

## LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (LC) will meet on Wednesday, June 8, to review bills proposed in the 117th Congress. At the time of the advance Briefing Book, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has not received any formal legislative requests for comment.

### H.R. 6865- the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022

At the April Council meeting, the Council and the LC requested staff review of [H.R. 6865- the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022](#), specifically provisions in the bill relative to automatic information system (AIS) requirements for fishing vessels. The bill was introduced by Representative Peter DeFazio, it passed the U.S. House on March 29, 2022, and was sent to the U.S. Senate where it has been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

This bill authorizes appropriations through FY2023 for the Federal Maritime Commission and the U.S. Coast Guard. It also revises a variety of requirements concerning the Coast Guard's personnel, operations, infrastructure, and environmental compliance. For example, the bill revises requirements concerning sexual assault, sexual harassment, foreign workers, vessel safety, navigation, ship construction, shipping cargo, marine mammals, aquatic nuisance species, and oil spills. Additionally, the bill would expand the AIS requirements for fishing vessels.

### 46 U.S. Code § 70114 - Automatic identification systems

#### (a) [AIS] System Requirements.—

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the following vessels, ~~while operating on the navigable waters of the United States~~, shall be equipped with and operate an automatic identification system under regulations prescribed by the [Secretary](#):

#### (A) While operating on the navigable waters of the United States:

(A i) A self-propelled commercial vessel of at least 65 feet overall in length.

(B ii) A vessel carrying more than a number of passengers for hire determined by the [Secretary](#).

(C iii) A towing vessel of more than 26 feet overall in length and 600 horsepower.

(D iv) Any other vessel for which the Secretary decides that an automatic identification system is necessary for the safe navigation of the vessel.

(B) A vessel of the United States that is more than 65 feet overall in length, while engaged in fishing, fish processing, or fish tendering operations on the navigable waters of the United States [generally defined as territorial seas within 12 nm] or in the United States exclusive economic zone.

The bill also authorizes \$5,000,000 to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for fiscal year 2022 to purchase automatic identification systems for fishing vessels, fish processing vessels, fish tender vessels more than 50 feet in length.

## Funding Request for Coastwide Fishery-Independent Assessments of Rockfishes

In response to the recent assessments and associated data issues for quillback and copper rockfish, U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Related Agencies requesting funding for additional surveys and assessments of rockfish in rocky habitats (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1). Specifically, the letter asks the Committee to provide \$5,000,000 to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center in fiscal year 2023 to conduct coastwide fishery-independent assessments of rockfishes over rocky habitat beginning in California. The status of the funding request was not known at the time of the advance Briefing Book.

### Council Coordination Committee Meeting

The [Council Coordination Committee](#) (CCC) met May 17-19, 2022 in Annapolis, Maryland and the agenda included an update on legislative matters including a report from the CCC Legislative Subcommittee, and update on bills to reauthorize the Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and a [revised CCC consensus statement on forage fish](#). Executive Merrick Burden is scheduled to provide an update on the CCC meeting under Agenda Item C.1, and LC members in attendance at the CCC meeting may provide legislative updates at the LC meeting.

### **Council Action:**

**Consider the Legislative Committee Report and recommendations.**

#### Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1: Letter from U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman to the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Related Agencies.
2. If received, public comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

#### Agenda Order:

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|---|-------------|
| C.5 Legislative Matters   | Mike Burner |
| a. Report of the Legislative Committee  | Dave Hanson |
| b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies                  |             |
| c. Public Comment   |             |
| d. <b>Council Action:</b> Consider Legislative Committee Report and Recommendations |             |

PFMC  
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