

TOPIC OVERVIEW

CCC MEETING

February 27, 2018

Topic #1: MSA Reauthorization – the purpose of this topic is to brief the CCC on the current status of Reauthorization.

Background – A number of hearings have been held (**Attachment 1**) and that portion of the reauthorization process is likely complete; testimony from Councils is available from the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils' (RFMCs') Website (<http://www.fisherycouncils.org>).

On December 13, 2017, the House Natural Resources Committee marked up and ordered to be reported H.R. 200 (as amended), the “Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act” and H.R. 3588, the “Regionally Empowered Decision-making for Snapper, Noting the Angling Public and the Preservation of an Exceptional Resource Act” or the “RED SNAPPER Act”. The markup and other additional information can be viewed at:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=403567>

H.R. 3588 applies to the Gulf of Mexico only; H.R. 200 is the main House bill that would amend the MSA. The amended version is not available; the original version is included as **Attachment 2**. Dave Whaley, Council Consultant, prepared a section-by-section summary of H.R. 200 as amended (**Attachment 3**).

On October 24, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, held a hearing titled “Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Fisheries Science”. S. 1520 – “Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017” is the Senate's bill that will likely be used to amend the MSA (**Attachment 4**).

NMFS Action: Provide any input and give a status report on any administration positions on Reauthorization.

CCC Action: The CCC will discuss and determine if there is any further work the CCC, individual Councils, or the CCC Legislative Committee can do on Reauthorization.

Topic #2: CCC Legislative Committee Report – the purpose of this topic is to brief the CCC on the current status of work by the Legislative Committee.

Background – The Legislative Committee has completed revisions to the working paper and the CCC has approved the latest version dated November 14, 2017 (**Attachments 5a** and **5b**). This document was posted to the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils Website (<http://www.fisherycouncils.org>) after it was sent to the Secretary of Commerce.

Major items are as follows:

- A. **Introduction** (pages 5-12) – this section includes the consensus positions for all topics.
- B. **Topic 1 (Stock Rebuilding)** (pages 13-18)
- C. **Topic 2 (Ending Overfishing)** (pages 19-20)
- D. **Topic 3 (Annual Catch Limit Requirements and Exceptions)** (pages 21-25)
- E. **Topic 4 (Resources Available for Additional Mandates)** (pages 26-27)
- F. **Topic 5 (Transparency Requirements)** (pages 28-30)
- G. **Topic 6 (Climate Change & Regional Action Plans for Climate Science)** (pages 31-34)
- H. **Topic 7 (Forage Fish)** (pages 35-37)
- I. **Topic 8 (Catch Share Programs)** (pages 38-40)
- J. **Topic 9 (NEPA)** (pages 41-43)
- K. **Topic 10 (Other Federal Statutes)** (pages 44-46)
- L. **Topic 11 (Recreational Data)** (pages 47-51)
- M. **Topic 12 (Commercial Data)** (pages 52-55)
- N. **Topic 13 (Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Authority)** (pages 56-58)
- O. **Topic 14 (Data to be Used in Stock Assessments)** (pages 59-61)
- P. **Topic 15 (Deeming/Transmittal Process)** (pages 62-67) – the Council works with the SERO and NOAA GC to have each document reviewed for completeness prior to sending the document for formal review. The Council Chair reviews and signs off on the amendment document and the codified text before they are sent for formal review. The timing for Council amendments currently under review is shown in **Attachment 5b**.
- Q. **Resources & Documents** (pages 68-70)

The CCC intends to continue using the working paper as a source document when the CCC is responding to a request for comments. The lead Council will draft a response for review by the other Councils. The working paper can also be attached to a comment letter to provide more details. The regional perspectives and examples are an excellent way to describe how requirements could affect Councils differentially. New topics will be added as they are identified. The working paper will be updated as needed and will be used to inform individuals new to the Council process. Individual Councils are responsible for their regional perspective and should provide updates to the lead Council in any year. The lead Council will be responsible for updating the Working Paper. Lead Councils by year are NPFMC (2018), SAFMC (2019), WPFMC (2020), MAFMC (2021), and GMFMC (2022).

NMFS Action: Provide any input and give a status report on any administration positions on Reauthorization.

CCC Action: The CCC will discuss and determine if there is any further work the CCC Legislative Committee can do on the CCC Working Paper or any other task(s).