

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (LC) met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 and heard a staff review of recent Federal legislation (Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1). The LC noted that none of the legislation in the summary has made substantial progress in recent months and that the Council has not received any formal requests for comment.

On November 16, 2021, a hearing was held by the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife on two bills to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) H.R. 4690 - *Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act* introduced by Representative Huffman, H.R. 59 *Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act* introduced by Representative Young, and H.R. 5770 the *Forage Fish Conservation Act of 2021* introduced by Representative Dingell. Pacific Council Chair, Marc Gorelnik, attended the hearing and provided testimony as part of panel of administrative and government experts that included Ms. Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service. Chair Gorelnik reported on his testimony on behalf of the of the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) and spoke to the strength and successes of the MSA and the regional fishery management council process and specifically addressed topics including climate change, essential fish habitat, bycatch, overfished definitions, rebuilding plans and forage fish matters. The Pacific Council has commented on these bills and/or coordinated responses through the CCC and will continue to track their progress.

The LC also briefly discussed H.R.6865 – the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022* introduced by Representative DeFazio. The LC requested addition information regarding potential provisions in the bill including the expanded use of AIS (Automatic Information System) throughout the Exclusive Economic Zone and to track vessel strikes with marine mammals. Council staff will review the bill in advance of the next LC meeting.

Future Meetings

The LC recommends that the LC next meet in June.

PFMC
03/12/22