

E.O. 13921



Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth

Magnuson-Stevens Act (some recommended actions)

- (1) Removing the Fishing Prohibitions in the Pacific Island Monuments and Providing Fishing Regulations Under the MSA;
 - 60% of the US EEZ in the WP closed to fishing; increased competition with foreign vessels
 - Not remove the monument, return management of fisheries under the MSA

- (2) NMFS procedure for initiating Secretarial review of fishery management actions recommended by regional fishery management councils should be rescinded so that the more timely process described in the MSA section 304(a) and (b) can be followed;
 - Significant delays in processing of Council actions results in unwarranted fishery closures; Other Council actions gets further buried in the priority list; Inconsistency in who determines the transmittal date
 - NMFS should coordinate with the RFMCs to develop a revised procedure consistent with MSA 304(a) and (b)

Magnuson-Stevens Act (some recommended actions)

- (2) Provide an exemption to Essential Fish Habitat for man-made and degraded environments;
 - Mitigation measures not commensurate with impacts
 - Revise 50 CFR 600 Subpart J to remove degraded habitat from EFH
- (3) Remove Large-Vessel Prohibited Area in American Samoa;
 - High cost of AS longline fishing and reduction of previous conflict
 - Issue an emergency rule to open the LVPA to provide economic relief, improve efficiency

Endangered Species Act (some recommended actions)

- (1) Streamline ESA consultations and develop Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs) in consultation with Councils
 - Ensure efficient environmental reviews within statutory 135 day timeline; ensure any RPMs are “reasonable”, are developed in consultation with the Councils, and implemented under MSA
 - Initiate review of ESA guidance/regulations and coordinate with Councils to revise Policy Directive 01-117

- (1) Revise ESA listing where the populations are increasing and threats do not pose immediate danger of extinction.
 - Continued ESA listing of species with increasing population and those not in imminent danger of extinction adds to consultation burdens
 - Initiate comprehensive status review of ESA-listed species under NMFS jurisdiction to identify species to be considered for immediate delisting

Marine Mammal Protection Act (some recommended actions)

- (2) Promulgate Take Reduction Plan implementing regulations through the MSA Council process and rulemaking procedures to allow greater transparency and flexibility
 - MMPA regulations can create conforming fishery regulations without the Council process, circumventing transparency and flexibility afforded through MSA
 - coordinate with Councils in developing framework for changing federal fishery regulation to meet MMPA objectives under MSA authority
- (2) Revise Marine Mammal Protection Act Guidelines for Assessing Marine Mammal Stocks & Serious Injury Determination
 - NMFS policy directives for marine mammal stock assessments overly conservative to account for data uncertainty and meet MMPA's Zero Mortality Rate Goal, leading to prohibitive management measures for commercial fisheries
 - Initiate review of policy directives in coordination with the Councils and SSCs

Other Statutes (some recommended actions)

- (1) Provide Exemption for Pacific Island Fishermen to the Billfish Conservation Act (BCA)
 - Revert to initial terms and conditions of the BCA in 2012, not on 2018 amendment
 - Billfish in the Western Pacific are not overfished nor experiencing overfishing (except striped marlin)
 - Allow the sale of billfish from the Pacific Islands to US mainland markets to help reduce seafood deficit
- (1) Re-negotiations of the Compact of Free Association should include stipulations that recipients of COFA support and cooperate with US fisheries at international Commissions since fisheries is a shared economic interest for the US in the Pacific region shared with COFA members
 - COFA provides at least ~\$150 Million annually to the former Trust Territories in the Pacific
 - Need State Dept to negotiate measures so that former Trust Territories support US in RFMO arena
 - Strengthen mutual interests with Pacific Island nations

A person is standing on a sandy beach, casting a large, white fishing net into the ocean. The net is spread wide in the air, creating a large, umbrella-like shape. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky.

CCC 2020: NMFS Assistant
Administrator said:
“cast a broad net”

Council response:
“we did”

Imua !!!
