in cases of significant contractor failure or negligence.	804	83	n/a	3	Process	Process
Regional Fisheries Management Councils	Training	Requires the Sec., in consultation with the Councils and the National Sea Grant College Program, develop a training course for new Council members. Training course shall be made available to new and existing Council members and staff from the RO's and RSC's of NMFS, and may be made available to committee or advisory panel members as resources permit.	103(g)	7	302	6	Training Course	Training Course

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1/10/2007

Using file: H.R.5946_enrolled bill 1-3-07.pdf

Topic	Sub-Topic	Provision	Bill Citation	Bill Page #	MSA Cite	Deadline (mos)	Required Outcome	Specific product
Environmental Review Process	NEPA	The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Councils and the Council on Environmental Quality, <u>revise and update agency procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.)</u> . Specifies requirements of the procedures. First part of schedule specifies when revised procedures are to be proposed. Proposed rule shall provide 90 days for public comment.	107	20	304	6	Proposed procedures	Proposed procedures published
Salmon Plan and Study	Recovery Plan	The Secretary of Commerce shall complete a <u>recovery plan for Klamath River Coho salmon</u> and make it available to the public.	113(b)	28	Title III	6	Recovery plan	Recovery plan
Cooperative Research and Management Program	Experimental Fishing Permits	Requires Sec., in consultation with the Councils, to promulgate regulations that establish an expedited, uniform, and regionally-based process for issuance of <u>experimental fishing permits</u> .	204	40	Title III	6	Regulations (180 days)	Final rule published
Regional Ecosystem Research	Ecosystem-Based Management and Research	Requires Sec., in consultation with the Councils, to undertake and complete a study on the state of science for integration of <u>ecosystem considerations in regional fisheries management</u> . The study should build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel (established under Section 406 of MSA). Stipulates what must be included in study.	210	43	406	6	Study (180 days)	Study
Hurricane Effects on Shrimp and Oyster Fisheries and Habitats	Fisheries	The Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on— (1) commercial and recreational fisheries in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas; (2) shrimp fishing vessels in those States; and (3) the oyster industry in those States.	213	45	n/a	6	Report (180 days)	Report
Hurricane Effects on Shrimp and Oyster Fisheries and Habitats	Habitat	The Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma on habitat, including the habitat of shrimp and oysters in those States.	213	45	n/a	6	Report (180 days)	Report
Fishery Science	Study	Secretaries of Commerce and Education shall collaborate to study if there is a shortage of individuals with <u>post-baccalaureate degrees</u> in fisheries science and shall submit a report to congress detailing the findings and recommendations of the study.	217	47	n/a	8	Report	Report
Council Management Coordination	Liaison's Role	The MA Council, in consultation with the NE Council, shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation - (abbr.) (1) describing the role of council liaisons between the MA and NE Councils; (2) describing how management actions are taken regarding the operational aspects of current joint FMPs; (3) evaluating the role of the NE and the MA Council liaisons in the development and approval of management plans; (4) evaluating the effectiveness of the various approaches developed by the Councils to improve representation for affected members of the non-controlling Council in decision-making, such as use of liaisons, joint management plans, and other policies, taking into account both the procedural and conservation requirements of the MSA; and (5) analyzing characteristics of NC and FL that supported their inclusion as voting members of more than one Council and the extent to which those characteristics support RI's inclusion on (the MA Council).	216	46	n/a	9	Report	Report
Regional Fisheries Management Councils	Conflicts of Interest	On January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Resources on action taken by the Secretary and the Councils to implement the <u>disclosure of financial interest and recusal requirements</u> of this subsection, including identification of any conflict of interest problems with respect to the Councils and scientific and statistical committees and recommendations for addressing any such problems.	103(i)(4)	9	302(j)	12	Report - due 1/08 - annually thereafter	Annual report

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1/10/2007

Using file: H.R.5946_enrolled bill 1-3-07.pdf

Topic	Sub-Topic	Provision	Bill Citation	Bill Page #	MSA Cite	Deadline (mos)	Required Outcome	Specific product
Limited Access Privilege Programs	Referendum Requirements	Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall publish guidelines and procedures to determine procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda and to conduct such referenda in a fair and equitable manner.	106(a)	17	New 303A	12	Procedures	Final procedures published
Environmental Review Process	NEPA	Requires that the Secretary promulgate final procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4231 et seq.) no later than 12 months after the date of enactment.	107	20	304	12	Final procedures	Final procedures published
Transitioning to Sustainable Fisheries	Overcapitalization	Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary shall, within 12 months after the date of the enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 submit to the Congress a report— (i) identifying and describing the 20 fisheries in United States waters with the most severe examples of excess harvesting capacity in the fisheries, based on value of each fishery and the amount of excess harvesting capacity as determined by the Secretary; (ii) recommending measures for reducing such excess harvesting capacity, including the retirement of any latent fishing permits that could contribute to further excess harvesting capacity in those fisheries; and (iii) potential sources of funding for such measures.	112(a)(8)	25	312	12	Report	Report
Bycatch	Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program	The Secretary, in cooperation with the Councils and other affected interests, and based upon the best scientific information available, shall establish a bycatch reduction program , including grants, to develop technological devices and other conservation engineering changes designed to minimize bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality in Federally managed fisheries. The section specifies program requirements.	116(a)	31	Title III	12	Program	Program
Deep Sea Coral	Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program	The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall submit biennial reports to Congress and the public on steps taken by the Secretary to identify, monitor, and protect deep sea coral areas, including summaries of the results of mapping, research, and data collection performed under the program.	211	44	Title IV	12	Biennial Report	Biennial Report
Miscellaneous	Tsunami	The National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit to Congress a report on how the tsunami forecast system under this section will be integrated with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global earth observing system of systems, global seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System.	804	82	n/a	12	Report	
Joint Enforcement Agreements	Report	Requires NMFS and Coast Guard to transmit a joint report to Congress on feasibility, value, and cost of using GMDSS (or other similar data system) for fishery management, conservation, enforcement, and safety purposes with the Federal government bearing the capital costs of any such system; the cumulative impact of existing requirements for commercial vessels; whether such data systems would overlap existing requirements or render them redundant; how data from systems could be integrated; how to maximize data-sharing opportunities between State and Federal agencies; and an assessment of the development, purchase, and distribution of systems to regulated vessels.	111(b)	23	311	15	Report	Report

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1/10/2007

Using file: H.R.5946_enrolled bill 1-3-07.pdf

Topic	Sub-Topic	Provision	Bill Citation	Bill Page #	MSA Cite	Deadline (mos)	Required Outcome	Specific product
Joint Enforcement Agreements	Data sharing	The Secretary shall implement data-sharing measures to make any data required to be provided by this Act from satellite-based maritime distress and safety systems, vessel monitoring systems, or similar systems— (A) Directly accessible by State enforcement officers authorized under subsection (a) of this section; and (B) Available to a State management agency involved in, or affected by, management of a fishery if the State has entered into an agreement with the Secretary under section 402(b)(1)(B) of this Act.	111(a)(5)	23	311	21	"As soon as practicable, no later than 21 months"	MOU or regulations?
Regional Fisheries Management Councils	Training	Council members appointed after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall complete a training course that meets the requirements of this section not later than 1 year after the date on which they were appointed. Any Council member who has completed a training course within 24 months before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 shall be considered to have met the training requirement of this paragraph.	103(g)	8	302	24	Training Course	Training Course
Salmon Plan and Study	Recovery Plan	Within 2 years of enactment, and annually thereafter, the Sec. is required to submit a report to Congress on the actions taken under the recovery plan and other law relating to the recovery of Klamath River Coho salmon and how these actions are contributing to its recovery; progress on restoration of salmon spawning habitat, including water conditions that relate to salmon health and recovery (with emphasis on the Klamath River and its tributaries below Iron Gate Dam); the status of other Klamath River anadromous fish populations, and actions taken by the Sec. to address the 2003 National Research Council's recommendations regarding monitoring and research on Klamath River salmon stocks.	113(b)	28	Title III	24	Report; then annually	Annual report
MRFSS	Program	Sec. Comm. in consultation with reps of the rec fishing industry and experts in statistics, technology, and other appropriate fields, shall establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information generated by MRFSS. The program must take into account the 2006 NRC report "Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods." The goal of the program shall be to achieve acceptable accuracy and utility for each individual fishery. The Sec. must complete the program and implement the improved MRFSS by January 1, 2009.	201	37	401	24	Program	Program
Pacific Groundfish and Whiting Fishery	Rationalization Proposal for Pacific Groundfish and Whiting Fishery	Requires the Pacific Fishery Management Council to develop a proposal for an appropriate rationalization program for the Pacific trawl groundfish and whiting fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery. In developing the rationalization proposal, the Pacific Council must fully analyze alternative program designs, assess the proposal's impact on conservation and economies of the communities, fishermen, and processors participating in the groundfish trawl fisheries, including the shore-based sector of the Pacific whiting fishery. Requires the Pacific Council to submit the proposal and related analysis to Congress within 24 months of enactment.	302(f)	50	n/a	24	Proposal and related analysis	Report
High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act	Action to End IUU Fishing and Reduce Bycatch of Protected Marine Species	Amends the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to require the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec of State, to provide to Congress, a biennial report that includes— (1) the state of knowledge on the status of international living marine resources shared by the U.S. or subject to treaties or agreements to which the U.S. is a party, (stocks classified as overfished, overexploited, depleted, endangered, or threatened with extinction); (2) a list of nations whose vessels have been identified, including the specific offending activities and any subsequent actions taken; (3) a description of efforts taken by nations on those lists to comply take appropriate corrective action, and an evaluation of the progress of those efforts, including steps taken by the U.S. to implement those sections and to improve international compliance; (4) progress at the international level to strengthen the efforts of international fishery management organizations to end IUU fishing; and (5) steps taken by the Sec. at international level to adopt international measures comparable to those of the U	403	52	n/a	24	Biennial Report	Biennial Report

DRAFT List of Tasks linked to MSA Reauthorization - revision date: 1/10/2007
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Using file: H.R.5946_enrolled bill 1-3-07.pdf

Topic	Sub-Topic	Provision	Bill Citation	Bill Page #	MSA Cite	Deadline (mos)	Required Outcome	Specific product
International Fisheries	Secretarial Representative for International Fisheries	The Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall designate a Senate-confirmed, senior official within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to perform the duties of the Secretary with respect to international agreements involving fisheries and other living marine resources, including policy development and representation as a U.S. Commissioner, under any such international agreements.	408	60	n/a	24	Appointment	
FMP Req'ts	Annual Catch Limits and Overage Deductions	Establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability. The amendment made by subsection (a)(10)—(1) shall, unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates, take effect— (A) in fishing year 2010 for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to over fishing; and (B) in fishing year 2011 for all other fisheries; and (2) shall not apply to a fishery for species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species; and (3) shall not limit or otherwise affect the requirements of section 301(a)(1) or 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1) or 1854(e), respectively).	104(a)(7)	10	303(a)	36	Guidance for plan amendments	Mechanism due for fishing year 2010 or 2011 (see Provision column) Deadline assumes "fishing year" starts Jan 1 Regulations implementing guidance
Miscellaneous	Tsunami	The National Weather Service, in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall transmit a report to Congress on how technology developed under section 806 is being transferred into the program under this section.	804	82	n/a	36	Report	
Miscellaneous	Tsunami	Comptroller General of the U.S. shall transmit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives that (1) evaluates the current status of the tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning system and the tsunami hazard mitigation program established under this title, including progress toward tsunami inundation mapping of all coastal areas vulnerable to tsunami and whether there has been any degradation of services as a result of the expansion of the program; (2) evaluates the NWS's ability to achieve continued improvements in the delivery of tsunami detection, forecasting, and warning services by assessing policies and plans for the evolution of modernization systems, models, and computational abilities (including the adoption of new technologies); and (3) lists the contributions of funding or other resources to the program by other Federal agencies, particularly agencies participating in the program.	804	83	n/a	36	Report - Due 31 January 2010	Report
MRFS	Report	Within 24 months of establishment of the revised MRFS program, requires Sec. to submit a report to Congress describing progress toward achieving the program goals and objectives.	201	38	401	48	Report	Report



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

FEB 05 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Council Chairs and Executive Directors

FROM: Alan Risenhoover, Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SUBJECT: CCED Meeting Follow-up

Thank you for your participation at the January 2007 meeting of the CCED. A substantial amount of information and ideas were shared and the discussion helped to provide some direction for a number of tasks that we need to accomplish in the coming months.

I wish to take this opportunity to remind you of several specific requests that were made of the Councils and staff, in particular related to information that my office needs to move certain tasks forward. Attached to each item is a preferred deadline, to keep everything on track. Please send all materials to my attention.

Thank you for your attention and assistance with these, as we work together to move the new Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions and requirements forward.

1. Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures (SOPPs) **COMPLETED**

2. Complying with establishing mechanisms to meet the Annual Catch Level (ACL) requirement **Due: Feb. 28, 2007**

During the meeting, there was considerable discussion about ACLs and potential mechanisms to meet the ACL requirement in the Act. Council members said that they would provide to us a list of all *mechanisms* that your Council uses or would consider using to specify annual catch limits in Fishery Management Plans (including multiyear plans), implementing regulations, or annual specifications to prevent overfishing. Along with your list, please include measures to ensure accountability, such as, but not limited to, control rules or default measures.

Additionally, we expect to publish a Notice of Intent for development of the ACL guidelines by mid-February.

3. Stipends for SSC and AP and or other committee members **DUE: Feb. 28, 2007**

We requested that each Council send us the number of members on each of their SSC and Advisory

Panels who meet the stipend criteria (members who are not employed by the Federal Government or a State marine fisheries agency), the number of meetings that each committee has during an average year, and how many days each meeting usually lasts.



It would be helpful if the information could be provided in a table or Excel spreadsheet following this format:

Committee name	Number of members who meet stipend criteria (A)	Number of meetings/year (B)	Average length of meeting (in days)(C)	Total number of work days (=A*B*C)
SSC	8	2	2	32
Special XXfish SSC	5	1	1	5
XX fish AP	19	2	3	114
YY fish AP	10	3	2	50

If any particular special APs or SSCs meet very infrequently (not every year), or were set up for a short term need and you don't expect it to meet again, please let us know.

4. Management Plan schedule

Due: June 15, 2007

Linked to the ACL requirement, within six months, please provide your current management plan review schedule to help us identify which Plans will undergo a review prior to 2010 or 2011. The following is a simple format you can follow.

Name of FMP	Stock	Schedule – Review due

5. Training Requirements

Due: Feb. 28, 2007

As we discussed at the meeting, there are new training provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. Specifically: "Within 6 months after the date of enactment... The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils and the National Sea Grant College Program, shall develop a training course for newly appointed Council members. The course may cover a variety of topics relevant to the matters before the Councils... ." The Act lists a number of potential topics thereafter.

This past week, we participated in a NMFS-OAR Retreat that involved Sea Grant and focused on education and outreach, to begin our consultation with the National Sea Grant Program. We previously solicited recommendations from the participants in last fall's New Council Member Orientation. The comments received on two questions that dealt with topics and content are on the attached page.

Please share these lists with your members and request additional topic suggestions that can be submitted to me as soon as possible, but at least by Feb. 28, to help us improve and refine our existing training program and to meet the new requirement of the Act.

6. Date for 2007 Training and Orientation for New Council Members

On a related topic, we have reviewed each Council calendar and have identified several open weeks in the fall that the 2007 New Council Member Training and Orientation could be scheduled; they are listed below. Please let us know as soon as possible your number 1 and number 2 choices, so that we can tentatively schedule it and avoid conflicts.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Week</u>
September	24-28
October	15-19
	22-26
November	12-16
	26-30

Thank you for your assistance with each of these measures. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Enclosure

Participant Responses to Several Training/Orientation Evaluation Questions
October 31 – November 2, 2006

What subjects would you like to see as a half or full day workshop?

- Stock assessments (including data collection & procedures for stock assessments, stock density, species carrying capacity in particular habitats, constraints imposed, and how to compensate for these (comment emphasized how densities and MSL is dynamic, not constant, etc.))
- Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA)
- Robert's Rules of Order
- Council operating practices and procedures (SOPPs)
- Interpreting data
- Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA)
- Directed Access Privilege Programs (DAPPs)
- Interaction w/ Council Staff (the role of staff)
- Regulations
- National Environmental and Protection Act (NEPA)
- Mock situations from other regions (case examples)
- Field trip to meet Hill staffers on fisheries related committees
- Applying the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR)
- Other _____

What presented subjects would you like to see more emphasis on, or less?

More emphasis:

- Social & economic impacts & assessments
- Stock assessments
- SOPPs
- Timelines on FMP actions from transmittal to approval
- Robert's Rules of Order (w/ mock situations if possible)
- How to discuss or question scientific data or its applications
- Directed Access Privilege Programs (DAPPs)
- Organizational structure (as handout)
- Real life examples (lessons learned), group exercises which forced interaction w/unfamiliar people – would be very beneficial
- Conflict of interest
- Role of NMFS support and priorities
- Regulations
- NEPA
- MSA
- National Standards
- More panels
- More on what worked and what didn't in terms of each council's activities

- NWHI National Marine Monument status and its impact on fishing in the future
- Case law, regional examples or situations
- More interactive sessions inserted during technical topics
- Other _____

Less emphasis

- Less on "math" and how the numbers are calculated
- Group exercises
- Fish stock assessments and economics presentations seemed like too much/too complicated material to digest in this forum
- Other _____

motherboards after importation. The scope of this order does not include DRAMS or memory modules that are re-imported for repair or replacement.

The DRAMS subject to this order are currently classifiable under subheadings 8542.21.8005 and 8542.21.8020 through 8542.21.8030 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTSUS"). The memory modules containing DRAMS from the ROK, described above, are currently classifiable under subheadings 8473.30.10.40 or 8473.30.10.80 of the HTSUS. Removable memory modules placed on motherboards are classifiable under subheadings 8471.50.0085, 8517.30.5000, 8517.50.1000, 8517.50.5000, 8517.50.9000, 8517.61.0000, 8517.62.0010, 8517.62.0050, 8517.69.0000, 8517.70.0000, 8517.90.3400, 8517.90.3600, 8517.90.3800, 8517.90.4400, 8542.31.00, 8542.32.0001, 8542.32.0020, 8542.32.0021, 8542.32.0022, 8542.32.0023, 8542.33.0000, 8542.39.0000, and 8543.89.9600 of the HTSUS.

Scope Rulings

On December 29, 2004, the Department received a request from Cisco Systems, Inc. ("Cisco"), to determine whether removable memory modules placed on motherboards that are imported for repair or refurbishment are within the scope of the *CVD Order*. See *Notice of Countervailing Duty Order: Dynamic Random Access Memory Semiconductors from the Republic of Korea*, 68 FR 47546 (August 11, 2003) ("CVD Order"). The Department initiated a scope inquiry pursuant to 19 CFR 351.225(e) on February 4, 2005. On January 12, 2006, the Department issued a final scope ruling, finding that removable memory modules placed on motherboards that are imported for repair or refurbishment are not within the scope of the *CVD Order* provided that the importer certifies that it will destroy any memory modules that are removed for repair or refurbishment. See Memorandum from Stephen J. Claeys to David M. Spooner, regarding Final Scope Ruling, Countervailing Duty Order on DRAMS from the Republic of Korea (January 12, 2006).

Period of Review

The period for which we are measuring subsidies, *i.e.*, the period of review ("POR"), is January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs by parties to this

administrative review are addressed in the February 7, 2007, *Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Results in the Second Administrative Review of the Countervailing Duty Order on Dynamic Random Access Memory Semiconductors from the Republic of Korea* ("Decision Memorandum") from Stephen J. Claeys, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, to David M. Spooner, Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, which is hereby adopted by this notice. Attached to this notice as an appendix is a list of the issues which parties have raised and to which we have responded in the *Decision Memorandum*. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum, which is on file in the Department's Central Records Unit, Room B-099 of the main Department building. In addition, a complete version of the *Decision Memorandum* can be accessed directly on the Internet at <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/frn/index.html>. The paper copy and electronic version of the *Decision Memorandum* are identical in content.

Final Results of Review

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(b)(5), we calculated an individual subsidy rate for the producer/exporter, Hynix. For the period January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004, we find the *ad valorem* net subsidy rate for Hynix is 31.86 percent.

Assessment Rates

The Department will instruct CBP to liquidate shipments of DRAMS by Hynix entered or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption from January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004, at 31.86 percent *ad valorem* of the entered value.

Cash Deposits

The Department also intends to instruct CBP to collect cash deposits of estimated countervailing duties at 31.86 percent *ad valorem* of the entered value on all shipments of the subject merchandise from Hynix, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of the final results of this administrative review.

We will instruct CBP to continue to collect cash deposits for non-reviewed companies at the most recent company-specific rate applicable to the company. The Department has previously excluded Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. from this order. See *Notice of Amended Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty*

Determination: Dynamic Random Access Memory Semiconductors from the Republic of Korea, 68 FR 44290 (July 28, 2003). Thus, the "all others" rate shall apply to all non-reviewed companies until a review of a company assigned this rate is requested.

This notice also serves as a reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of return/destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and the terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

This administrative review and notice are issued and published in accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Act.

Dated: February 7, 2007.

David M. Spooner,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

Appendix I

Comments in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

Comment 1: Benefit to Hynix of the 2004 Cash Buyout Program.

Comment 2: The Department's Failure to Investigate Thoroughly the GOK's Entrustment or Direction of Hynix's Creditors in Connection with the CBO Components of the Non-Memory Asset Sale.

Comment 3: Entrustment or Direction of Hynix's Creditors in Connection with the Tranche A Acquisition Financing and CBO Components of the Non-Memory Asset Sale.

Comment 4: Whether the Department Should Have Investigated Hynix's Sale of Its LCD and Non-Memory Assets.

Comment 5: Uncreditworthy Benchmark Interest/Discount Rate.

[FR Doc. E7-2562 Filed 2-13-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020707B]

National Standard 1 Guidelines; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement

(EIS); request for comments; notice of a public scoping meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intent to prepare an EIS and commencement of a scoping period in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 to analyze alternatives for guidance regarding annual catch limit (ACL) and accountability measures (AM) and other overfishing provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA). Such guidance would be added to the National Standard 1 (NS1) guidelines.

DATES: Written comments must be received by April 2, 2007. A public scoping meeting will be held at the NMFS Silver Spring headquarters office on March 9, 2007 (see **ADDRESSES**) from 9a.m. through 3p.m.

ADDRESSES: The scoping meeting will be held at 1315 East-West Highway; Room 4527; Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. NMFS may hold additional scoping meetings and informal public meetings during the scoping period.

You may submit comments on issues and alternatives, by any of the following methods:

- E-mail:

annual.catch.limitDEIS@noaa.gov.

Include "Scoping comments on annual catch limit DEIS" in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: 301-713-1193.

- Mail: Mark Millikin; National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA; 1315 East-West Highway; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Millikin, National Marine Fisheries Service, 301-713-2341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is available on the Government Printing Office's website at: www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index/html.

Background

The MSRA, signed into law by President Bush on January 12, 2007, set forth new requirements related to overfishing, including new ACL and AM provisions for federally managed fisheries in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ). NMFS is initiating this action to develop guidance related to these new provisions, specifically, requirements set forth under sections 103(b)(1) and (c)(3), 104(a)(10), (b), and (c) of the MSRA. NMFS intends to revise the National Standard 1 (NS1) Guidelines, 50 CFR 600.310, through a proposed and final rule to incorporate

guidance of these MSRA sections before the end of 2007. Because of potential policy implications of these MSRA provisions on Federal fishery management plans (FMPs and plans) and their stocks, NMFS has decided to issue this NOI. However, as it develops this action, NMFS will continue to re-evaluate the environmental review and analyses needed for NEPA purposes.

Public Scoping Process

To help determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify significant issues related to this action, NMFS is soliciting written comments on this NOI through April 2, 2007, and will hold a public scoping meeting at the NMFS Silver Spring Headquarters, Building III, Room 4527, 9a.m. through 3p.m. on March 9, 2007. After considering comments received during the scoping process, NMFS will either develop a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and proposed rule or an environmental assessment (EA) and proposed rule. If NMFS issues a DEIS, it will provide for a 45-day comment period concurrent with public hearings. If NMFS issues a DEIS, then it will also issue a final environmental impact statement (FEIS). Following an EIS or EA and proposed rule, NMFS will issue a final rule in the **Federal Register**.

Magnuson-Stevens Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) amended in 1996 by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, is the chief authority for fisheries management in the U.S. EEZ. The Act requires, among other things, achieving optimum yield on a continuing basis, preventing overfishing, and rebuilding overfished stocks in as short a time as possible. Section 301(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act contains 10 national standards (NS) with which all FMPs and their amendments and implementing regulations must be consistent. Section 301(b) requires that "the Secretary establish advisory guidelines (which shall not have the force and effect of law), based on the national standards to assist in the development of fishery management plans." Conforming to the NS guidelines (50 CFR part 600, subpart D) when preparing an FMP, FMP amendment and regulations is essential to properly addressing the intentions of Congress when it established and revised the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The NS guidelines, most notably NS1, are often cited in Court cases, and judges frequently refer to them when considering the merits of an FMP or FMP amendment and its regulations.

NS1 provides that "Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry." 16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1). As this action focuses on MSRA's overfishing provisions, NMFS believes that it is appropriate to incorporate guidance on those provisions in the NS1 guidelines at 50 CFR 600.310.

Ending overfishing of stocks undergoing overfishing, preventing overfishing of stocks approaching overfishing, and rebuilding overfished stocks to levels of abundance that can produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY) on a continuing basis, are essential to achieving the objectives and goals of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Ending overfishing is paramount to more rapid and more certain rebuilding. According to the NS1 guidelines, overfishing occurs whenever the annual fishing mortality rate (F) is greater than the maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT), 50 CFR 600.310(d)(2)(i). Continued overfishing will depress a stock, on average, below the level that can produce MSY. While some rebuilding of stock abundance can occur if F is slightly greater than MFMT, rebuilding rates are more rapid when overfishing does not occur, and rebuilding occurs faster, the more that F is reduced below MFMT.

MSRA Section 104(a)(10): ACLs and AMs

During the comment period on this NOI, and throughout development of this action, NMFS will seek input from the Councils and the public on implementation of the new MSRA overfishing provisions. To facilitate public comment in the following sections NMFS provides its preliminary interpretation of the new provisions, followed by an explanation of statutory deadlines and other timing considerations.

Section 104(a)(10) of the MSRA amends section 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to require that any FMP shall "establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multi-year plan), implementing regulations and annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability." Species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year (e.g., possibly some shrimp or squid species) are exempt from the requirements, unless the Secretary determines the species is undergoing overfishing. In addition, the ACL/AM requirements would not apply if "otherwise provided

for under an international agreement.” Thus, the ACL/AM requirements may be applicable for some species managed under international agreements.

Apart from the above exemptions, NMFS believes that section 104(a)(10) requires ACL/AM mechanisms for each federally-managed “stock or stock complex” contained in an FMP. Under the NS guidelines, “stock or stock complex” is used as a synonym for “fishery,” and is defined as “one or more stocks of fish that can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management and that are identified on the basis of geographic, scientific, technical, recreational, or economic characteristics...” (50 CFR 600.305(c)(12)).

NMFS understands an ACL to mean a specified amount of a fish stock (e.g., measure of weight or numbers of fish) for a fishing year that is a target amount of annual total catch that takes into account projected estimates for landings and discard mortality from all user groups and sectors. Per the MSRA, the ACL must be set “at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery.” Under the NS1 guidelines, overfishing of the stock occurs when MFMT is exceeded (50 CFR 600.310(d)(2)(i)). Thus, it is important to clarify the relationship between the ACL and the MFMT. While the MFMT is expressed as a rate of fishing, NMFS may recommend that FMPs be amended so that annual catch levels corresponding to MFMT—an overfishing level (OFL)—are specified along with ACLs in comparable units (e.g., weight or numbers of fish) to ACLs, to facilitate subsequent monitoring against the ACL. The OFL would be the maximum amount of annual catch from all sources (landings and discard mortality from all sectors) which does not result in overfishing. Once the ACL is reached, or projected to be reached, AMs established in the FMP will ensure that overfishing does not occur, or is appropriately mitigated (e.g., through payback provisions).

NMFS believes that the extent of future management success using ACLs will depend largely upon ACLs being set sufficiently below the OFL for a fish stock, i.e., the size of the buffer needed between the OFL and ACL, to reduce the chance of exceeding the OFL. The types of ACLs used for a stock may vary depending upon the quality of data available for a fish stock and the fishery management goals. The size of the buffer needed between the ACL and OFL would depend upon quality of data available including: Knowledge of the stock’s life history; availability and accuracy of current fishing year

landings and historical landings data; accuracy and precision of fishery independent surveys; accuracy and precision of fishery dependent data; time since last stock assessment or update; frequency of stock assessments; discard mortality; recreational catches; and the extent of knowledge of the rate and magnitude of success or failure of recent management measures in ending or preventing overfishing for a fish stock. For discussion purposes in this NOI, “data poor stocks” are those stocks for which stock abundance is unknown or stock status with respect to overfishing and overfished is unknown. “Data rich” stocks are those for which annual catch values are known, and estimates of stock abundance or its proxy are available and sufficient to make overfishing and overfished status determinations. A broad gradation of data quality, quantity, and timeliness exists for various stocks which affects the accuracy and precision of “overfishing” and “overfished” status determinations.

With regard to “measures of accountability” (referred to herein as accountability measures or AMs) required by MSRA section 104(a)(10), NMFS’ initial interpretation is that they are part of the ACL mechanism and FMPs should contain AMs for each stock. AMs could also be used for each fishery sector. Because there are variances in: operation of fisheries, monitoring of a fishery within a fishing year, and availability of stock abundance information, it may not be feasible to set ACLs with the same level of precision for all stocks. AMs thus are intended to work with their associated ACLs to prevent overfishing of a stock from occurring. AMs could take the form of inseason management techniques that prevent the ACL from being exceeded in a given year (e.g., closures, or restrictions on retention of a stock), and/or corrective actions that will be implemented in subsequent fishing years to address overages of a stock’s OFL in previous fishing years (e.g., reduction of a subsequent year’s ACL), and to ensure that overfishing is ended.

MSRA Section 103(b) and (c)(3): Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs)

Section 103(b) of MSRA includes new provisions relating to SSCs and peer review processes. Among other things, it specifies that SSCs shall provide their Councils with “ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, including recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum

sustainable yield, and achieving rebuilding targets, and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat status, social and economic impacts on management measures, and sustainability of fishing practices.” Section 103(b) also provides for the establishment of peer review processes. With regard to ACLs, section 103(c)(3) provides that a Council shall “develop ACLs for each of its managed fisheries that may not exceed the fishing level recommendations of its scientific and statistical committee or the peer review process established under subsection (g).”

NMFS views these provisions as providing the SSCs or peer review processes with an important role in Council development of ACL mechanisms. NMFS would expect that SSCs or peer review processes would not only need to produce calculations of ACL and OFL, but also the probability that an ACL in combination with other factors such as retrospective patterns in stock assessments, e.g., overestimating stock abundance and underestimating actual fishing mortality rate (F), would or would not result in OFL being exceeded.

MSRA Section 104(c) revises the rebuilding provisions of section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to require that, when a Council is notified that a stock is overfished, the Council shall — within 2 years after such notification — submit and implement an FMP, FMP amendment, or proposed regulations to end overfishing “immediately,” and rebuild the overfished stock in as short a time as possible. NMFS’ preliminary review is that, because an FMP, FMP amendment, or regulations need to be implemented within 2 years of notification, a Council would need to submit the relevant action sufficiently in advance of the 2-year deadline (i.e., approximately one year and six months after notification) to ensure sufficient time (six months) for NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, to finalize and implement the action.

Statutory Deadlines and Other Timing Considerations

Per MSRA section 104(b), the ACL and AM requirements take effect in fishing year 2010, for stocks determined by the Secretary to be undergoing overfishing. Thus, NMFS believes that the Councils and NMFS would have to plan to have ACL and AM mechanisms in place for all stocks in their FMPs that can be used beginning with the 2010 fishing year, because it is unknown what stocks NMFS will have determined as undergoing overfishing just before the beginning of the 2010

fishing year. Stocks not determined to be undergoing overfishing will need ACLs and AMs by the 2011 fishing year, including stocks with unknown or undefined status regarding overfishing (i.e., the new requirement applies also to data poor stocks).

MSRA section 104(c), which revises the requirements for rebuilding overfished fisheries, takes effect 30 months after the enactment of the MSRA, i.e., effective date of July 12, 2009. Thus, any fisheries determined to be overfished by the Secretary after that date would fall under the MSRA amendments to the rebuilding provisions of section 304(e)(3), instead of the current Magnuson-Stevens Act section 304(e)(3) provisions. Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 304(e)(3), within one year of being notified by NMFS, that a stock is overfished, a Council needs to prepare and submit an FMP, FMP amendment, or proposed regulations to rebuild the overfished stock and end overfishing. As discussed earlier, under the MSRA amendments to section 304(e)(3), within two years of being notified by NMFS, anytime on or after July 12, 2009, that a stock is overfished, a Council needs to prepare and NMFS needs to implement an FMP, FMP amendment, or proposed regulations to rebuild the overfished stock and end overfishing immediately.

NMFS intends to complete its revisions of the NS1 guidelines pertaining to this action before the end of 2007. Upon implementation of the final rule, NMFS will review each Council's current provisions for ACLs and AMs and recommend any revisions it deems are appropriate. Some FMPs may already contain management measures that will meet the definition (or forthcoming criteria) of ACLs and AMs. If not, the FMPs will need to be amended to establish or revise ACLs and associated AMs consistent with the MSRA requirement and revised NS1 guidelines, by the relevant statutory deadlines.

NMFS previously issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (68 FR 7492, February 14, 2003), and a proposed rule (70 FR 36240, June 22, 2005), to revise the NS1 guidelines. NMFS did not issue a final rule because it decided to wait to see if the Magnuson-Stevens Act would be reauthorized before revising the NS1 guidelines. This action is not expected to make the full set of revisions to the NS1 guidelines as was proposed in 2005, because of the urgency to establish guidance related to new provisions in the MSRA.

Issues Under Consideration

In considering potential guidance related to MSRA's overfishing provisions, NMFS has identified the following list of issues related to ACLs, AMs, and overfishing. NMFS seeks public comment on the scope of this NOI generally and the list of issues and potential alternatives for this action set forth below.

Issues for Developing Guidance for ACLs and AMs

- The role of the SSC and other peer review processes in setting ACLs and AMs
 - The relationship between ACL and OY
 - Revision of existing overfishing definitions to include OFL
 - Variability in data currently available for each stock (e.g., data rich, data poor, and stocks with data quality falling between data rich and data poor)
 - Setting ACLs for stocks with unknown status
 - Circumstances in which a numerical ACL can not be set for a stock, and in such situations, recommendations for adequate and appropriate alternatives to setting a numerical ACL (e.g., prohibitions)
 - Setting ACLs for stock complexes, stock assemblages, and similar stock groupings
 - Variability in the accuracy of management approaches in achieving target fishing levels
 - Setting a buffer between ACL and OFL to prevent overfishing, and how to determine the size of the buffer needed
 - Establishing the appropriate probability that an ACL will prevent overfishing for a stock
 - Establishing recommendations for inseason management authority and methods to be used as AMs to prevent overfishing
 - Limiting the extent of overfishing, should it occur
 - Establishing corrective actions to ensure accountability in a subsequent year for an overage of the OFL for a stock in a previous year
 - Establishing AMs for various sectors of a stock, if an ACL is subdivided for a stock, and the need to still prevent exceeding the overall OFL for the stock
- Preliminary ACL and AM alternatives
- No action. Do not publish ACL and AM guidelines. Councils are statutorily required to implement ACLs and AMs, but the statute provides little specificity about the meaning of these terms. Without guidelines, Councils may develop and submit FMP amendments that the Secretary determines to be

inadequate. Secretarial disapproval of an FMP amendment will require the Council to modify their amendment and resubmit it, making it unlikely that measures can be implemented by the statutory deadline of 2010, for stocks subject to overfishing and 2011, for all other stocks.

- Alternative 2. Develop ACL and AM guidelines that provide performance standards that ACLs and AMs must meet, but do not provide guidance on specific mechanisms. Performance standards may be hard to develop, or it may be hard to adequately judge the degree to which proposed mechanisms will satisfy the performance standards.

- Alternative 3. Develop ACL and AM guidelines that provide performance standards that ACLs must meet, and develop ACL and AM guidelines that provide specific guidance on one or more mechanisms to implementing ACLs and AMs that NMFS considers to meet the statutory requirement and the standards for Secretarial approval.

Special Accommodations

The public meeting to be held in NMFS Silver Spring headquarters on March 9, 2007, will be accessible to people with physical disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mark Millikin (301-713-2341), by March 4, 2007.

Dated: February 9, 2007.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 07-681 Filed 2-9-07; 2:12 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Information Collection; Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), has submitted a public information collection request (ICR) entitled the Application for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Corporation for National and



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pccouncil.org

February 28, 2007

Mr. Alan Risenhoover
Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Implementation

Dear Alan:

Please note the following in response to your February 5, 2007 memorandum requesting information as a follow-up of the January 10-11, 2007 meeting of Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs and Executive Directors.

1. Meeting the New Annual Catch Level Requirements

In general, the Pacific Council currently prevents overfishing by various precautionary mechanisms in initial harvest level setting, specific to individual fishery management plans (FMPs), bolstered by in-season management for some species. The good Pacific Council track record on overfishing events speaks to the adequacy of these mechanisms. Accountability for overages when they do occur is typically via adjustments in management measures (seasons, trip limits, closed areas, etc.) to reduce fishing power below that of the year of overage to the extent that another overage would not occur. See the attached narratives for the Pacific Council's FMPs for salmon (Attachment 1), highly migratory species (Attachment 2) groundfish (Attachment 3), and coastal pelagic species (Attachment 4). Should your staff have further questions on these attachments, please have them contact Chuck Tracy (salmon), Kit Dahl (highly migratory species), John DeVore (groundfish), or Mike Burner (coastal pelagic species) at the Council office.

2. Stipends for SSC and AP and other Committee Members

The attached spread sheet (Attachment 5) details the information requested in your memo. We interpreted "employed by a federal government or State marine fisheries agency" as full time employment, not partial or contracted employment. We note that if a stipend was granted at half the pay rate of Council Members, the estimated annual cost for the Pacific Council would be just over \$380,000.

3. Management Plan Schedule

We do not have routine reviews of any of our FMPs scheduled prior to 2010. However, we are tracking currently scheduled amendments for the groundfish (5) and highly migratory species (1) FMPs, for specific purposes other than annual catch limit amendments.

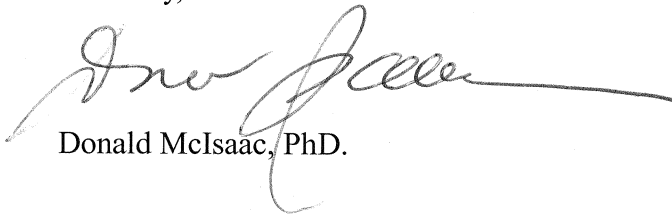
4. Training Requirements

Please see attached emails (Attachments 6 and 7) received in response to your request. Additionally, we received comment that the adequacy of National Marine Fisheries Service funding of Council activities be included as a topic.

5. 2007 Training and Orientation for New Council Members

The weeks of October 22 and October 15 are offered as suggestions for 2007 orientation and training efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Isaac", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald McIsaac, PhD.

cc: Mr. Don Hansen
Mr. Dave Ortmann
Dr. John Coon
Mr. Mike Burner
Dr. Kit Dahl
Mr. John DeVore
Mr. Jim Seger
Mr. Chuck Tracy
Mr. Daniel Furlong
Mr. Paul Howard
Mr. Robert Mahood
Mr. Chris Oliver
Mr. Miguel Rolon
Ms. Kitty Simonds
Mr. Wayne Swingle

Salmon Fishery Management Plan

Annual Catch Limit

Mechanisms and Measures

Mechanisms

Council area salmon seasons are set using the total allowable ocean harvest determined by conservation and allocation objectives in the fishery management plan (FMP). Conservation objectives have been established for over 40 salmon stocks originating in Council area production regions; unfortunately, estimating the stock composition in the landed catch can not be done visually; therefore, models are frequently used to estimate stock composition in mixed stock salmon fisheries and to constrain fisheries to acceptable impact levels for critical stocks.

For each management area or subarea, the Council has the option of managing the commercial and recreational fisheries for either coho or Chinook using the following methods: (1) fixed quotas and seasons; (2) adjustable quotas and seasons; and (3) seasons only. The Council may also use harvest guidelines within quotas or seasons to trigger inseason management actions which were established in the preseason regulatory process.

The total allowable harvest is based on the expected impacts to the constraining stock(s) associated with projected harvest of all stocks in the time/area management strata. Regulation models are used to estimate impacts for key stocks in Council managed fisheries. The Chinook and Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Models (FRAM) are multi stock models, while the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM) is a single stock model. The Coho FRAM covers the entire Council management area, and includes representations for all key stocks. All coho fisheries in this area are quota managed based on the Coho FRAM projections. The Chinook FRAM covers the area from Cape Falcon, Oregon to the U.S./Canada border and includes representations for Chinook stocks from the Columbia River north. All Chinook fisheries in this area are quota managed based on the Chinook FRAM projections. The KOHM covers the area from Cape Falcon, Oregon to Point Sur, California, but only estimates impacts on Klamath River fall Chinook. Because the KOHM is a single stock model, estimates of total catch are sufficiently accurate only in areas where Klamath River fall Chinook make up a large fraction of the total abundance. Therefore, quota management is generally only used in the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ), between Humbug Mt. Oregon and Horse Mt. California, or to limit catch in data poor management strata.

Quotas provide very precise management targets and work best when accurate estimates of stock abundance and distribution are available, or when needed to ensure protection of depressed stocks from potential overfishing. Quotas are not guaranteed harvests, but rather the maximum allowable harvest which assures meeting the conservation objective of the species or stock of concern. While time and area restrictions are not as precise as quotas, they allow flexibility for effort and harvest to vary in response to abundance and distribution.

Measures

Managers require certain information about the fisheries during the season to control the harvest to meet established quotas and goals. If conditions differ substantially from those expected, it may be necessary to modify the fishing seasons, quotas, or other management measures. The following information is used for inseason management:

- a. harvest of each species by each fishery in each fishing area by day and by cumulative total;
- b. number of commercial troll day boats and trip boats fishing;
- c. estimated average daily catch for both day and trip boats;
- d. distribution and movement of fishing effort;
- e. average daily catch and effort for recreational fishery;
- f. estimates of expected troll fishing effort for the remainder of the season;
- g. information on the contribution of various fish stocks, determined from recovered coded-wire tags, scales, or other means.

Inseason management requires updating information on the fisheries daily. Thus, data will be collected by sampling the landings, radio reports, and telephone interviews.

In general, data necessary for inseason management will be gathered by one or more of the following methods. Data on the current harvests by commercial and treaty Indian Ocean fishermen will be obtained by telephoning selected (key) fish buyers, by sampling the commercial landings on a daily basis, and from radio reports. Data on the current effort of, and harvests by, the recreational fisheries will be obtained by telephoning selected charter boat and boat rental operators and by sampling landings at selected ports. Analyses of fish scales, recovered fish tags, and other methods will provide information on the composition of the stocks being harvested.

The Salmon FMP specifies the following procedures for taking inseason actions:

1. Prior to taking any inseason action, the Regional Director will consult with the Chairman of the Council and the appropriate State Directors.
2. As the actions are taken by the Secretary, the Regional Director will compile, in aggregate form, all data and other information relevant to the action being taken and shall make them available for public review during normal office hours at the Northwest Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98115.
3. Inseason management actions will become effective by announcement in designated information sources (rather than by filing with the Office of the Federal Register [OFR]). Notice of inseason actions will still be filed with the OFR as quickly as possible.

The following information sources will provide actual notice of inseason management actions to the public: (1) the U.S. Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" broadcast (announced over Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 KHZ); (2) state and federal telephone hotline numbers specified in the annual regulations and (3) filing with the *Federal Register*. Identification of the sources will be incorporated into the preseason regulations with a requirement that interested persons periodically monitor one or more source. In addition, all the normal channels of informing the public of regulatory changes used by the state agencies will be used.

4. If the Secretary determines, for a good cause, that a notice must be issued without affording a prior opportunity for public comment, public comments on the notice will be received by the Secretary for a period of 15 days after the effective date of the notice.

Accountability is assured during the annual preparation of the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document and the preseason planning documents for upcoming seasons. Quota overages in the previous season are noted and the cause identified. Total allowable catch overages are fairly rare in Council area salmon fisheries, although exceeding individual stock impact expectations occur more frequently. For constraining stocks the target impact level is expected to be exceeded 50% of the time, assuming an unbiased model. However, if the model appears to have a consistent bias, or if results fall outside the observed range, a review is conducted and necessary adjustments are made. Adjustments are usually associated with input data for the models, such as the years included in parameter estimates.

Highly Migratory Species Management Plan Annual Catch Limit Mechanisms and Measures

Mechanisms to specify annual catch limits in the highly migratory species (HMS) fishery management plan (FMP), implementing regulations or annual specifications to prevent overfishing. Measures to ensure accountability such as but not limited to control rules or default measures.

The default control role in the HMS FMP is to set optimum yield (OY) (or an OY proxy) equal to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) (or proxy) for species not considered vulnerable. For vulnerable species the OY (or proxy) is set to 75% of MSY (or proxy). Vulnerability of species can stem from many reasons, and any species that has been depleted to 50% below B_{MSY} (for the logistic production model, to 25% of unfished level B_0) that is incapable of recovering back to that B_{MSY} level within 10 years (with fishing removed) is to be considered vulnerable in this FMP. The productivities (potential per capita rates of population increase r) of such species would have to be 5% or less per year, assuming recovery time is determined by a linear compensatory increase in r with population decline (logistic model). Only the sharks among the Management Unit Species (MUS), including common thresher, are likely to have such low rates and long recovery times, and they are therefore considered vulnerable by this criterion. Vulnerable OYs are also appropriate for other fish species for other reasons of stock health concern.

The Council may adopt or modify any harvest guidelines, quotas or other management measures annually based on information provided in the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report. The Regional Administrator will implement through rulemaking any necessary and appropriate harvest guidelines or other management measures based on the SAFE Report recommendations from the Council and the requirements contained in the FMP. (see 50 CFR 660.709)

Initial harvest guidelines established in the FMP apply to the shortfin mako shark and thresher shark. A harvest guideline if surpassed calls for review of the stock/population and its fishery. The purpose is to alert the Council to the possibility that catches under its jurisdiction are at or near a particular target level.

Most HMS are widely distributed and harvest by West Coast-based vessels represents only a small fraction of total fishing mortality out of the overall range of the species, and any unilateral action, such as a reduction in the US West Coast harvest or effort, would not have significant biological effect on the stock. However, in some cases unilateral action may be warranted. Otherwise the Council may make recommendations for action to the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Organization through National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of State.

Mechanisms Used to Meet Annual Groundfish Catch Limits on the West Coast

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) uses a variety of mechanisms to meet annual catch limits (ACLs) (all sources of fishing-related mortality are counted against ACLs) for groundfish that are intended to prevent overfishing. These mechanisms include precautionary reductions to acceptable biological catch (ABC); precautionary management measures such as depth-based closed areas or Groundfish Conservation Areas (GCAs), precautionary trip limits, bag limits, seasons, and gear configurations; established harvest guidelines and bycatch caps; and periodic inseason adjustments to management measures.

The precautionary reductions to ABCs are made in cases where (1) stocks are quantitatively assessed with biomasses estimated to be below that which supports maximum sustainable yield (MSY), (2) stocks are not quantitatively assessed, but appear to have a declining biomass trend based on catch or catch per effort trends, (3) stocks have data-poor assessments, and (4) stocks are quantitatively assessed with biomasses estimated to be at or above that which supports MSY, but co-occur with overfished stocks. Annual catch limits are managed to prevent overfishing by updating projections of total catch through the year using landings and discard mortality estimates and adjusting management measures accordingly. Fixed bycatch caps and harvest guidelines are also specified by fishing sector with automatic regulatory actions, such as fishing closures and GCA adjustments when they are attained inseason. All of these mechanisms have worked in concert to prevent overfishing, except in rare circumstances of unexpected effort shifts of a magnitude significant enough to prevent timely fishery adjustments. While there are no forcing mechanisms in the fishery management plan or federal regulations that automatically adjust harvest specifications or management measures following an instance of overfishing, Council practice has been to specify more precautionary management measures the following season to prevent those rare management miscues.

Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

Mechanisms the Pacific Council uses to prevent overfishing of CPS:

The Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Actively Managed species (Pacific sardine, and Pacific mackerel):

- The maximum ACL is calculated using species specific Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) Harvest Control Rules. The Harvest Control Rules are applied to biomass estimates resulting from annual stock assessment updates reviewed and approved by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Every three years, full assessments are completed and reviewed by both the SSC and a Stock Assessment Review Panel before harvest recommendations go before the Pacific Council.
- Within an ACL the Pacific Council implements a harvest guideline or quota that may be at or below the recommended ACL. Landings are monitored throughout the fishing season and directed harvest is prohibited if landings are projected to meet or exceed harvest specifications before the end of the season. At such time, predetermined incidental harvest provisions are implemented to ensure incidental landings in other CPS fisheries do not result in overfishing of the species of concern.

The Annual Catch Limit for Monitored species (northern anchovy, jack mackerel, and market squid):

- Northern anchovy and jack mackerel landings are relatively low and ACL is determined by a default MSY Harvest Control sets ACL for the entire stock (U.S., Mexico, Canada, and international fisheries) equal to 25% of the best estimate of the MSY catch level. As with actively managed species, inseason landings are closely monitored.
- The market squid fishery operates on an annual landings cap. The MSY Control Rule for market squid is based on evaluating (throughout a fishing season) levels of egg escapement associated with the exploited population. The estimates of egg escapement are evaluated in the context of a "threshold" that represents a minimum level that is considered necessary to allow the population to maintain its level of abundance into the future (i.e., allow for "sustainable" reproduction year after year). The fishing mortality (F_{MSY}) that results in a threshold level of egg escapement of at least 30% will be used initially as a proxy for MSY. However, it is important to note that the level of egg escapement will be reviewed on an intermittent basis as new information becomes available concerning the dynamics of the stock and fishery, to ensure that the proposed threshold meets its objective as a long-term, sustainable biological reference point for this marine resource. The market squid fishery operates within the constraints of currently adopted regulations as dictated by the California Department of Fish and Game (e.g., annual landings cap, weekend closures, closed areas) and NMFS, as long as egg escapement is equal to, or greater than, the threshold value. In the event that egg escapement is determined to be below the 30% threshold for two successive years, then a point-of-concern would be triggered under the FMP's management framework and the Council could consider moving market squid from Monitored to Active management status.

Mechanisms the Pacific Council uses to Ensure Accountability:

Pacific Council CPS Harvest Control Rule

The general form of the MSY control rule utilized for West Coast CPS fisheries was designed to continuously reduce the exploitation rate as biomass declines. The general formula used is:

$$H = (\text{BIOMASS-CUTOFF}) \times \text{FRACTION}$$

H is the harvest target level, CUTOFF is the lowest level of estimated biomass at which directed harvest is allowed and FRACTION is the fraction of the biomass above CUTOFF that can be taken by the fishery. BIOMASS is generally the estimated biomass of fish age 1+ at the beginning the season. The purpose of CUTOFF is to protect the stock when biomass is low. The purpose of FRACTION is to specify how much of the stock is available to the fishery when BIOMASS exceeds CUTOFF. It may be useful to define any of the parameters in this general MSY control rule so that they depend on environmental conditions or stock biomass, as is currently done with Pacific sardine. In such cases, the MSY control rule depends explicitly on the condition of the stock or environment.

The general MSY control rule for CPS is useful for CPS that are important as forage and for protecting stocks from overfishing or from becoming overfished. If the CUTOFF is greater than zero, then the harvest rate ($H/\text{BIOMASS}$) declines as biomass declines. By the time BIOMASS falls as low as CUTOFF, the harvest rate is reduced to zero. The CUTOFF provides a buffer of spawning stock that is protected from fishing and available for use in rebuilding if a stock becomes overfished. The combination of a spawning biomass buffer equal to CUTOFF and reduced harvest rates at low biomass levels means that a rebuilding program for overfished stocks may be defined implicitly. Moreover, the harvest rate never increases above FRACTION. If FRACTION is approximately equal to F_{MSY} , then the MSY control rule harvest rate will not exceed F_{MSY} . In addition to the CUTOFF and FRACTION parameters, a maximum harvest level parameter (MAXCAT) is established for Pacific sardine and is used to guard against extremely high catch levels due to errors in estimating biomass to reduce year to year variation in catch levels, and to avoid overcapitalization during short periods of high biomass and high harvest. MAXCAT also prevents the catch from exceeding MSY at high stock levels and spreads the catch from strong year classes over a wider range of fishing seasons.

Additional Pacific Council Accountability Measures in the CPS FMP

Overfishing occurs in the CPS fishery whenever catch exceeds acceptable biological catch (ABC) and overfishing is approached whenever projections indicate that fishing mortality or exploitation rates will exceed the ABC level within two years. The definition of an overfished stock is an explicit part of the MSY control rule for CPS stocks. Under the CPS FMP the Pacific Council must take action to eliminate overfishing when it occurs and to avoid overfishing as exploitation rates approach overfishing levels. Per the MSY Harvest Control Rules, ACL would automatically reduce as biomass declines but the Pacific Council may take additional action if overfishing levels are approached by setting the ACL below the harvest levels allowed under the MSY Harvest Control Rules to ensure overfishing levels are avoided.

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Attachment 5

February 28, 2007 Letter
McIsaac to Risenhoover

Committee Name	Number of members who meet stipend criteria (A)	Number of meetings / year (B)	Average length of meeting (in days) (C)	Total number of work days (=A*B*C)
Ad Hoc CPS Tribal Allocation Committee	2	1	1	2
Ad Hoc Full Retention Committee	1	0	0	0
*Ad Hoc Groundfish EFH Review Committee	12	3	2	72
Ad Hoc Groundfish EFH EIS Oversight Committee	2	1	3	6
Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee	6	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Multi-year Management Committee	0	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee	2	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee Open Access Conversion Subcommittee	7	1	2	14
Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee	15	3	2	90
Ad Hoc Highly Migratory Species Management Committee	1	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Marine Protected Area Committee	6	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Observer Implementation Committee	2	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Salmon Amendment Committee	8	7	1	56
Ad Hoc Shore-based Whiting Amendment Workgroup	3	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Trawl Individual Quota Analytical Team	0	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Trawl Individual Quota Enforcement Group	0	0	0	0
Ad Hoc Trawl Individual Quota Independent Experts Panel	5	1	2	10
Ad Hoc Vessel Monitoring System Committee	7	0	0	0
*Ad Hoc Committee To Be Named	12	3	2	72

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Committee Name	Number of members who meet stipend criteria (A)	Number of meetings / year (B)	Average length of meeting (in days) (C)	Total number of work days (=A*B*C)
*Ad Hoc Committee To Be Named	12	3	2	72
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel	10	3	2	60
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	20	5	5	500
Groundfish Allocation Committee	9	2	2	36
Groundfish Management Team	1	9	4	36
Habitat Committee	8	5	1	40
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel	12	3	2	72
Model Evaluation Workgroup	3	2	1	6
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	15	5	4	300
Salmon Technical Team	1	7	4	28
Scientific and Statistical Committee	5	5	2	50
TOTAL				1522
Mclsaac/CCED AB Chart.xls				

February 28, 2007 Letter
McIsaac to Risenhoover

From Rod Moore <seafood@attglobal.net>

Sent Tuesday, February 20, 2007 3:47 pm

To 'Carolyn Porter' <Carolyn.Porter@noaa.gov>

Subject RE: Council Member Training and Orientation

Carolyn - I've been at two of the training sessions, once as a participant and once as a presenter. On the whole, I think NMFS - or more accurately, their contractor - has done a very good job in trying to bring a diverse group of people up to speed over the course of a couple of days.

Since MSFCMA is changing and management is becoming even more science-driven, I agree with the commenters that emphasis should be placed on understanding stock assessments and how they relate to management. You need to understand how you arrived at the bottom line before you start trying to adjust it.

I disagree with giving Robert's Rules a high priority. Copies of Robert's are available in any bookstore; this isn't something that needs to be taught in a national class.

Similarly, I would not emphasize specific regional issues (NWHI for example); I would, however, suggest that some discussion be given over to the interaction of the Councils with National Marine Sanctuaries. Every Council but the North Pacific has at least one Sanctuary in its waters; people need to understand how they interact.

Please feel free to pass these comments on to Alan.

>}}}}'> >}}}}'> <:((((<

Rod Moore

West Coast Seafood Processors Association

1618 SW 1st Ave., Suite 318

Portland, OR 97201

503-227-5076

From SwordsTuna@aol.com

Sent Tuesday, February 20, 2007 1:09 pm

To Carolyn.Porter@noaa.gov

Subject Re: Council Member Training and Orientation

The orientation list covers almost everything. But, one item that may need attention is socioeconomic needs and affects to management, even though National Standard 1 always takes precedence. There is some confusion on fairness of resource management where in particular to sharing the resource among the groups.

Kathy Fosmark

Attachment 7

February 28, 2007 Letter

McIsaac to Risenhoover

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (Committee) is scheduled to meet Monday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m. with a primary objective to review the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and offer relevant comments on plans for its implementation. The Council is scheduled to take up this matter under Agenda Item D.2 the morning of Wednesday, March 7. Recommendations of the Committee may be presented to and discussed by the Council at that time.

Reference materials for this agenda item as well as for Monday's Committee meeting can be found in the March 2007 Briefing Book under Agenda Item D.2. These materials include, a draft version MSA as amended by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (highlighting additions and showing deletions) as well as summaries of the legislative changes of particular interest to the Council and West Coast fisheries.

Senate Bill 1195, the *National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005* as introduced in the 109th Congress has been proposed for revision and it is anticipated that a new version of the bill will be introduced in the 110th Congress. In a letter dated November 9, 2006 from Dr. Michael Rubino, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aquaculture Program Manager (Agenda Item D.4.a, Attachment 1), the Council was asked to review and comment on a proposed revisions of S.1195 (Agenda Item D.4.a, Attachment 2 and Attachment 3). Due to conflicts with the November 2006 Council meeting, comments were not submitted at that time but the matter may be addressed by the Committee in March.

If the Committee develops recommendations on the *National Offshore Aquaculture Act* or other proposed legislation not pertaining to MSA reauthorization, a report will be provided under Agenda Item D.4, scheduled for Friday, March 9.

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. Situation Summary and Attachments for Council Agenda Item D.2., *Review and Planning for Implementation of New Requirements Resulting from Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act*.
2. Agenda Item D.4.a, Attachment 1, November 9, 2006 letter from Dr. Rubino regarding potential revision of S.1195, the *National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005*.
3. Agenda Item D.4.a, Attachment 2, Summary of Revised Draft of S.1195.
4. Agenda Item D.4.a, Attachment 3, Revised Draft of S.1195
5. Agenda Item D.4.b, Supplemental Legislative Committee Report.

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

Mike Burner
Dave Hanson

PFMC
02/14/07



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dr. Donald McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

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PFMC

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

Based on your interest in the *National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005 (S. 1195)*, I would like to share with you informally the enclosed draft revision of the Act for your review and comment. Specifically, I am interested in your advice, suggestions, and reactions with respect to the proposed revisions. The comments we receive from this informal review will inform any revisions we choose to forward to Congress.

The enclosed potential revision of S.1195 addresses many of the suggestions and criticisms we heard as S. 1195 moved forward in the 109th Congress.

Specific changes, which are summarized in the attachment to this letter, address three main areas of concern: 1) the Act's environmental requirements, 2) the role of states in the offshore aquaculture permitting program, and 3) the need to provide security of tenure for offshore aquaculture operations.

Please fax or e-mail me your comments by COB on **November 24, 2006**. My fax number is (301) 713-9108; and my e-mail address is Michael.Rubino@noaa.gov. If you have questions, call me or Susan Bunsick at (301) 713-9079.

As you know, offshore aquaculture legislation continues to be a priority for the Administration and we are committed to moving forward with this legislation. Thank you in advance for your time and interest. I look forward to your comments on this revised version.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Rubino".

Michael Rubino, Ph. D.
Manager
NOAA Aquaculture Program

cc: Susan Bunsick

Enclosures



**Summary of Revised Draft of the
National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005 (S. 1195)
November 2006**

The introduction in June 2005 of S. 1195, the Administration's National Offshore Aquaculture Act, opened up a productive dialogue on the future direction of aquaculture development in federal waters of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In April and June 2006, witnesses representing commercial fishing, environmental organizations, the research community, and the aquaculture industry offered their views about the legislation in testimony at two hearings conducted by the Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee. What emerged from the hearings is a general sense that the bill could potentially be improved in three key areas:

Environmental requirements – Environmental organizations called for more explicit environmental provisions and have pointed to the environmental standards contained in aquaculture legislation enacted by the State of California in 2006 as an example of the types of provisions that should be included in federal offshore aquaculture legislation. Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii and Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, co-sponsors of S. 1195, proposed an amendment to address environmental concerns.

Role of states – Several stakeholder groups, including representatives of the commercial fishing industry, expressed their concern that coastal states may not have a sufficient voice in determining whether or what type of aquaculture may be authorized in federal waters off their coasts. The two co-sponsors of S. 1195, Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska and Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, have proposed an amendment that would allow a state to “opt out” of offshore aquaculture in federal waters off their coasts.

Security of tenure – The aquaculture industry pointed out that the offshore aquaculture site permits issued under S. 1195 would only provide security of tenure for 10 years, which is an insufficient amount of time for aquaculture businesses to realize a return on their investment.

The attached redline of the bill provides potential draft language to address the three areas of concern.

Environmental Requirements

The revised draft of the National Offshore Aquaculture Act:

- Makes the environmental provisions more explicit.
- Makes the process for issuing permits more transparent.
- Explicitly requires that environmental impacts and compatibility with other uses be considered as criteria for issuing offshore aquaculture permits.
- Provides mechanisms for addressing specific environmental concerns.
- Provides a strategy for addressing the feeds issue.
- Preserves provisions in S. 1195 that provide additional environmental assurances.

The main changes proposed are as follows:

there is a risk to humans, the marine environment, or marine resources [Section 4(h)], and strong enforcement authorities [Sections 8-12].

- Provisions in the siting, monitoring, and evaluation section [Section 4(g)] that provide authority for data collection, site assessment, and monitoring, including the establishment of monitoring and evaluation protocols.
- The savings provision [Section 6(e)] which makes it explicit that the bill does not supersede other laws and agencies, such as those governing the use of drugs, chemicals, and antibiotics in aquaculture and the need for Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency permits. Provisions in the administration section [Section 6(c) and 6(d)] provide mechanisms for coordinating with other agencies to address these concerns.
- Provisions that provide sufficient authority for NOAA to address more detailed environmental requirements, such as those relating to best management practices or stocking densities, through rulemaking [Sections 4(a)(1) and 6(a)] or permit conditions [Sections 4(b)(1) and 4(c)].

Role of States

The revised draft includes new language that would allow any coastal state to opt out of offshore aquaculture while including protections for existing operations [Section 4(a)(3)], plus additional definitions of two terms used in the opt-out provision. “Coastal state” is defined using language from the Coastal Zone Management Act [Section 3(a)] and “Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of the State” is defined using language from the opt-out amendment (Senate Amendment 769) proposed by Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska and Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii [Section 3(d)].

Security of Tenure

The revised draft includes language to extend the initial and renewal duration of a site permit to 20 years [Section 4(b)(2)]. Note that the duration of operating permits is not defined in the bill and will be determined through rulemaking.

A BILL

To provide the necessary authority to the Secretary of Commerce for the establishment and implementation of a regulatory system for offshore aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005"

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

(a) It is the policy of the United States to:

(1) Support an offshore aquaculture industry that will produce food and other valuable products, protect wild stocks and the quality of marine ecosystems, and be compatible with other uses of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(2) Encourage the development of responsible marine offshore aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone by providing the necessary authorities and procedures for offshore ~~marine~~ aquaculture operations, demonstrations, and research, through public-private partnerships.

(3) Establish a permitting process for offshore aquaculture ~~in the Exclusive Economic Zone~~ to encourage private investment in aquaculture operations, demonstrations, and research.

(4) Conduct the permitting process for offshore aquaculture in a manner that provides opportunity for public comment and considers the potential risks to and impacts

1 (including cumulative impacts) on marine ecosystems, human health and safety, other ocean
2 uses, and coastal communities from offshore aquaculture.

3 (4) (5) Promote research and development in marine aquaculture science
4 technology, and related social, economic, legal, and environmental management disciplines that
5 will enable marine aquaculture operations and demonstrations to achieve operational objectives
6 while protecting marine ecosystem quality.

7 (b) Offshore aquaculture activities within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United
8 States constitute activities with respect to which the United States has proclaimed sovereign
9 rights and jurisdiction under Presidential Proclamation 5030 of March 10, 1983.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS**

11 As used in this Act –

12 (a) The term “coastal State” means a state in, or bordering on, the Atlantic, Pacific, or
13 Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or Long Island Sound.

14 (a) (b) The term “demonstration” means pilot-scale testing of aquaculture science and
15 technologies, or farm-scale research.

16 (b) (c) The term “Exclusive Economic Zone” means, unless otherwise specified by the
17 President in the public interest in a writing published in the *Federal Register*, a zone, the outer
18 boundary of which is 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the
19 territorial sea is measured, except as established by a maritime boundary treaty in force for, or
20 being provisionally applied by, the United States, or in the absence of such a treaty where the
21 distance between the coastal State United States and another State nation is less than 400 nautical
22 miles, an equidistance a line equidistant between the two States United States and the other

1 nation. Without affecting any Presidential Proclamation with regard to the establishment of the
2 United States territorial sea or Exclusive Economic Zone, ~~T~~ the inner boundary of that zone is

3 (1) a line coterminous with the seaward boundary of each of the several coastal
4 States, as defined in 43 U.S.C. §§ 1312 and 1301(b);

5 (2) a line three marine leagues from the coastline of the Commonwealth of Puerto
6 Rico;

7 (3) a line three geographical miles from the coastlines of American Samoa, the
8 United States Virgin Islands, and Guam, respectively; and

9 (4) for any other Commonwealth (including the Commonwealth of the Northern
10 Mariana), territory, or possession of the United States not referred to in subparagraph (2) or (3),
11 the coastline of such possession; and the outer boundary of the 12-mile territorial sea. For the
12 purposes of applying this Act to any such commonwealth, territory, or possession, that zone shall
13 also include the area within the territorial sea.

14 (5) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

15 (A) its coastline, until such time as the Commonwealth of the Northern
16 Mariana Islands is granted authority by the United States to regulate all fishing to a line seaward
17 of its coastline, and

18 (B) upon the United States' grant of such authority, the line established by
19 such grant of authority.

20 (d) The term "Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of the State" means the area
21 determined by: (1) extending the seaward boundary, as defined in section 2(b) of the Submerged
22 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1301(b)), of each coastal State seaward to the edge of the Exclusive
23 Economic Zone; or (2) for coastal states that are not subject to the Submerged Lands Act,

1 extending the inner boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone seaward to the edge of the
2 Exclusive Economic Zone.

3 (e) (e) The term “Indian Tribe and Alaska Native organization” has the same meaning as
4 the term “Indian Tribe” in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994
5 (25 U.S.C. § 479a).

6 (d) (f) The term “lessee” means the party authorized by a lease, or an approved
7 assignment thereof, to explore for and develop and produce leased deposits of oil, gas, or sulphur
8 pursuant to 43 U.S.C. § 1441 et seq.

9 (e) (g) The term “marine species” means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, marine algae, and
10 all other forms of marine life, excluding marine mammals and birds.

11 (f) (h) The term “offshore aquaculture” means all activities, including the operation of
12 offshore aquaculture facilities, involved in the propagation and rearing, or attempted propagation
13 and rearing, of marine species in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone.

14 (g) (i) The term “offshore aquaculture facility” means: 1) an installation or structure used
15 for offshore aquaculture; or 2) an area of the seabed or the subsoil used for offshore aquaculture
16 of living organisms belonging to sedentary species.

17 (h) (j) The term “operating permit” means an authorization issued under section 4(c) to
18 raise specified marine species in a specific offshore aquaculture facility within the area described
19 in an offshore aquaculture site permit.

20 (i) (k) The term “person” means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the
21 United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other non-governmental entity
22 (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State), and State, local or tribal
23 government or entity thereof, and, except as otherwise specified by the President in writing, the

1 Federal Government or an entity thereof, and, to the extent specified by the President in writing,
2 a foreign government or an entity thereof.

3 (j) (l) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

4 (k) (m) The term "site permit" means an authorization issued under section 4(b) to use a
5 specified area of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone for a specified period of time for purposes
6 of offshore aquaculture.

7 (l) (n) The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the
8 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the U.S. United States Virgin Islands, Guam,
9 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other Commonwealth, territory, or
10 possession of the United States.

11 12 **SEC. 4. OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE PERMITS**

13 (a) GENERAL

14 (1) The Secretary is authorized to shall establish through rulemaking, in
15 consultation as appropriate with other relevant Federal agencies, a process to make areas of the
16 Exclusive Economic Zone available to eligible persons for the development and operation of
17 offshore aquaculture facilities, which shall include:

18 (A) ~~The development of~~ Procedures necessary to implement a
19 permitting process under this Act, the form and manner in which applications for permits may be
20 made, and the inclusion of any special conditions that may apply to a permit; and

21 (B) ~~The~~ Coordination of the offshore aquaculture permitting process,
22 together with the regulations for siting criteria, environmental protection, monitoring and

1 enforcement, research, and economic and social development, with similar activities

2 administered by other Federal agencies and coastal States;

3 (C) Consultation with coastal States and regional fishery management
4 councils;

5 (D) Consideration of the potential environmental, social, economic, and
6 cultural impacts of offshore aquaculture; and

7 (E) Public notice and opportunity for public comment prior to issuance of
8 permits.

9 (2) Permits for offshore aquaculture located on leases or easements authorized or
10 for which a permit has been issued under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended (43
11 U.S.C. § 1331, et seq.), or within 1 mile of any other facility for which a permit has been issued
12 under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, shall require the concurrence of the Secretary of
13 the Interior.

14 (3) ~~It shall be unlawful to engage in offshore aquaculture except in accordance~~
15 ~~with the terms of a valid site permit and a valid operating permit issued by the Secretary under~~
16 ~~this Act. If a State's chief executive officer notifies the Secretary in writing that the State objects~~
17 ~~to offshore aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of the State, the Secretary shall~~
18 ~~not issue any new offshore aquaculture site permits in the Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of~~
19 ~~the State. The Secretary may renew site permits issued prior to receipt of the notice by the~~
20 ~~Secretary. The chief executive officer of a State that transmitted a notice to the Secretary under~~
21 ~~this paragraph may revoke that notice in writing at any time.~~

22 (4) An offshore aquaculture permit holder must (i) be a resident of the United
23 States, (ii) be a corporation, partnership or other entity organized and existing under the laws of a

1 State or the United States, or (iii) to the extent required by the Secretary of Commerce by
2 regulation after coordination with the Secretary of State, waive any immunity, and consent to the
3 jurisdiction of the United States and its courts, for matters arising in relation to such permit and
4 appoint and maintain agents within the United States who are authorized to receive and respond
5 to any legal process issued in the United States with respect to such permit holder.

6 (5) Applications for site permits and operating permits may be submitted and
7 reviewed concurrently.

8 (6) Within 120 days after determining that a permit application is complete and
9 has satisfied all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, the Secretary shall render a
10 permit decision. If the Secretary is unable to render a permit decision within this time period, the
11 Secretary shall provide written notice to the applicant indicating the reasons for the delay and
12 establishing a reasonable timeline for a permit decision.

13 (7) Permits issued under this Act do not supersede or substitute for any other
14 authorization required under applicable federal or State law or regulation and shall authorize the
15 permit holder to conduct activities consistent with the provisions of this Act, regulations issued
16 under this Act, and any specific terms, conditions and restrictions applied to the permit by the
17 Secretary.

18 (8) Vessels owned or used by any offshore aquaculture permit holder shall be
19 exempt from the requirement for documentation or a fishery endorsement under sections 12102
20 and 12108 of Title 46, United States Code, for only so long as the vessel is owned or used in
21 support of activities under the permit. All other sections of that Title will apply as if the
22 exempted vessel was documented.

1 (b) SITE PERMITS – The Secretary is authorized to issue an offshore aquaculture site
2 permit to any person meeting the eligibility criteria in subsection 4(a)(4) under such terms and
3 conditions as the Secretary shall prescribe.

4 (1) The Secretary shall establish the terms, conditions, and restrictions applicable
5 to such permit, and shall specify in the site permit the duration, size, and location of the offshore
6 aquaculture facility.

7 (2) Except for demonstration projects and offshore aquaculture permits requiring
8 concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior under subsection 4(a)(2), the site permit shall have a
9 duration of ~~10~~ 20 years, renewable thereafter at the discretion of the Secretary in ~~5-year~~ 20-year
10 increments. The duration of permits subject to the provisions of subsection 4(a)(2) shall be
11 developed in consultation as appropriate with the Secretary of the Interior, except that each such
12 permit shall expire no later than the date that the oil and gas lessee, or the lessee's operator,
13 submits to the Secretary of the Interior a final application for the removal of the facility upon
14 which the offshore aquaculture facility is located.

15 (3) At the expiration or termination of a site permit for any reason, the site permit
16 holder shall remove all structures, gear, and other property from the site, and take other measures
17 to restore the site as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

18 (4) For offshore aquaculture located on facilities authorized or for which a permit
19 has been issued under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. § 1331, et
20 seq.), the aquaculture permit holder and all parties that are or were lessees of the lease on which
21 the facilities are located during the term of the site permit shall be jointly and severally liable for
22 the removal of any construction or modifications related to aquaculture operations if the
23 aquaculture permit holder fails to do so and bonds established under this Act for aquaculture

1 operations prove insufficient to cover those obligations. This subsection does not affect
2 obligations to decommission facilities under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

3 (c) OPERATING PERMITS – The Secretary is authorized to issue operating permits,
4 under terms and conditions as the Secretary shall prescribe, to site permit holders.

5 (1) The holder of, or applicant for, a site permit under section 4(b) shall submit an
6 application to the Secretary specifying the marine species to be propagated or reared, or both, at
7 the offshore aquaculture facility, and other design, construction, and operational details and
8 information, as specified by regulation, to facilitate review.

9 (2) Failure to apply for and obtain an operating permit within a reasonable period
10 of time, as specified by the Secretary under the terms and conditions of the offshore aquaculture
11 site permit, may result in the revocation of the site permit.

12 (d) CRITERIA FOR ISSUING PERMITS

13 (a) (1) ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS – The Secretary shall consult as
14 appropriate with other Federal agencies, coastal States, and regional fishery management
15 councils established under Sec. 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
16 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852) to identify the environmental requirements applicable to
17 offshore aquaculture under existing laws and regulations. The Secretary may shall establish, in
18 consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, coastal States, and regional fishery management
19 councils, additional environmental requirements to address and minimize environmental risks
20 and impacts associated with ~~for~~ offshore aquaculture facilities, if deemed necessary, in
21 consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, coastal States, and the public. Environmental
22 requirements may include, but are not limited to, environmental monitoring, data archiving, and
23 reporting by the permit holder, as deemed necessary or prudent by the Secretary. The

1 environmental requirements shall ~~consider risks to and impacts on~~ address, but are not limited to,
2 the following:

3 (1) (A) risks to and impacts on natural fish stocks, including safeguards
4 needed to conserve genetic resources, and to prevent or minimize the transmission of disease or
5 parasites to wild stocks, or the escape of marine species that may cause significant environmental
6 harm;

7 (2) (B) risks to and impacts on marine ecosystems; (3) biological,
8 chemical and physical features of water quality and habitat; (4) marine mammals, other forms of
9 marine life, birds, and endangered species; and (5) other features of the environment as
10 identified by the Secretary, in consultation as appropriate with other Federal agencies;

11 (C) cumulative effects of the aquaculture operation and other aquaculture
12 operations in the vicinity of the proposed site;

13 (D) environmental monitoring, data archiving, and reporting by the permit
14 holder;

15 (E) limiting permits to species native to the geographic region unless a
16 scientific risk assessment shows that the risk of harm to the marine environment from the
17 offshore culture of non-indigenous marine species is negligible; and

18 (F) tracking, marking, or otherwise identifying fish or other marine species
19 in the offshore aquaculture facility or harvested from such facility.

20 (2) COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER USES

21 (1) (A) The Secretary shall consult as appropriate with other federal
22 agencies, coastal States, and regional fishery management councils to ensure that offshore
23 aquaculture for which a permit has been is issued under this section meets the environmental

1 requirements established under section 5(a) and is compatible with the use of the Exclusive
2 Economic Zone for navigation, fishing, resource protection, recreation, national defense
3 (including military readiness), mineral exploration and development, and other activities.

4 ~~_____ (2) The Secretary shall consider risks to and impacts on natural fish stocks,~~
5 ~~marine ecosystems, biological, chemical and physical features of water quality, habitat, marine~~
6 ~~mammals, other forms of marine life, birds, endangered species, and other features of the~~
7 ~~environment, as identified by the Secretary in consultation as appropriate with other Federal~~
8 ~~agencies.~~

9 (3) (B) Federal agencies implementing this Act, persons subject to this
10 Act, and coastal States seeking to review permit applications under this Act shall comply with
11 the applicable section of the Coastal Zone Management Act (i.e., 16 U.S.C. §§ 1456(c)(1),
12 (c)(3)(A), (c)(3)(B) or (d)) and the corresponding federal regulations.

13 (4) (C) When an aquaculture facility is proposed to be associated with an
14 offshore oil and gas platform licensed under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and if the
15 offshore aquaculture applicant is required to submit to a coastal State a consistency certification
16 for its aquaculture application under subsection 307(c)(3)(A) of the Coastal Zone Management
17 Act (16 U.S.C. § 1456(c)(3)(A)), the coastal State's review under the Coastal Zone Management
18 Act and corresponding federal regulations shall also include any modification to an offshore oil
19 or gas or mineral lessee's development and production plan or development operations
20 coordination document for which a consistency certification would otherwise be required under
21 applicable federal regulations, including changes to its plan for decommissioning any facilities,
22 resulting from or necessary for the issuance of the offshore aquaculture permit, provided that
23 information related to such modifications or changes are received by the coastal State at the time

1 the coastal State receives the offshore aquaculture permit applicant's consistency certification.

2 In this case, offshore oil and gas or mineral lessees are not required to submit a separate
3 consistency certification for any such modification or change under 16 U.S.C. § 1456(c)(3)(B)
4 and the coastal State's concurrence or objection, or presumed concurrence, under 16 U.S.C. §
5 1456(c)(3)(A) shall apply to both the offshore aquaculture permit and to any related
6 modifications or changes to offshore oil and gas or mineral plans requiring approval by the
7 Department of the Interior.

8 ~~(5) (b)~~ If a coastal State is not authorized by 16 U.S.C. § 1456(c)(3)(A)
9 and corresponding federal regulations to review an offshore aquaculture project proposed under
10 this Act, then any modifications or changes to offshore oil and gas or mineral development and
11 production plans or development operations coordination documents requiring approval from the
12 Department of the Interior, shall be subject to coastal State review pursuant to the requirements
13 of 16 U.S.C. § 1456(c)(3)(B), if a consistency certification for those modifications or changes is
14 required under applicable federal regulations.

15 ~~(6) (3)~~ The Secretary shall periodically review the criteria for issuance of site and
16 operating permits for offshore aquaculture and modify them as appropriate, in consultation as
17 appropriate with other Federal agencies, the coastal States, and regional fishery management
18 councils, based on the best available science.

19 (e) EXCLUSION FROM PROVISIONS OF MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY
20 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT –

21 (1) Offshore aquaculture conducted in accordance with permits issued pursuant to
22 section 4 of this Act is excluded from the definition of "fishing" in the Magnuson-Stevens
23 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1802(15).

1 (2) The Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that offshore aquaculture
2 does not interfere with conservation and management measures promulgated under the
3 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

4 ~~_____ (3) The Secretary shall consult with the appropriate Regional Fishery~~
5 ~~Management Council(s) before issuing a permit.~~

6 ~~(4) The Secretary may require permit holders to track, mark, or otherwise identify~~
7 ~~fish or other marine species in the offshore aquaculture facility or harvested from such facility.~~

8 (f) FEES AND OTHER PAYMENTS

9 (1) The Secretary is authorized to establish, through regulation, a schedule of
10 application fees and annual permit fees.

11 (2) The Secretary shall require the site permit holder to post a bond or other form
12 of financial guarantee, in an amount to be determined by the Secretary as sufficient to cover any
13 unpaid fees, the cost of removing an offshore aquaculture facility at the expiration or termination
14 of a site permit, and other financial risks as identified by the Secretary.

15 (3) The Secretary may reduce or waive applicable fees or other payments
16 established under this section for facilities used primarily for research or for raising cultured
17 stock for the replenishment of wild fisheries.

18 (4) The Secretary shall deposit all fees collected under this Act in accordance with
19 section 3302(b) of Title 31, United States Code.

20 ~~(b)~~(g) SITING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

21 (1) The Secretary is authorized to collect information needed to evaluate the
22 suitability of sites for offshore aquaculture.

1 (2) The Secretary is authorized to promulgate regulations regarding monitoring
2 and evaluation of compliance with the provisions of site and operating permits, including the
3 collection of biological, chemical and physical oceanographic data, and social, production, and
4 economic data.

5 (3) The Secretary is authorized to monitor the effects of offshore aquaculture on
6 marine ecosystems and implement such measures as may be necessary to protect the
7 environment. Measures may include, but are not limited to, temporary or permanent relocation
8 of offshore aquaculture sites, a moratorium on additional sites within a prescribed area, and other
9 appropriate measures as determined by the Secretary.

10 (4) The Secretary is authorized to establish monitoring and evaluation protocols.

11 ~~(g)~~ (h) **AUTHORITY TO MODIFY OR SUSPEND PERMITS**

12 (1) Subject to paragraph (2), if the Secretary, after consultation with Federal
13 agencies as appropriate and after affording the permit holder notice and an opportunity to be
14 heard, determines that suspension of, or modification of, a permit is in the national interest, the
15 Secretary may suspend or modify such permit.

16 (2) If the Secretary determines that an emergency exists that poses a risk to the
17 safety of humans, to the marine environment or marine resources, or to the security of the United
18 States and that requires suspension or modification of a permit, the Secretary may suspend or
19 modify the permit for such time as the Secretary may determine necessary to meet the
20 emergency. The Secretary shall afford the permit holder a prompt post-suspension or post-
21 modification opportunity to be heard regarding the suspension or modification.

22 ~~(h)~~ (i) **ACTIONS AFFECTING THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF –**

1 (1) For aquaculture projects or operations located on facilities subject to the Outer
2 Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to:

3 (A) Enforce all requirements contained in federal mineral leases and
4 regulations issued pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act;

5 (B) Require and enforce such additional terms or conditions as the
6 Secretary of the Interior deems necessary to protect the marine environment, property, or human
7 life or health to ensure the compatibility of aquaculture operations with all activities for which
8 permits have been issued under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; and

9 (C) Issue orders to any offshore aquaculture permit holder to take any
10 action the Secretary of the Interior deems necessary to ensure safe oil and gas or other mineral
11 operations on any facility to protect the marine environment, property, or human life or health.
12 Failure to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's orders will be deemed to constitute a
13 violation of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

14 (2) The Secretary of the Interior shall review and approve any agreement between
15 an operator of a facility for which a permit has been issued under the Outer Continental Shelf
16 Lands Act and a prospective aquaculture operator to ensure that it is consistent with the federal
17 mineral lease terms, Department of the Interior regulations, and the Secretary of the Interior's
18 role in the protection of the marine environment, property, or human life or health. An
19 agreement under this subsection shall be part of the information reviewed pursuant to the Coastal
20 Zone Management Act review process described in subsection ~~4(d)(4)~~ 4(d)(2)(C) of this Act and
21 shall not be subject to a separate CZMA review.

1 (3) No offshore aquaculture may be located on facilities authorized or for which a
2 permit has been issued under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act without the prior consent of
3 the owner of the facility.

4 (4) The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are
5 necessary and appropriate to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

6 ~~(i)~~ (j) TRANSFERABILITY OF PERMITS – The Secretary is authorized to establish
7 procedures for transferring permits from the original permit holder to any person meeting the
8 eligibility criteria in subsection 4(a)(4) and able to satisfy the requirements for bonds or other
9 guarantees prescribed under subsection 4(f)(2) hereof.

10 SEC. 5. ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

11 ~~(a) ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS~~ The Secretary shall consult as appropriate
12 with other Federal agencies to identify the environmental requirements applicable to offshore
13 aquaculture under existing laws and regulations. The Secretary may establish additional
14 environmental requirements for offshore aquaculture facilities, if deemed necessary, in
15 consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, coastal States, and the public. Environmental
16 requirements may include, but are not limited to, environmental monitoring, data archiving, and
17 reporting by the permit holder, as deemed necessary or prudent by the Secretary. The
18 environmental requirements shall consider risks to and impacts on:

19 (a) natural fish stocks,

20 (b) marine ecosystems

21 (3) biological, chemical and physical features of water quality and habitat,

22 (4) marine mammals, other forms of marine life, birds, and endangered species,

23 and

1 ~~_____ (5) other features of the environment~~

2 ~~as identified by the Secretary, in consultation as appropriate with other Federal agencies.~~

3 ~~_____ (b) SITING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION~~

4 ~~_____ (1) The Secretary is authorized to collect information needed to evaluate the~~
5 ~~suitability of sites for offshore aquaculture.~~

6 ~~_____ (2) The Secretary is authorized to promulgate regulations regarding monitoring~~
7 ~~and evaluation of compliance with the provisions of site and operating permits, including the~~
8 ~~collection of biological, chemical and physical oceanographic data, and social, production, and~~
9 ~~economic data.~~

10 ~~_____ (3) The Secretary is authorized to monitor the effects of offshore aquaculture on~~
11 ~~marine ecosystems and implement such measures as may be necessary to protect the~~
12 ~~environment. Measures may include, but are not limited to, temporary or permanent relocation~~
13 ~~of offshore aquaculture sites, a moratorium on additional sites within a prescribed area, and other~~
14 ~~appropriate measures as determined by the Secretary.~~

15 ~~_____ (4) The Secretary is authorized to establish monitoring and evaluation protocols.~~

16 **SEC. 6 5. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

17 (a) In consultation as appropriate with other Federal agencies, the Secretary is authorized
18 to establish an integrated, multidisciplinary, scientific research and development program to
19 further offshore aquaculture technologies that are compatible with the protection of marine
20 ecosystems.

21 (b) The Secretary is authorized to conduct research and development, in partnership with
22 site permit holders.

1 (c) The Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall conduct
2 research to reduce the use of wild fish in aquaculture feeds, including but not limited to the
3 substitution of seafood processing wastes, cultured marine algae and microbial sources of
4 nutrients important for human health and nutrition, agricultural crops, and other products.

5 **SEC. 7 6. ADMINISTRATION**

6 (a) The Secretary shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary and
7 appropriate to carry out the provisions of this Act. The Secretary may at any time prescribe and
8 amend such rules and regulations as the Secretary determines to be necessary and proper, and
9 such rules and regulations shall, as of their effective date, apply to all operations conducted
10 under permits issued under the provisions of this Act.

11 (b) (1) The Secretary may promulgate rules that the Secretary finds to be reasonable and
12 necessary to protect offshore aquaculture facilities, and, where appropriate, shall request that the
13 Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating establish navigational safety
14 zones around such facilities.

15 (2) After consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of State, and
16 the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the department in the which the Coast Guard is
17 operating may designate a zone of appropriate size around and including any offshore
18 aquaculture facility for the purpose of navigational safety. In such zone, no installations,
19 structures, or uses will be allowed that are incompatible with the operation of the offshore
20 aquaculture facility. The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may
21 by regulation define activities that are allowed within such zone.

22 ~~— (c) The Secretary shall consult as appropriate with Federal agencies that are authorized to~~
23 ~~issue permits within the Exclusive Economic Zone to develop a coordinated and streamlined~~

1 ~~permitting process for offshore aquaculture. This process shall factor in the needs, requirements,~~
2 ~~and authorities of each Agency, including the need to consult with State agencies and the~~
3 ~~requirement for public review and involvement.~~

4 ~~(d)~~ (c) The Secretary may enter into memoranda of agreement, memoranda of
5 understanding, or other agreements with heads of Federal agencies, as appropriate, to implement
6 this Act, and the Secretary and the heads of such agencies may issue such regulations as may be
7 necessary to ensure coordination of Federal activities to implement this Act.

8 ~~(e)~~ (d) The Secretary may, with or without reimbursement, utilize in the performance of
9 functions under this Act the personnel, services, equipment (including aircraft and vessels), and
10 facilities of –

11 (1) any Federal agency under a written agreement with the head of that agency;
12 and

13 (2) any agency of a State under a written agreement with the head of that agency,
14 to the extent allowed by the law of that State.

15 ~~(f)~~ (e) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to displace, supersede, limit, or modify the
16 jurisdiction, responsibilities or rights of any Federal or State agency, or Indian Tribe or Alaska
17 Native organization, under any Federal law or treaty.

18 ~~(g)~~ (f) In addition to this Act and other statutes of the United States that apply in the
19 Exclusive Economic Zone, the following shall apply with respect to offshore aquaculture
20 facilities in the Exclusive Economic Zone for which a permit has been issued under this Act and
21 to activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone connected, associated, or potentially interfering
22 with the use or operation of such facilities: (1) Titles 18 and 28, United States Code,
23 (2) provisions of any other statute of the United States, when the Secretary has determined that it

1 is in the public interest that such provision so apply and has published that determination in the
2 *Federal Register* and until the Secretary determines to the contrary and publishes a notice in the
3 *Federal Register* to the contrary, and (3) jurisdiction of the Federal courts with respect to the
4 foregoing. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to relieve, exempt, or immunize any person
5 from any other requirement imposed by an applicable Federal law, treaty, or regulation. Nothing
6 in this Act shall be construed to confer citizenship to a person by birth or through naturalization
7 or to entitle a person to avail himself of any law pertaining to immigration, naturalization, or
8 nationality.

9 ~~(h)~~ (g) The law of the nearest adjacent coastal State, now in effect or hereafter adopted,
10 amended, or repealed, is declared to be the law of the United States, and shall apply to any
11 offshore aquaculture facility for which a permit has been issued pursuant to this Act within the
12 Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of the State, to the extent applicable and not inconsistent with
13 any provision or regulation under this Act or other Federal laws and regulations now in effect or
14 hereafter adopted, amended, or repealed. All such applicable laws shall be administered and
15 enforced by the appropriate officers and courts of the United States. ~~For purposes of this~~
16 ~~subsection, the nearest adjacent coastal State shall be that State whose seaward boundaries, if~~
17 ~~extended beyond 3 miles, would encompass the site of the offshore aquaculture facility. State~~
18 taxation laws shall not apply in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

19 **SEC. 8 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary
21 for purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

22 **SEC. 9 8. UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES**

23 It is unlawful for any person-

1 (a) to falsify any information required to be reported, communicated, or recorded
2 pursuant to this Act or any regulation or permit issued under this Act, or to fail to submit in a
3 timely fashion any required information, or to fail to report to the Secretary immediately any
4 change in circumstances that has the effect of rendering any such information false, incomplete,
5 or misleading;

6 (b) to engage in offshore aquaculture within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United
7 States except in full compliance with this Act, any regulations promulgated under this Act, and
8 the terms and conditions of any permit issued by the Secretary under this Act;

9 (c) to refuse to permit an authorized officer to conduct any lawful search or lawful
10 inspection in connection with the enforcement of this Act or any regulation or permit issued
11 under this Act;

12 (d) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with an authorized
13 officer in the conduct of any search or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this Act
14 or any regulation or permit issued under this Act;

15 (e) to resist a lawful arrest or detention for any act prohibited by this section;

16 (f) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension, arrest, or
17 detection of another person, knowing that such person has committed any act prohibited by this
18 section;

19 (g) to violate any provision of this Act or any regulation or permit issued under this Act;

20 or

21 (h) to attempt to commit any act described in subsections (a), (b), (f) or (g).

22 **SEC. 10 9. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS**

1 (a) DUTIES OF SECRETARIES – This Act shall be enforced by the Secretary and the
2 Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating. The Secretaries each may
3 exercise for this purpose the same authority as is granted to the Secretary by section 7(e) ~~6~~(d) of
4 this Act.

5 (b) DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION – The several district courts of the United
6 States shall have jurisdiction over any actions arising under this Act. The venue provisions of
7 Title 18 and Title 28 shall apply to any actions arising under this Act. The judges of the district
8 courts of the United States and the United States magistrate judges may, within their respective
9 jurisdictions, upon proper oath or affirmation showing probable cause, issue such warrants or
10 other process as may be required for enforcement of this Act, or any regulation or permit issued
11 under this Act.

12 (c) POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT

13 (1) Any officer who is authorized pursuant to the first sentence of subsection (a)
14 of this section by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is
15 operating to enforce the provisions of this Act may -

16 (A) with or without a warrant or other process -

17 (i) arrest any person, if the officer has reasonable cause to believe
18 that such person has committed or is committing an act prohibited by section 9 8 of this Act;

19 (ii) search or inspect any offshore aquaculture facility;

20 (iii) seize any offshore aquaculture facility (together with its
21 equipment, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used or employed in aid of, or with
22 respect to which it reasonably appears that such offshore aquaculture facility was used or

1 employed in aid of, the violation of any provision of this Act or any regulation or permit issued
2 under this Act;

3 (iv) seize any living marine resource (wherever found) retained, in
4 any manner, in connection with or as a result of the commission of any act prohibited by
5 section 9 8 of this Act;

6 (v) seize any evidence related to any violation of any provision of
7 this Act or any regulation or permit issued under this Act;

8 (B) execute any warrant or other process issued by any court of competent
9 jurisdiction; and

10 (C) exercise any other lawful authority.

11 (2) Any officer who is authorized pursuant to the first sentence of subsection (a)
12 of this section by the Secretary or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is
13 operating to enforce the provisions of this Act may make an arrest without a warrant for (i) an
14 offense against the United States committed in his presence, or (ii) for a felony cognizable under
15 the laws of the United States, if he has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be
16 arrested has committed or is committing a felony. Any such authorized person may execute and
17 serve a subpoena, arrest warrant or search warrant issued in accordance with Rule 41 of the
18 Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or other warrant of civil or criminal process issued by any
19 officer or court of competent jurisdiction for enforcement of the Act, or any regulation or permit
20 issued under this Act.

21 (d) ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS - If any authorized officer finds that a person is
22 engaging in or has engaged in offshore aquaculture in violation of any provision of this Act, such
23 officer may issue a citation to that person.

1 (e) LIABILITY FOR COSTS - Any person who violates this Act, or a regulation or
2 permit issued under this Act, shall be liable for the cost incurred in storage, care, and
3 maintenance of any living marine resource or other property seized in connection with the
4 violation.

5 (f) Upon the request of the Secretary, the Attorney General of the United States may seek
6 to enjoin any person who is alleged to be in violation of any provision of this Act, or regulation
7 or permit issued under this Act.

8 **SEC. 11 10. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT AND PERMIT SANCTIONS**

9 (a) CIVIL PENALTIES

10 (1) Any person who is found by the Secretary, after notice and opportunity for a
11 hearing in accordance with section 554 of Title 5, United States Code, to have violated this Act,
12 or a regulation or permit issued under this Act, shall be liable to the United States for a civil
13 penalty. The amount of the civil penalty under this paragraph shall not exceed \$120,000 for each
14 violation. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation. The amount
15 of such civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary by written notice. In determining the
16 amount of such penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent,
17 and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violation, the degree of
18 culpability, any history of prior violations, and such other matters as justice may require.

19 (2) The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions,
20 any civil penalty under paragraph 1 that is subject to imposition or that has been imposed under
21 this section.

22 (b) CIVIL JUDICIAL PENALTIES - Any person who violates any provision of this Act,
23 or any regulation or permit issued thereunder, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed

1 \$240,000 for each such violation. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate
2 violation. The Attorney General, upon the request of the Secretary, may commence a civil action
3 in an appropriate district court of the United States, and such court shall have jurisdiction to
4 award civil penalties and such other relief as justice may require. In determining the amount of a
5 civil penalty, the court shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of
6 the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violation, the degree of culpability, any
7 history of prior violations and such other matters as justice may require.

8 (c) PERMIT SANCTIONS

9 (1) In any case in which -

10 (A) an offshore aquaculture facility has been used in the commission of an
11 act prohibited under section 9 8 of this Act;

12 (B) the owner or operator of an offshore aquaculture facility or any other
13 person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under section 4 of this Act has acted in
14 violation of section 9 8 of this Act; or

15 (C) any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture imposed on an offshore
16 aquaculture facility or other property, or any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed under this
17 Act or imposed on any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under any
18 fishery resource statute enforced by the Secretary, has not been paid and is overdue,
19 the Secretary may -

20 (i) revoke any permit issued with respect to such offshore
21 aquaculture facility or applied for by such a person under this Act, with or without prejudice to
22 the issuance of subsequent permits;

1 (ii) suspend such permit for a period of time considered by the
2 Secretary to be appropriate;

3 (iii) deny such permit; or

4 (iv) impose additional conditions and restrictions on such permit.

5 (2) In imposing a sanction under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into
6 account -

7 (A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts for
8 which the sanction is imposed; and

9 (B) with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of
10 prior violations, and such other matters as justice may require.

11 (3) Transfer of ownership of an offshore aquaculture facility, by sale or otherwise,
12 shall not extinguish any permit sanction that is in effect or is pending at the time of transfer of
13 ownership. Before executing the transfer of ownership of an offshore aquaculture facility, by
14 sale or otherwise, the owner shall disclose in writing to the prospective transferee the existence
15 of any permit sanction that will be in effect or pending with respect to the offshore aquaculture
16 facility at the time of the transfer. The Secretary may waive or compromise a sanction in the
17 case of a transfer pursuant to court order.

18 (4) In the case of any permit that is suspended under this subsection for
19 nonpayment of a civil penalty or criminal fine, the Secretary shall reinstate the permit upon
20 payment of the penalty or fine and interest thereon at the prevailing rate.

21 (5) No sanctions shall be imposed under this subsection unless there has been
22 prior opportunity for a hearing on the facts underlying the violation for which the sanction is
23 imposed, either in conjunction with a civil penalty proceeding under this section or otherwise.

1 (d) HEARING - For the purposes of conducting any hearing under this section, the
2 Secretary may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production
3 of relevant papers, books, and documents, and may administer oaths. Witnesses summoned shall
4 be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in the courts of the United States. In
5 case of contempt or refusal to obey a subpoena served upon any person pursuant to this
6 subsection, the district court of the United States for any district in which such person is found,
7 resides, or transacts business, upon application by the United States and after notice to such
8 person, shall have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person to appear and give
9 testimony before the Secretary or to appear and produce documents before the Secretary, or both,
10 and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt
11 thereof.

12 (e) JUDICIAL REVIEW - Any person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under
13 subsection (a)(1) of this section or against whose offshore aquaculture facility a permit sanction
14 is imposed under subsection (c) of this section (other than a permit suspension for nonpayment
15 of penalty or fine) may obtain review thereof in the United States district court for the
16 appropriate district by filing a complaint against the Secretary in such court within 30 days from
17 the date of such penalty or sanction. The Secretary shall promptly file in such court a certified
18 copy of the record upon which such penalty or sanction was imposed, as provided in section
19 2112 of Title 28, United States Code. The findings and order of the Secretary shall be set aside
20 by such court if they are not found to be supported by substantial evidence, as provided in
21 section 706(2) of Title 5, United States Code.

22 (f) COLLECTION - If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has
23 become a final and unappealable order, or after the appropriate court has entered final judgment

1 in favor of the Secretary, the matter may be referred to the Attorney General, who may recover
2 the amount (plus interest at currently prevailing rates from the date of the final order). In such
3 action the validity, amount and appropriateness of the final order imposing the civil penalty shall
4 not be subject to review. Any person who fails to pay, on a timely basis, the amount of an
5 assessment of a civil penalty shall be required to pay, in addition to such amount and interest,
6 attorney's fees and costs for collection proceedings and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each
7 quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an
8 amount equal to 20 percent of the aggregate amount of such person's penalties and nonpayment
9 penalties which are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter.

10 **SEC. ~~12~~ 11. CRIMINAL OFFENSES**

11 Any person who knowingly violates subsections 4(a)(3), 4(b)(3), or ~~9(a)~~ 8(a), (b) or (g)
12 of the Act, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned for not more than five years and shall be fined
13 not more than \$500,000 for individuals or \$1,000,000 for an organization. Any person who
14 knowingly violates any other provision of section 9 8 or a measure issued pursuant to subsection
15 ~~5(b)(3)~~ 4(g)(3) commits a Class C felony subject to the penalties of Title 18. The several district
16 courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over any actions arising under this Act. For the
17 purpose of this Act, American Samoa shall be included within the judicial district of the District
18 Court of the United States for the District of Hawaii. Each violation shall be a separate offense
19 and the offense shall be deemed to have been committed not only in the district where the
20 violation first occurred, but also in any other district as authorized by law. Any offenses not
21 committed in any district are subject to the venue provisions of Title 18, section 3238.

22 **SEC. ~~13~~ 12. FORFEITURES**

1 (a) IN GENERAL - Any offshore aquaculture facility (including its structure, equipment,
2 furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used in aid of and any living marine resources (or the
3 fair market value thereof) taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of
4 the violation of any provision of section 9 8 or subsections 4(a)(3) or 4(b)(3) of this Act shall be
5 subject to forfeiture to the United States. All or part of such offshore aquaculture facility may,
6 and all such living marine resources (or the fair market value thereof) shall, be forfeited to the
7 United States pursuant to a civil proceeding under this section.

8 (b) JURISDICTION OF THE COURTS - Any district court of the United States shall
9 have jurisdiction, upon application of the Attorney General on behalf of the United States, to
10 order any forfeiture authorized under subsection (a) of this section and any action provided for
11 under subsection (d) of this section.

12 (c) JUDGMENT - If a judgment is entered for the United States in a civil forfeiture
13 proceeding under this section, the Attorney General may seize any property or other interest
14 declared forfeited to the United States, which has not previously been seized pursuant to this Act
15 or for which security has not previously been obtained. The provisions of the customs laws
16 relating to -

17 (1) the seizure, forfeiture, and condemnation of property for violation of the
18 customs law;

19 (2) the disposition of such property or the proceeds from the sale thereof; and

20 (3) the remission or mitigation of any such forfeiture;

21 - shall apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, under the
22 provisions of this Act, unless such provisions are inconsistent with the purposes, policy, and
23 provisions of this Act.

1 (d) PROCEDURE

2 (1) Any officer authorized to serve any process that is issued by a court under
3 subsection ~~10(b)~~ 9(b) of this Act shall -

4 (A) stay the execution of such process; or

5 (B) discharge any living marine resources seized pursuant to such process;
6 - upon receipt of a satisfactory bond or other security from any person claiming such property.

7 Such bond or other security shall be conditioned upon such person delivering such property to
8 the appropriate court upon order thereof, without any impairment of its value, or paying the
9 monetary value of such property pursuant to an order of such court. Judgment shall be
10 recoverable on such bond or other security against both the principal and any sureties in the
11 event that any condition thereof is breached, as determined by such court.

12 (2) Any living marine resources seized pursuant to this Act may be sold, subject
13 to the approval of the appropriate court, for not less than the fair market value thereof. The
14 proceeds of any such sale shall be deposited with such court pending the disposition of the matter
15 involved.

16 (e) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION - For purposes of this section, all living marine
17 resources found within an offshore aquaculture facility, and which are seized in connection with
18 an act prohibited by section 9 8 of this Act, are presumed to have been taken or retained in
19 violation of this Act, but the presumption can be rebutted by an appropriate showing of evidence
20 to the contrary.

HR 1187 IH

110th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 1187

To expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 16, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself and Mr. GILCHREST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Gulf of the Farallones extends approximately 100 miles along the coast of Marin and Sonoma counties of northern California. It includes approximately one-half of California's nesting seabirds, rich benthic marine life on hard-rock substrate, prolific fisheries, and substantial concentrations of resident and seasonally migratory marine mammals.

(2) Cordell Bank is adjacent to the Gulf of the Farallones and is a submerged island with spectacular, unique, and nationally significant marine environments.

(3) These marine environments have national and international significance, exceed the biological productivity of tropical rain forests, and support high levels of biological diversity.

(4) These biological communities are easily susceptible to damage from human activities, and must be properly conserved for themselves and to protect the economic viability of their contribution to national and regional economies.

(5) The Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank include some of the Nation's richest fishing grounds, supporting important commercial and recreational fisheries. These fisheries are regulated by State and Federal fishery agencies and are supported and fostered through protection of the waters and habitats of Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

(6) The report of the Commission on Ocean Policy established by Public Law 106-256 calls for comprehensive protection for the most productive ocean environments and recommends that they be managed as ecosystems.

(7) New scientific discoveries by the National Marine Sanctuary Program support comprehensive protection for these marine environments by broadening the geographic scope of the existing Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

(8) Cordell Bank is at the nexus of an ocean upwelling system, which produces the highest biomass concentrations on the west coast of the United States.

SEC. 3. POLICY AND PURPOSE.

(a) Policy- It is the policy of the United States in this Act to protect and preserve living and other resources of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank marine environments.

(b) Purpose- The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To extend the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary to the areas described in section 5.

(2) To strengthen the protections that apply in the Sanctuaries.

(3) To educate and interpret for the public regarding those marine environments.

(4) To manage human uses of the Sanctuaries under this Act and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

(c) Effect on Fishing Activities- Nothing in this Act is intended to alter any existing authorities regarding the conduct and location of fishing activities in the Sanctuaries.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AQUACULTURE- The term `aquaculture' means the propagation or rearing of aquatic organisms in controlled or selected aquatic environments for any commercial, recreational, or public purpose.

(2) CORDELL BANK NMS- The term `Cordell Bank NMS' means the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

(3) FARALLONES NMS- The term `Farallones NMS' means the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

(4) SANCTUARIES- The term `Sanctuaries' means the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, as expanded by section 5.

(5) SECRETARY- The term `Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(6) PERSON- The term `person' means--

(A) any private or public individual, corporation, partnership, trust, institution, association, or other entity, whether foreign or domestic; or

(B) any officer, employee, agent, department, agency, or instrumentality of--

(i) the Federal Government;

(ii) any State, tribal, or local unit of government; or

(iii) any foreign government.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) Gulf of the Farallones-

(1) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT- The areas described in paragraph (2) are added to the existing Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary described in part 922.80 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) AREAS INCLUDED-

(A) IN GENERAL- The areas referred to in paragraph (1) consist of the following:

(i) All submerged lands and waters, including living marine and other resources within and on those lands and waters, from the mean high water line to the boundary described in subparagraph (B).

(ii) The submerged lands and waters, including living marine and other resources within those waters, within the approximately two-square-nautical-mile portion of the Cordell Bank NMS (as in effect immediately before the enactment of this Act) that is located south of the area that is added to Cordell Bank NMS by subsection (b)(2), which are transferred to the Farallones NMS from the Cordell Bank NMS.

(B) BOUNDARY DESCRIBED- The boundary referred to in subparagraph (A)(i) commences from the mean high water line (MHWL) at 39.00000 degrees north in a westward direction approximately 29 nautical miles (nm) to 39.00000 north, 124.33333 west. The boundary then extends in a southeasterly direction to 38.30000 degrees north, 124.00000 degrees west, approximately 44 nm westward of Bodega Head. The boundary then extends eastward to the most northeastern corner of the expanded Cordell Bank NMS at 38.30000 north, 123.20000 degrees west, approximately 6 nm miles westward of Bodega Head. The boundary then extends in a southeasterly direction to 38.26500 degrees north, 123.18166 degrees west at the northwestern most point of the current Gulf of the Farallones Boundary. The boundary then follows the current northern Gulf of the Farallones NMS boundary in a northeasterly direction to the MHWL near Bodega Head. The boundary then follows the MHWL in a northeasterly direction to the commencement point at the intersection of the MHWL and 39.00000 north. Coordinates listed in this subparagraph are based on the North American Datum 1983 and the geographic projection.

(b) Cordell Bank-

(1) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT- The area described in paragraph (2) is added to the existing Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary described in part 922.80 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) AREA INCLUDED-

(A) IN GENERAL- The area referred to in paragraph (1) consists of all submerged lands and waters, including living marine and other

resources within those waters, within the boundary described in subparagraph (B).

(B) BOUNDARY- The boundary referred to in subparagraph (A) commences at the most northeastern point of the current Cordell Bank NMS boundary at 38.26500 degrees north, 123.18166 degrees west and extends northwestward to 38.30000 degrees north, 123.20000 degrees west, approximately 6 nautical miles (nm) west of Bodega Head. The boundary then extends westward to 38.30000 degrees north, 123.66666 degrees west, approximately 28 nautical miles west of Bodega Head. The boundary then turns southward and continues approximately 32 nautical miles to 37.83333 degrees north, 123.66666 degrees west, and then approximately 11 nm eastward to 37.83333 north, 123.42333 west at an intersection with the current Gulf of the Farallones NMS boundary. The boundary then follows the current Cordell Bank NMS, which is coterminous with the current Gulf of the Farallones boundary, in a northeasterly and the northwesterly direction to its commencement point at 38.26500 degrees north, 123.18166 degrees west. Coordinates listed in this subparagraph are based on NAD83 Datum and the geographic projection.

(c) Inclusion in the System- The areas included in the Sanctuaries under subsections (a) and (b) shall be managed as part of the National Marine Sanctuary System, established by section 301(c) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431(c)), in accordance with that Act.

(d) Updated NOAA Charts- The Secretary shall--

(1) produce updated National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charts for the areas in which are located the Farallones NMS and Cordell Bank NMS; and

(2) include on those charts the boundaries of such national marine sanctuaries, as revised by this Act.

(e) Boundary Adjustments- In producing revised charts as directed by subsection (d) of this section and in describing the boundaries in regulations issued by the Secretary, the Secretary may make technical modifications to the boundaries described in this section for clarity and ease of identification, as appropriate.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES.

(a) Mineral and Hydrocarbon Leasing, Exploration, Development, and Production- No leasing, exploration, development, production, or transporting by pipeline of minerals or hydrocarbons shall be permitted within the Sanctuaries.

(b) Aquaculture-

(1) PROHIBITION- It is unlawful for any person to conduct aquaculture--

(A) in any area of the Sanctuaries; or

(B) within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

(2) EXISTING BIVALVE FARMING ALLOWED- The prohibition in paragraph (1) shall not apply to persons and their successors conducting bivalve farming operations that are in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, and shall not apply to their successors in such operations.

(3) REGULATIONS- The Secretary shall issue regulations that specify the operations referred to in paragraph (2).

(c) Discharge of Materials and Substances-

(1) PROHIBITIONS- It is unlawful for any person--

(A) to deposit or discharge any material or substance of any kind within the Sanctuaries;

(B) to deposit or discharge any material or substance of any kind that enters and injures any sanctuary resource (as that term is defined in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act); or

(C) to deposit or discharge any introduced species in the Sanctuaries.

(2) CHANGES IN SALINITY- No person shall cause a change of salinity in the Sanctuaries that injures, causes the loss of, or destroys any sanctuary resource.

(3) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY- Paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to any discharge--

(A) of fish, fish parts, and chumming materials resulting from, and while conducting otherwise lawful, fishing activity;

(B) of biodegradable effluents incidental to vessel use and generated by an operable Type I or II marine sanitation device (as classified by the Coast Guard) that is approved in accordance with section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322) if all marine sanitation devices on the vessel are secured in a manner that prevents discharge of untreated sewage from a Type I or Type II Coast

Guard-approved sanitation devices on the vessel, except that this subparagraph does not apply with respect to a discharge from a cruise ship within the boundaries of either of the Sanctuaries;

(C) of biodegradable material resulting from deck wash down from a vessel;

(D) from vessel engine exhaust; or

(E) that--

(i) originates in the Russian River Watershed outside the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary;

(ii) originates from the Bodega Marine Laboratory; and

(iii) is permitted under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, or under a new or renewed National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit that does not increase pollution in the Sanctuaries.

(d) Consultation Requirement for Changes in Water Flow- Any Federal, State, or local government agency that is responsible for significant alteration of fresh water flow regimes that may affect the Sanctuaries must consult with the Secretary prior to initiating such change in order to ensure sanctuary resources are not injured.

(e) Penalties and Enforcement- A violation of this section shall be treated as a violation of section 306 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1436).

(f) Secretarial Authority Not Limited-

(1) IN GENERAL- Except as provided in paragraph (2), nothing in this Act limits the authority of the Secretary to prohibit, allow, or otherwise regulate the discharge of materials or other substances.

(2) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO DISCHARGES- The Secretary may only modify the regulation of those activities listed in subsection (c) to further protection of sanctuary resources and qualities.

SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT PLANS AND REGULATIONS.

(a) Interim Plan- The Secretary shall complete an interim supplemental management plan for each of the Sanctuaries by not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act, that focuses on management in the areas added to the Sanctuaries

under this Act. The Secretary shall ensure that these supplemental plans shall not weaken existing resource protections.

(b) Revised Plans- The Secretary shall issue a revised comprehensive management plan for each of the Sanctuaries during the first management review initiated after the date of the enactment of this Act under section 304(e) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1434(e)) for each of the Sanctuaries, and issue such final regulations as may be necessary.

(c) Application of Existing Regulations- The regulations for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (15 C.F.R. 922, subpart H) and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (15 C.F.R. 922, subpart K), respectively, shall apply to the areas added to the relevant Sanctuary under section 5 until the Secretary modifies such regulations in accordance with this section.

(d) Contents of Plans- Revisions to each comprehensive management plan under this section shall, in addition to matters required under section 304(a)(2) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1434(A)(2))--

(1) facilitate all public and private uses of the national marine sanctuary to which the plan applies consistent with the primary objective of sanctuary resource protection;

(2) establish temporal and geographical zoning if necessary to ensure protection of sanctuary resources;

(3) identify priority needs for research that will--

(A) improve management of the Sanctuaries;

(B) diminish threats to the health of the ecosystems in the Sanctuaries; or

(C) fulfill both of subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(4) establish a long-term ecological monitoring program and database, including the development and implementation of a resource information system to disseminate information on the Sanctuaries' ecosystem, history, culture, and management;

(5) identify alternative sources of funding needed to fully implement the plan's provisions and supplement appropriations under section 313 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1444);

(6) ensure coordination and cooperation between sanctuary superintendents and other Federal, State, and local authorities with jurisdiction

over areas within or adjacent to the Sanctuaries to deal with issues affecting the Sanctuaries, including nonpoint discharges and navigation;

(7) in the case of revisions to the plan for the Farallones NMS, promote cooperation with farmers and ranchers operating in the watersheds adjacent to the Farallones NMS and establish voluntary best practices programs for farming and ranching;

(8) promote cooperative and educational programs with fishing vessel operators and crews operating in the waters of the Sanctuaries, and, whenever possible, include individuals who engage in fishing and their vessels in cooperative research, assessment, and monitoring programs and educational programs to promote sustainable fisheries, conservation of resources, and navigational safety; and

(9) promote education, among users of the Sanctuaries, about conservation and navigation safety.

(e) Public Participation- The Secretary shall provide for participation by the general public in the revision of the comprehensive management plans and regulations under this section.

SEC. 8. FEASIBILITY OF A NEW SANCTUARY DESIGNATION.

(a) Review and Recommendation- As part of the first review initiated after the date of enactment of this Act of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan pursuant to section 304(e) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1434(e)), the Secretary shall--

(1) conduct a review of the operations of the Farallones NMS; and

(2) following not less than one public hearing held in Sonoma County, California, and the receipt of public comment, determine whether the area of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary expanded by this Act shall be designated as a new and separate national marine sanctuary.

(b) Considerations for Determination- In making the determination under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall consider responsiveness to local needs, the effectiveness of conservation, education and volunteer programs, and organizational efficiency.

(c) Implementation of Determination- If the Secretary determines under subsection (b) to designate a new national marine sanctuary, the Secretary shall implement measures to assure a smooth and effective transition to a separate national marine sanctuary.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY BODIES, STANDING COMMITTEES,
AND OTHER FORUMS, AND CHANGES TO COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES
(COP) AS NEEDED

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has requested Ms. Heather Reed replace Ms. Michele Culver on the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) (Closed Session A.1.a, Attachment 1).

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region (NMFS SWR), has requested Mr. Lyle Enriquez replace Ms. Elizabeth Petras on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) (Closed Session A.1.a, Attachment 2).

The following advisory body vacancies are scheduled to be filled:

GROUNDFISH ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (GAC) ADVISORY MEMBERS	
Nominee	Nominated/Supported By
<u>Conservation Representative</u> (Closed Session A.1.a, Attachment 3)	
Mr. Stephen M. Barrager, Ph.D. San Francisco, CA	Self

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL (HMSAS)	
Nominee	Nominated/Supported By
<u>Processor South of Cape Mendocino</u> (Closed Session A.1.a, Attachment 4)	
Mr. Steve Foltz V.P Sales/Partner Chesapeake Fish Co. San Diego, CA	Self Steve Fosmark, Pebble Beach, CA John Hett, San Diego, CA Jeremiah O'Brien, Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization, Inc. Morro Bay, CA

The following advisory body vacancies remain:

- HMS Management Team—Regional Fishery Management Organization
- SSC—Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Council Action:

Appoint new members as necessary.

Reference Materials:

1. Closed Session A.1.a, Attachment 1: GMT—WDFW nomination.
2. Closed Session A.1.a, Attachment 2: HMSMT—NMFS SWR nomination.
3. Closed Session A.1.a, Attachment 3: GAC—Conservation Advisory Member nomination.
4. Closed Session A.1.a, Attachment 4: HMSAS—Southern Processor nomination.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Consider Changes to COP and Appoint New Advisory Body Members, as Needed
- John Coon

PFMC

02/21/07

COUNCIL THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK AND APRIL 2007 COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

This agenda item requests guidance on the following two matters:

1. The Council three-meeting outlook (April, June, and September 2007).
2. The draft agenda for the April 2007 Council meeting in Seattle, Washington.

The Council will preliminarily review items 1 and 2 above under Agenda Item D.1 on Monday, March 5, 2007. With that input and information gathered from other Council actions during the week, the Executive Director will review supplemental proposed drafts of the two items listed above and discuss any other matters relevant to the Council meeting agendas and workload. After considering any reports and comments from advisory bodies and public, the Council will adopt a final April Council meeting agenda. Adopting a final agenda is necessary as the *Federal Register* notice for the April Council meeting must be filed at the end of the March meeting. The Council also has the opportunity to identify priorities for advisory body consideration for the April 2007 Council meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Provide guidance on potential agenda topics for the next three Council meetings.**
- 2. Adopt a final agenda for the April 2007 Council meeting.**
- 3. Identify priorities for advisory body consideration at the next Council meeting.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.6.a, Supplemental Attachment 1: Preliminary Three-Meeting Outlook for the Pacific Council.
2. Agenda Item D.6.a, Supplemental Attachment 2: Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, April 1-6, 2007, Seattle, Washington.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Adopt April 2007 Council Agenda and Provide Guidance on Three Meeting Outlook and Priorities for Advisory Body Consideration
- Don McIsaac

PPMC
02/20/07

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PLANNING

The Habitat Committee (HC) reviewed the Council's three-meeting planner and noted the absence of an agenda item in June, September, or November focused on ecosystem-based management. If a plan team for the proposed Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan is created this year, the HC recommends adding a placeholder for a report by the plan team at one of the this fall's Council meetings.

PFMC
03/06/07

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022207D]

Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold a series of public hearings regarding the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for Research on Steller Sea Lions and Northern Fur Seals.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, times, and locations of public hearings for this issue.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Payne or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 16, 2007, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 7652) of the availability of the DPEIS for review and comments. Written comments on the DPEIS must be received by April 2, 2007. NMFS will hold three public hearings to inform interested parties of the alternatives analyzed and accept comments. Please be advised that a valid government-issued photo-identification will be required for entry through building security at the Silver Spring, MD and Seattle, WA hearings.

Public Hearings Agenda

Public hearings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

1. March 13, 2007, 1 to 4 pm; Silver Spring Metro Complex, Bldg. 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD;
2. March 15, 2007, 4 to 7 pm; Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Bldg. 9, 7600 Sand Point Way, Seattle, WA; and
3. March 18, 2007, 5 to 8 pm; Hilton Hotel, 501 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

Written comments will be accepted at these hearings as well as during the comment period.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tyrone Stuckey or Dee Jenkins, 301-713-2289 (voice) or 301-427-2521 (fax), at least five business days before the scheduled meeting date.

Dated: February 22, 2007.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E7-3517 Filed 2-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022207B]

National Standard 1 Guidelines; Scoping Process

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of scoping meetings; extension of scoping period.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces several scoping meetings for the environmental impact statement for implementation of annual catch limit (ACL) and accountability measure (AM) requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA). Such guidance would be added to the National Standard 1 Guidelines. NMFS also extends the ending date of the scoping period for this action from April 2, 2007, through April 17, 2007.

DATES: Dates and locations of scoping meetings are listed below under **ADDRESSES**. Written comments must be received by April 17, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, March 6, 2007, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Jekyll Island, GA 31527.

National Marine Fisheries Service Headquarters, Silver Spring, March 9, 2007, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Silver Spring Metro Center 13 Building, Room 4527, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting, March 14, 2007, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, HI 96814.

Caribbean Fishery Management Council Meeting, March 20, 2007, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ponce Hilton Hotel, Ponce, PR 00716.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting, March 29, 2007, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Destin, FL 32550.

NMFS may hold additional scoping meetings during the comment period that ends April 17, 2007.

You may submit comments on issues and alternatives, by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: annual.catchlimitDEIS@noaa.gov. Include "Scoping comments on annual catch limit DEIS" in subject line of the message.

- Fax: 301-713-1193
- Mail: Mark Millikin; National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA; 1315 East-West Highway; Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Millikin; National Marine Fisheries Service, 301-713-2341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is available on the Government Printing Office's website at: www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.

Background

The MSRA, signed into law by President Bush on January 12, 2007, set forth new requirements related to overfishing, including new ACL and AM provisions for federally managed fisheries in the U.S. exclusive economic zone. NMFS initiated action through a notice of intent (NOI) to develop guidance related to these new provisions, specifically requirements set forth under sections 103(b)(1) and (c)(3), 104(a)(10), (b), and (c) of the MSRA. NMFS intends to revise the National Standard 1 (NS1) Guidelines, 50 CFR 600.310, through a proposed and final rule to incorporate guidance of these MSRA sections before the end of 2007. NMFS is seeking input on ACLs and AMs and related matters in the NS1 Guidelines. More background related to this action is contained in the NOI published on February 14, 2007 (72 FR 7016), and is not repeated here.

If NMFS is able to schedule additional scoping meetings with Regional Fishery Management Councils, it will issue additional notices in the **Federal Register**.

Special Accommodations

The public meetings listed in this notice will be accessible to people with physical disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jennifer Ise (301-713-2341), at least 5 days before the scheduled session.

Dated: February 23, 2007.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E7-3507 Filed 2-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
REVIEW AND PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW REQUIREMENTS
RESULTING FROM REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT

The Habitat Committee (HC) notes that the following section of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act provides new language regarding resources available for the development of ecosystem based fishery management plans:

SEC 406 Fisheries System Research

(2) AGENCY TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary is authorized to provide necessary technical advice and assistance, *including grants*, to the Councils for the development and design of regional pilot programs that build upon the recommendations of the [NMFS Ecosystem Principles Advisory] Panel...

The HC recommends that the Council, in its efforts to move forward with ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) planning, investigate opportunities to secure such grants and technical advice. Such resources would be a major asset if a planning team is established.

Given that other regional councils have already made progress toward EBFM planning using prior grants for pilot studies, these Councils may be better positioned to seek such funding. Therefore, a prompt inquiry into the availability of these funds may help secure such assistance.

PFMC
03/06/07

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT ON REVIEW AND PLANNING FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW REQUIREMENTS RESULTING FROM
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT

The Legislative Committee (LC) met March 5, 2007 and reviewed new provisions in the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and discussed recommendations for Council participation in the ongoing process of implementing the new requirements. The LC finds that many of the new provisions in MSA are directed at other regions of the nation as they are currently common practice in the Council process and West Coast fishery management. Other requirements, such as establishing annual catch limits and accountability measures, revising National Standard 1 Guidelines, developing a new Environmental Review Process, and appointing Council representatives to international fishery management organizations are import matters that will require Council input and coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs), and the public as they are implemented. This process will likely result in the development of new policies, regulations, and potentially, amendments to the Council's Fishery Management Plans to ensure implementation occurs within the time frames specified in the reauthorization.

The reauthorized MSA requires that FMPs “*establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.*” Council FMPs are currently being reviewed for consistency with this recommendation and Council staff has provided information to NOAA regarding exiting mechanisms for annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs). If current ACLs and AMs are determined by NOAA to be insufficient, Council FMPs would be required to be amended by 2010 for overfished species and 2011 for all other species. NOAA is currently soliciting input on the development of alternative guidelines for ACLs and AMs in an Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 7). The resulting guidelines are intended to be added to the proposed revision to National Standard 1 Guidelines. The Council has provided considerable input in the past regarding both AMs and National Standard 1 Guidelines and it would be prudent to engage early in the development of new guidelines by responding to the NOI. The public comment period on the NOI to prepare an EIS has been extended to April 17, 2007 (Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental Attachment 9). The LC recommends the Council consider the issues and proposed alternatives in the NOI and develop a formal response at the April Council meeting.

Staff members of several RFMCs are currently on proposed revisions to NOAA procedures for compliance with the environmental review processes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposal is to integrate applicable environmental analytical procedures I NEPA with the procedures for preparation or amendment of FMPs. The goal is to provide clear and concise analyses for decision makers while reducing paperwork and maintaining effective public involvement. The reauthorized MSA calls for the new policies to be in place in one year. All RFMCs are currently being consulted for input and the LC recommends the Council schedule time on the April Council agenda to review and comment on the proposals developed thus far.

The *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006* also ratified the U.S./Canada Treaty on Pacific whiting and implemented U.S. participation in the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Convention (WCPFC). The LC recommends the Council begin the process of determining appropriate U.S. representation on the various commissions and advisory committees associated with these international fishery organizations. The LC recommends the Council and its advisory bodies begin planning for U.S. appointees in April.

LC Recommendations:

- 1. Plan for final review and comment on the NOI to prepare and EIS on alternatives for guidance on ACLs and AMs to be added to the National Standard 1 Guidelines at the April meeting.**
- 2. Plan for review of proposed procedures under a new environmental review process at the April meeting.**
- 3. Request the HMSMT and HMSAS assist in the implementation of the WCPFC Implementation Act by developing recommendations to the Council on coordination with Pacific RFMCs and in determining appropriate U.S. representation on the WCPFC Advisory Committee, for Council consideration at the April Council meeting.**
- 4. Plan to consider U.S. representation regarding joint management of Pacific whiting with Canada as specified in the Pacific Whiting Act of 2006, for Council consideration at the April Council meeting.**

PFMC
03/06/07

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON REVIEW AND PLANNING
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW REQUIREMENTS RESULTING FROM
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed new provisions of the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (MSRA) as they relate to the role of the SSC in the Council process. The SSC has a number of questions regarding these provisions:

Provision: “The Council shall establish annual catch limits for each managed fishery that may not exceed the fishing level recommendations of its SSC” (MSA 302(h)(6), p. 51)

The Pacific Council has maintained a clear distinction between scientific analysis and advice and policy decisions, with the SSC taking the lead on the science. With regard to coastal pelagic and groundfish catch limits, the SSC’s role has been to review the harvest control rule and the stock assessments that are fed into the control rule. The Council’s role has been to establish annual catch limits, which (for groundfish) involves taking into consideration the decision table showing harvest levels associated with high, medium, and low levels of risk to the stock. While not mandated by the SSC, it has generally been Council practice not to exceed the risk-neutral level of harvest indicated by the control rule.

If the “fishing level recommendations” that the SSC is expected to provide under the MSRA are intended to be numeric catch limits, this will be a major deviation from Council practice, as it will require the SSC to make policy decisions. This raises several issues: (1) Is the SSC supposed to establish catch limits strictly on the basis of biological considerations? If so, this will be tantamount to an implicit policy decision to disregard ecosystem and socioeconomic issues in setting catch limits. (2) What types of information would the SSC be required to consider in establishing catch limits? For instance, would the SSC consider results of a regulatory analysis and take input from advisory bodies and the public? If so, then what is the role of the Council with regard to setting catch limits? If not, does this leave the Council and NOAA Fisheries Service vulnerable to claims of procedural violations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Magnuson Act?

Provision: “The SSC shall provide recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum sustainable yield and achieving rebuilding targets, and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat status, socioeconomic impacts of management measures, sustainability of fishing practices (MSA 302(g), pp 49-50).

Clarification is needed with regard to SSC responsibilities entailed by this provision. For instance, does this responsibility pertain to all species (including salmon and highly migratory species)? In terms of “preventing overfishing” and “achieving rebuilding targets”, is the SSC supposed to set numeric bycatch levels associated with rebuilding? If

so, then the same issues raised above with regard to the SSC setting of catch limits would apply here as well.

Does the requirement that the SSC “provide” reports on stock and habitat status, bycatch, socioeconomic impacts of management measures and the like mean the SSC will “produce” these reports. If so, given the Council’s practice of separating analysis from review, who will review the SSC’s production of these reports?

The SSC also discussed pending efforts by NOAA Fisheries Service to integrate NEPA requirements with fishery regulatory requirements in such a way as to streamline the management process. Given that rationale for the biennial groundfish management and assessment cycle was the cumbersome nature of the regulatory process, would such streamlining reduce the time lag between groundfish management actions and the stock assessments on which they are based?

PFMC
03/06/07

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Legislative Committee (LC) met March 5, 2007. In addition to developing the recommendations on implementing provisions in the reauthorized Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act presented in a separate report under Agenda Item D.2, the LC discussed two other legislative matters of interest to the Council: the status of the *National Offshore Aquaculture Act*; and H.R. 1187, the *Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act*, introduced in the House of Representatives on February 16, 2007 by Congresswoman Woolsey (D-CA) and Congressman Gilchrest (R-MD).

Regarding the *National Offshore Aquaculture Act*, the LC briefly discussed revisions made in November of 2006 to the version of the bill that had been introduced, but not passed in the 109th Congress. These include provisions previously suggested by the Council regarding the ability of states to opt-out of aquaculture activities off their coasts and strengthening requirements for analyzing environmental impacts. The LC expects a new version of the bill will be introduced in the 110th Congress. The LC recommends revisiting the issue in greater detail at that time.

The *Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act*, H.R. 1187, modifies the boundaries of these sanctuaries to simplify the boundary between the two sanctuaries and to expand the northern boundary of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary north to Point Arena, California. H.R. 1187 also includes provisions to prohibit several activities.

The LC discussed the following issues regarding H.R. 1187 and recommends the Council consider expressing these concerns via a letter at the request of members of the U.S. Congress:

- Section 2 of H.R. 1187 finds the areas within these sanctuaries “include some of the Nation’s richest fishing grounds” and that “Cordell Bank is at the nexus of an ocean upwelling system, which produces the highest biomass concentrations on the west coast of the United States.” While the LC agrees these areas are productive and are likely to be ecologically important to the West Coast, these findings should be verified independently.
- It is unclear at this time why these proposed boundary expansions and protective measures were not adopted and implemented under the recently completed Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) process for the Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank NMSs. The LC believes some of the expansion alternatives and prohibitions may have been considered and rejected during the JMPR, and questions why these provisions are being proposed for implementation through legislation rather than the public JMPR process.

- The stated intent of H.R. 1187 is to not affect fisheries management and fishing activities in the sanctuaries, including allowances for the discharge of fish, fish parts, and chumming materials while legally fishing. However, several LC members were concerned about other types of discharge, such as waste water, that would be technically prohibited under the language of H.R. 1187. Further, the stated intent not to affect fisheries management is not accompanied by a statutory mandate that fishery management authority in federal water is retained by the Council.

LC Recommendations:

1. **Direct Council staff to track the potential introduction of a revised *National Offshore Aquaculture Act* in the 110th Congress for future LC and Council review.**
2. **Send a letter to appropriate members of the U.S. Congress at their request expressing the LC concerns regarding H.R. 1187, the *Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act*.**

PFMC
03/08/07

Preliminary Three Meeting Outlook for the Pacific Council

(Contingent Items are Shaded and Counted in Time Estimate)

April Seattle, WA 4/1-4/6/2007 Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 104%	June Foster City, CA 6/10-6/17/07 Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 116%	September Undetermined (9/9-9/14/07) Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 76%
<u>Administrative</u> Closed Session; Open Session Call to Order; Min. Legislative Committee Report Interim Appointments to Advisory Bodies MSA Reauthorization Implementation 3 Mtg Outlook, Draft June Agenda, Workload (2 sessions) Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Ecosystem FMP: Preliminary Planning	<u>Administrative</u> Closed Session; Open Session Call to Order; Min. Legislative Committee Report Fiscal Matters Interim Appointments to Advisory Bodies MSA Reauthorization Implementation 3 Mtg Outlook, Draft September Agenda, Workload Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items RecFIN Sampling Update COP for RFMO Procedures: Adopt Final	<u>Administrative</u> Closed Session; Open Session Call to Order; Min. Legislative Committee Report Fiscal Matters Interim Appointments to Advisory Bodies MSA Reauthorization Implementation 3 Mtg Outlook, Draft April Agenda, Workload Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
<u>Coastal Pelagic Species</u>	<u>Coastal Pelagic Species</u> NMFS Rpt Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline for 2007-2008	<u>Coastal Pelagic Species</u>
<u>Enforcement Issues</u> USCG Annual Fishery Enforcement Report	<u>Enforcement Issues</u>	<u>Enforcement Issues</u>
<u>Groundfish</u> NMFS Report 2007 Inseason Management (2 Sessions)	<u>Groundfish</u> NMFS Report 2007 Inseason Mgmt (2 Sessions) Trawl IQ: Further Refinement of Alts. Intersector Allocation EIS: Adopt Alts. for Analysis Stock Assessments for 2009-10: Adopt Skate & Sablefish Open Access Limitation: Next Steps Biennial Mgmt Spx (2009-2010): Adopt Sched & Process EFPs for 2008: Preliminary Rev & comment Shore-based Whiting Monitoring Program: Adopt Final FMP A-15 (AFA): Mgmt Alts for Analysis & Pub Rev (DEA)	<u>Groundfish</u> NMFS Report 2007 Inseason Management (2 Sessions) New Stock Assessments: Adopt All for 2009-2010
<u>Habitat Issues</u> Habitat Committee Report	<u>Habitat Issues</u> Habitat Committee Report	<u>Habitat Issues</u> Habitat Committee Report

Agenda Item D.6.a
 Supplemental Attachment 1
 March 2007

Preliminary Three Meeting Outlook for the Pacific Council

(Contingent Items are Shaded and Counted in Time Estimate)

April Seattle, WA 4/1-4/6/2007 Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 104%	June Foster City, CA 6/10-6/17/07 Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 116%	September Undetermined (9/9-9/14/07) Estimated Percent of Standard Floor Time = 76%
<u>Highly Migratory Species</u> NMFS Rpt Longline EFP: Adopt Final Preferred Alt. Albacore Fishing Effort Characterization Yellowfin Overfishing: Identify Actions to Address OF COP for RFMO Procedures: Adopt for Pub Rev Council Recommendations to IATTC	<u>Highly Migratory Species</u> (note: final adoption of COP for RFMO in Admin Agenda)	<u>Highly Migratory Species</u> NMFS Rpt New EFPs for 2008: Adopt for Pub Rev Routine Mgmt Meas: Draft Reg Anal & Final SAFE Rpt Yellowfin Overfishing: Adopt Alts. for Pub Rev
<u>Marine Protected Areas</u> Review of OPAC Report	<u>Marine Protected Areas</u>	<u>Marine Protected Areas</u>
<u>Pacific Halibut</u> Incidental Catch Regs for 2007: Adopt Final	<u>Pacific Halibut</u>	<u>Pacific Halibut</u> Changes to 2008 CSP & Regs: Adopt for Pub Rev Halibut Bycatch Est for IPHC: review Halibut Abundance Estimation for 2008
<u>Salmon</u> 2007 Management Measures: Final Adoption 2007 Methodology Review: Establish Process & Preliminary Priorities	<u>Salmon</u> Mitchell Act EIS: Comments within Comment Period	<u>Salmon</u> 2007 Methodology Review: Select Final Review Priorities Preliminary KRFC Escapement Shortfall Report: Review
NMFS Recovery Plan for Klamath River Coho		
<u>Information Reports</u> Mass Marking	<u>Information Reports</u> Salmon Fishery Update HMS Draft SAFE Rpt New GF Stock Assessments for SSC Rev	<u>Information Reports</u> Salmon Fishery Update New Stock Assessments for SSC Rev
<u>Special Sessions</u>	<u>Special Sessions</u>	<u>Special Sessions</u> Joint Session Monday for New Stock Ass. Rev
1 hr =3%		

Preliminary Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, April 2-6, 2007, Seattle, Washington

Mon, Apr 2	Tues, Apr 3	Wed, Apr 4	Thurs, Apr 5	Fri, Apr 6
<p>Day-Time Council Floor Matters</p> <p><u>CLOSED SESSION</u> 2:00 pm</p> <p><u>CALL TO ORDER</u> 3:00 pm (15 min)</p> <p><u>ENFORCEMENT</u> B. 1 USCG Annual Fishery Enforcement Rpt (1 hr)</p> <p><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C. 1 Future Agenda Planning (15 min)</p> <p><u>OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT</u> D. 1 Comments on Non-Agenda Items (30 min)</p>	<p><u>GROUNDFISH</u> E. 1 NMFS Report (45 min)</p> <p><u>HABITAT</u> F. 1 Current Issues (45 min)</p> <p><u>SALMON</u> G. 1 NMFS Klamath Coho Recovery Plan (30 min)</p> <p>G. 2 Tentative Adoption of 2007 Mgmt Measures (3 hr 30 min)</p> <p><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C. 2 MSA Reauthorization Implementation (3 hr)</p>	<p><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C. 3 Minutes (15 min) C. 4 Interim Appointments (30 min) C. 5 Ecosystem FMP Planning (2 hr)</p> <p><u>GROUNDFISH</u> E. 2 Final Approval-Shoreside Whiting Monitoring (2-hr 30 min)</p> <p><u>PACIFIC HALIBUT</u> H. 1 Incidental Catch Regulations (30 min)</p> <p><u>SALMON</u> G. 3 Methodology Review (1 hr) G. 4 Clarify 2007 Mgmt Measures if Needed (1 hr)</p> <p><u>MARINE PROTECTED</u> I. 1 Review OPAC Report (30 min)</p> <p><u>GROUNDFISH</u> E. 2 Inseason Adjustments (2 hr)</p>	<p><u>GROUNDFISH</u> E. 3 Amendment 15 (AFA) (3 hr)</p> <p><u>SALMON</u> G. 5 Adopt Final 2007 Mgmt Measures (3 hr)</p> <p><u>HIGHLY MIGRATORY</u> J. 1 NMFS Report (30 min) J. 2 Albacore Fishing Effort Characterization (1 hr 15 min)</p>	<p><u>GROUNDFISH</u> E. 4 Final Inseason Adjustments (1 hr)</p> <p><u>SALMON</u> G. 6 Clarify Final Action if Needed (30 min)</p> <p><u>HIGHLY MIGRATORY</u> J. 3 Longline EFP (2 hr) J. 4 Yellowfin Overfishing (45 min) J. 5 COP for RFMO Coordination (30 min) J. 6 Initial Guidance for IATTC Mtg (30 min)</p> <p><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> C. 6 Legislative Matters (30 min) C. 7 3-Meeting Outlook, June Agenda (45 min)</p>
<p>Committees</p> <p><u>3 hr</u> 8:00 am GAP 8:00 am GMT 8:00 am SAS 8:00 am STT 8:00 am SSC 9:00 am HC 9:30 am LC 10:00 am MEW 4:30 pm EC</p>	<p><u>8 hr 30 min</u> 8:00 am EC 8:00 am GAP 8:00 am GMT 8:00 am SAS 8:00 am STT 8:00 am SSC</p>	<p><u>7 hr 45 min</u> 8:00 am EC 8:00 am GAP 8:00 am GMT 8:00 am SAS 8:00 am STT 1:00 pm HMSAS 1:00 pm HMSMT</p>	<p><u>7 hr 45 min</u> 8:00 am EC 8:00 am GAP 8:00 am GMT 8:00 am HMSAS 8:00 am HMSMT 8:00 am SAS 8:00 am STT</p>	<p><u>6 hr 30 min</u> 8:00 am EC 8:00 am STT 8:00 am SAS</p>

Agenda Item D.6.a
Supplemental Attachment 2
March 2007

There are no Council-sponsored evening sessions scheduled at this time.

3/9/2007 12:08 PM

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON COUNCIL THREE-MEETING
OUTLOOK AND APRIL 2007 COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) requests that the Council agenda the following issue for the GAP discussion for the April Council meeting:

Fishery - Sablefish Tiered fishery.

Issue - The definition and interpretation of ownership and control for purposes of determining excessive ownership of sablefish tiers.

Current Problem: The problem arises when a person has invested in more than one fishing vessel. The limit of 3 permits per person and vessel use limit of 3 are not a problem.

Example of the problem: There is a vessel owner and his partner who each own 50% of a vessel. In addition to this, one of the partners owns 20% interest in a second vessel with his brothers. Both vessels fish the maximum of three tiers. However, the vessel owner only personally owns 50% of one permit, which is fished on the first vessel, of which he owns 50%. Because ownership and control includes his name on the Coast Guard ownership certificate papers of both vessels as well as whom NMFS has named on the tiered permit, this particular vessel owner owns and controls 6 permits. He is being charged with ownership and control of 3 permits on his brothers' vessel, none of which he has ownership in. He is also being charged with the three permits being fished on his vessel which he has 50% ownership.

Anyone who has ownership in more than one vessel, regardless of the ownership percentages can find themselves in this situation. NMFS has included vessel ownership as part of the control definition because they contend the vessel will get some financial benefit for the fish being fished on the vessel and therefore has some control over the permit. The GAP does not believe this to be the case and is not part of the intent of ownership and control of a permit. The control is with the person who actually owns the fishing permit not the owners of the vessel.

Solution 1: Drop the ownership of a vessel from the definition of ownership and control of a sablefish tier.

Solution 2: Ownership of less than 50% of a vessel will not count toward ownership and control of a sablefish tier.

This discussion will likely provide some insight on how excessive use and ownership caps might be enforced and considered for the trawl individual transferable quota program.