

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (LC) met on Thursday, March 8, 2018. The meeting was attended by committee members Dave Hanson (Chair), David Crabbe, Rich Lincoln, and Dorothy Lowman; Council members Phil Anderson, Pete Hassemer, Brad Pettinger, and Marci Yaremko; Council staff Mike Burner, Jennifer Gilden, and Don Hansen; and Seth Atkinson, Brett Kormos, Anna Weinstein, and Brianna Brady.

The LC first heard a staff review of recent Federal legislation (Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1).

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) Reauthorization

Two bills that would reauthorize or amend the MSA—HR 200 (Young) and S 1520 (Wicker)—have been reported by committee, and another Senate bill may be introduced within the next two months. As discussed in the situation summary for this item, the Council sent a similar letter to Senator Maria Cantwell and Rep. Kurt Schrader responding their requests for comment on MSA legislation (Attachment 2).

The LC discussed the need to plan for future comments on MSA reauthorization, particularly when requests for comment are received between Council meetings. Based in part on public comment, the LC agreed to revisit the following four issues in order to confirm and elaborate a Council response:

- Effects of alternative management measures for recreational fisheries
- Implications of replacing “possible” with “practicable” in relation to rebuilding standards (H.R. 200 proposes to change the words “as short as possible” to “as short as practicable”)
- Definition of ecosystem component species and the resulting extent of exemptions from annual catch limits
- Implications of proposed revisions to rebuilding time frame requirements ($T_{min} + one$ mean generation vs the current 10-year timeframe)

Council staff will review past comments on these issues and prepare a summary for LC discussion in April.

Future Meetings

The LC recommends meeting in April to discuss the issues described above.

PFMC
3/10/18