

STAFF SUMMARY OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN THE 115TH U.S. CONGRESS

A summary of recent Federal legislation is attached. This summary is intended as a general overview for discussion purposes. Full text of these bills, with background information and current status, can be found at the Library of Congress website (<http://thomas.gov>) or at <http://govtrack.us>.

The topics below are organized generally in order of priority to the Council. If the bill's status is not noted, the bill has been introduced but has not been subject to any committee action.

Figures in percentages (x%) are the bill's chance of passage as assigned by Skopos Labs.

Comment Requests

The Council received a request from Rep. Jared Huffman to comment on HR 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act (Agenda Item G.1, Attachments 2, 3, and 4), and from Rep. Calvert to comment on HR 3916, the Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act (Attachment 5). HR 23 has been summarized in previous staff summaries of Federal legislation. HR 3916 is discussed further below.

Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Reauthorization Status

In addition to HR 200 (Young) and HR 2023 (Graves), S 1748 (Rubio) and S 1520 (Wicker), which were discussed previously, Rep. Jared Huffman has introduced a discussion draft for an MSA reauthorization bill (Attachment 6, electronic only). A summary of the discussion draft is provided (Attachment 7), along with a comparison of the various MSA reauthorization and amendment bills (Attachment 8).

Other Bills of Interest

S 129: National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act

- Introduced by Roger Wicker (R-MS) on January 12, 2017
- Status: Passed Senate on September 14, 2017 (56%)

Authorizes appropriations for the National Sea Grant College Program.

S 396: A Bill to Make Technical Amendments to Certain Marine Fish Conservation Statutes

- Introduced by Bill Nelson (D-FL) on February 15, 2017
- Status: Passed Senate on October 2 (65%)

Makes minor technical amendments to the Billfish Conservation Act and Shark Conservation Act.

S 1436: National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

- Introduced by Michael Crapo (R-ID) on June 26, 2017 (10%)

Encourages partnerships among public agencies and others consistent with the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan to promote healthy fish habitats, improve the quality of fish habitats and the overall health of fish species, enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation, and for other purposes. Establishes a National Fish Habitat Board to oversee the implementation of the Act and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

HR 2083: Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act

- Introduced by Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-WA) on April 24, 2017
- Status: Hearing held June 8. Reported by committee June 26 and September 5 (17%)

Amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act to give temporary authorization to “eligible entities” to lethally take sea lions on the Columbia River.

HR 3916: Federally Integrated Species Health Act (FISH) Act

- Introduced by Ken Calvert (R-CA) on October 3, 2017 (8%)

Rep. Calvert requested comments on this bill, which transfers all functions with respect to anadromous species and catadromous species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) from the Secretary of Commerce or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to the Secretary of the Interior. Current orders, determinations, regulations, etc. would remain in effect until modified, terminated, etc., by the President, other authorized officials, Courts, or law. Does not affect ongoing lawsuits.

Rep. Calvert states that multiple agencies should not be responsible for enforcing the ESA, and that a more unified approach is needed. Opposing groups state that although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NMFS have similar budgets for endangered species, USFWS has responsibility for 1400 endangered species, while NMFS manages 95. Therefore, they believe the bill would weaken protections that currently exist under NMFS jurisdiction.

Previously Discussed Bills that have not Moved

Bill Number(s)	Title	Sponsor	Introduced	Notes
HR 23	Gaining Responsibility on Water Act	Valadao (R-CA)	January 2017	Passed House July 12, 2017. Covered in September staff summary.
HR 26/S 21	Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act	Paul (R-KY)/Collins (R-GA)	January 2017	Requires Congressional approval of major regulations.
HR 169/S 31	West Coast Ocean Protection Act	Feinstein/Huffman (D-CA)	January 2017	Prevents oil drilling.
HR 200	Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act	Don Young (R-AK)	January 2017	See MSA discussion above.
HR 204/S 1528	Genetically Engineered Salmon Labeling Act	Young/Murkowski (R-AK)	Jan/July 2017	A hearing will be held on HR 204 on October 3.
HR 206	Prevention of Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United States	Young (R-AK)	January 2017	
HR 214	American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act	Young (R-AK)	January 2017	Similar but not identical to S 1322.
HR 223	To prohibit Interior/Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the EEZ	Young (R-AK)	January 2017	
HR 234	Maritime Lien Reform Act	Young (R-AK)	January 2017	
HR 310	Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act	DeFazio (D-OR)	January 2017	
HR 622	Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act	Chaffetz (R-UT)	January 2017	State control over Federal lands.
HR 637	Stopping EPA Overreach Act	Palmer (R-AL)	January 2017	Weakens EPA.

HR 654	Pacific Northwest Earthquake Preparedness Act	Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	January 2017	Passed House in March.
HR 674	One in, One Out Act	McCaul (R-TX)	January 2017	Requires each agency to repeal or revise one or more existing regulations before issuing a new regulation.
HR 731	California Clean Coast Act	Salud Carbajal (D-CA)	January 2017	Prevents oil drilling off California coast.
HR 845	Ocean Acidification Research Partnerships Act	Carbajal (D-CA)	February 2017	
HR 861	To Terminate the Environmental Protection Agency	Gaetz (R-FL)	February 2017	
HR 875	To streamline the Bureau of Reclamation process for creating or expanding water storage, rural water supply, and water recycling projects	Newhouse (R-WA)	February 2017	
HR 958	To eliminate certain programs of the Environmental Protection Agency	Johnson (R-TX)	February 2017	
HR 1154/S 168	Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act	Wicker (R-MS)/Hunter (R-CA)	January/February 2017	
HR 1308/S 513	Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area Designation Act	Ron Wyden (D-OR)/Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	March 2017. S 513 was reported by committee in May.	
HR 1430	Honest and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act of 2017	Smith (R-FL)	Introduced and passed House March 2017.	Limits the types of data that can be used by the EPA.
HR 1431	EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act	Lucas (R-OK)	Introduced and passed House March 2017.	Limits who can serve on the EPA's Science Advisory Board.
HR 1456/S 793	Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act	Cory Booker (D-NJ)/Ed Royce (R-CA)	March 2017. S 793 reported May 18.	

HR 1489	Marine Access and State Transparency (MAST) Act	Young (R-AK)	March 2017	Requires Congressional approval of national monuments.
HR 1630/ S 669	Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act	Merkley (D-OR)/Blumenauer (D-OR)	March 2017	S 669 reported by committee in August. Covered in September staff summary.
HR 2079/ S 1323	Young Fishermen's Development Act	Young (R-AK)/Sullivan (R-AK)	June 2017	Creates national program to train young fishermen.
HR 2134 (S 935)	Endangered Species Management Self-Determination Act	Rand Paul (R-KY)	April 2017	Allows states to regulate intrastate threatened and endangered species.
HR 2167	Acre In, Acre Out	Griffith	April 2017	No net increase in the acreage of certain Federal lands.
HR 2261/S 74	Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act	Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)/Nelson (D-FL)	May/January 2017	
HR 2330	Yurok Tribe Klamath River Chinook Salmon Emergency Disaster Assistance Act	Jared Huffman (D-CA)	May 2017	
HR 2344	Crab Emergency Disaster Assistance Act	Speier (D-CA)	May 2017	
HR 2637	Fishing Safety Training and Research Act	Keating (D-MA)	May 2017	Reauthorizes Fishing Safety grant program.
HR 2719	Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act	Pingree (D-ME)	May 2017	Requires coastal vulnerability assessments.
HR 2748/ S 756	Save Our Seas (SOS) Act	Murkowski (R-AK)/Young (R-AK)	May 2017	S 756 passed Senate in August.
HR 2882	Ocean Acidification Innovation Act	Kilmer (D-OR)	June 2017	Prize competitions for OA research/innovation.
HR 3108	Protecting Honest Fishermen Act	Farenthold (R-TX)	June 2017	Seafood traceability.

HR 3144	To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time...	McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA)	June 2017	Given a 34% chance of passage. Covered in September staff summary.
HR 3377	Justice Attributed to Wounded Sharks (JAWS) Act	Farenthold (R-TX)	July 2017	Prohibits seafood imports from countries that allow shark finning.
S 33	Improved National Monument Designation Process Act	Murkowski (R-AK)	January 2017	
S 1322	American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act	Sullivan (R-AK)	June 2017	Covered in September staff summary.
S 1425	Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act	Wicker (R-MS)	June 2017	Reauthorizes Integrated Coastal & Ocean Observation System Act
Washington S.J.M. 8004	Requesting that certain Federal officials prevent the breaching of any dam in the Columbia River.		January 2017	

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