

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council's) Legislative Committee (Committee) is scheduled to meet Friday, March 4th at 2:00 p.m. to review a variety of legislative matters of interest to the Council. Council staff has provided a summary of legislation introduced in the 112th U.S. Congress (Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 1) for potential review at the March Council meeting. As time allows, the Committee may discuss other Federal legislation of interest to the Council.

Council Chair, Mr. Mark Cedergreen; Council Vice Chair, Mr. Dan Wolford; Council Vice Chair, Ms. Dorothy Lowman; Council Executive Director, Dr. Don McIsaac; and Special Assistant to the Executive Director, Mr. Don Hansen, represented the Council at the Council Coordination Committee's (CCC) interim meeting held January 11-12, 2011 in Washington, DC. While in Washington, the Council delegation also met with several U.S. Congressional members and/or their staff. They will brief the Committee on pertinent items from the CCC session and provide an overview of their meetings on Capitol Hill.

In January 2011, Congressman Doc Hastings, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Natural Resources, posted a proposed Oversight Plan that outlines initial areas the Natural Resources Committee and its Subcommittees may focus on when considering its responsibility to determine whether existing laws and programs are being implemented in accordance with the intent of Congress (Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 2). The Oversight Plan topics of interest to the Council include, reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, court rulings and administrative regulations relating to the National Environmental Policy Act, ocean governance, marine spatial planning, international fisheries, marine protected areas, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

On February 9th, 2011 the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released draft aquaculture policies for public review (Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 3 and Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 4). NOAA is hosting public information briefings via teleconference during February and is requesting public comments on both policies through April 11, 2011 (see <http://aquaculture.noaa.gov/>). The Committee has reviewed previous policies and bills on marine aquaculture and may provide recommendations on this topic for Council consideration.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the recommendations of the Legislative Committee.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 1: Staff Summary of Federal Legislation in the 112th U.S. Congress.
2. Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 2: U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Oversight Plan, January 2011.
3. Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 3: Draft DOC Aquaculture Policy.
4. Agenda Item K.1.a, Attachment 4: Draft NOAA Aquaculture Policy.
5. Agenda Item K.1.b, Supplemental Legislative Committee Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Legislative Committee Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Legislative Committee Recommendations

Mike Burner
Dave Hanson

PFMC
02/09/11