

Congressional Activities Report for the Council Coordination Committee

Submitted to the New England Fishery Management Council

October 31, 2017

Overview of Work Provided:

- Provided information on Congressional activities of interest to the Regional Fishery Management Councils (see below for updates on, and links to, House and Senate Magnuson-related hearings or other hearings of interest)
- Monitored Congressional hearing and markup schedules related to fisheries management, international fisheries, or other issues of interest to the Regional Fishery Management Councils
- Provided notice of legislation of interest moving through the House, Senate, or to the President
- Provided Regional Fishery Management Councils' meeting schedule information to House and Senate staff for consideration in the scheduling of Congressional activities related to the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization or other fisheries issues of interest to the Councils
- Met with Congressional staff to discuss upcoming activities, hearings and legislation
- Provided Council information to appropriate Congressional staff on fisheries issues of interest

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Hearings:

- 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".

Senators in attendance: Chairman Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-Michigan), Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi), Sen. Edward Markey (D-Massachusetts), Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma), Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut), Sen. Deb Fischer (D-Nebraska), Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Washington), and Sen. Todd Young (R-Indiana), Sen. Cory Booker (D-New Jersey).

Witnesses invited to testify included:

- Mr. Karl Haflinger, Founder and President, Sea State, Inc.;
- Dr. Ray Hilborn, Professor, University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences;
- Dr. Michael Jones, Professor, Michigan State University Quantitative Fisheries Center;
- Dr. Larry McKinney, Director, Texas A&M University Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

An archived webcast of the hearing can be found at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=5F5D04BA-CF9D-48F6-B8F1-4E1C17805DF5>

- On September 26, 2017 the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a legislative hearing on four bills related to the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The bills are:
 - H.R. 200 (Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska), to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes;
 - H.R. 2023 (Rep. Garret Graves, R-Louisiana), to modernize recreational fisheries management Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017;
 - H.R. 3588 (Rep. Garret Graves, R-Louisiana), to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for management of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes;
 - Discussion Draft of H.R. ____ (Rep. Jared Huffman, D-California), to amend and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for other purposes.

Members in attendance included: Subcommittee Chairman Doug Lamborn (R-Colorado), Subcommittee Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-California), Full Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Full Committee Ranking Member Raul Grijalva (D-Arizona), Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), Rep. Gregorio Sablan (D-Northern Mariana Islands), Rep. Tom McClintock (R-California), Rep. Nanette Barragan (D-California), Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Arizona), Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-California), Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Arkansas), Rep. Don Beyer (D-Virginia), Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Virginia), Rep. Jim Costa (D-California), Rep. Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana), Rep. Garret Graves (R-Louisiana), Rep. Daniel Webster (R-Florida), Rep. Jody Hice (R-Georgia), and * Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-Alabama). (* Note: Rep. Byrne is not a Member of the Committee, but was allowed to participate in the hearing by a unanimous consent request.)

Witnesses invited to testify included:

- The Honorable Jonathan Mitchell, Mayor, City of New Bedford, New Bedford, Massachusetts;
- Mr. Chris Macaluso, Director, Center for Marine Fisheries, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Washington, DC;
- Ms. Susan Boggs, Co-Owner, Reel Surprise Charter Fishing, Orange Beach, Alabama;
- Mr. Christopher Oliver, Assistant Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce;
- Mr. Ben Martens, Executive Director, Maine Coast Fisherman's Association, Brunswick, Maine;
- Mr. Mike Merrifield, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Tallahassee, Florida;
- Mr. Chris Blankenship, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Montgomery, Alabama.

An archived webcast of the hearing can be found at:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402850>

- On September 12, 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: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges".

Senators in attendance included: Chairman Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-Michigan), Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi), Sen. Edward Markey (D-Massachusetts), Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma), Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut), Sen. Deb Fischer (D-Nebraska), Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Washington), and Sen. Todd Young (R-Indiana).

Witnesses included:

Panel I

- Phil Faulkner, President, Nautic Star Boats;
- Jim Donofrio, Executive Director, Recreational Fishing Alliance;
- Chris Horton, Senior Director, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation;
- Anthony Friedrich, Saltwater Angler;

Panel II

- Lori Steele, Executive Director, West Coast Seafood Processors Association;
- Peter Andrew, Board Member, Bristol Bay Native Corporation;
- Greg DiDomenico, Executive Director, Garden State Seafood Association;
- Capt. William "Bubba" Cochrane, President, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance.

An archived webcast of the hearing can be found at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=FA788A8C-2F71-4B09-AFC6-1FE2B120B828>

- On August 23, 2017, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a hearing titled "Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges". The hearing was held at the Kenai Peninsula College, Soldotna, Alaska. (Note: If you tried to watch this webcast earlier, you may have noted that the audio and video feeds did not match up and the audio portion at the beginning of the hearing was not audible. Both of these issues have been corrected.)

Witnesses included:

Panel I

- Dan Hull, Chair, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, AK;
- Sam Cotten, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, AK;
- Reed Morisky, Member, Alaska Board of Fisheries, Juneau, AK;
- Spud Woodward, Director, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Brunswick, GA;

Panel II

- Glenn Reed, President, Pacific Seafood Processors Association, Seattle, WA;
- Ben Speciale, President, Yamaha Marine Group, Kennesaw, GA;
- Linda Behnken, President, Halibut Coalition; Executive Director, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Sitka, AK;
- Ragnar Alstrom, Executive Director, Yukon Delta Fisheries, Anchorage, AK;
- Ben Stevens, Director, Hunting & Fishing Task Force, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK;

Panel III

- Shannon Carroll, Deputy Director, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Anchorage, AK;
- Julie Bonney, Executive Director, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Kodiak, AK;
- Lori Swanson, Executive Director, Marine Conservation Alliance, Juneau, AK;
- Duncan Fields, Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition, Anchorage, AK;
- Liz Ogilvie, Chief Marketing Officer, American Sportfishing Association, Alexandria, VA.

Additional information and an archived webcast of the hearing can be found at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=B41AA74D-2FE6-4945-AAFF-4B43AD0ACCF7>

- On August 1, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard held a hearing titled "Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: NOAA and Council Perspectives".

Witnesses included:

- Mr. Christopher Oliver, Assistant Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; and
- Dr. John Quinn, Chair, Council Coordination Committee and New England Fishery Management Council.

Senators in attendance included: Chairman Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-Michigan), Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi), Full Committee Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-Florida), Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma), Sen. Markey (D-Massachusetts), Sen. Todd Young (R-Indiana), Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut), Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Nebraska), Sen. Cory Booker (D-New Jersey), and Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colorado).

The archived webcast can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=E9AFCF43-4EFC-4F3E-8110-1C3EACCE887>

- On July 19, 2017, the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing titled "Exploring the Successes and Challenges of the Magnuson-Stevens Act".

Witnesses included:

- Mr. Jeff Kaelin, Government Relations, Lund's Fisheries, Inc., Cape May, New Jersey;
- Mr. Sean Martin, President, Hawaii Longline Association, Honolulu, Hawaii;
- Mr. Nick Wiley, Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida; and
- Mr. Charles Witek, Recreational Angler and Outdoor Writer, West Babylon, New York.

Members in attendance included: Subcommittee Chairman Doug Lamborn (R-Colorado), Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-California), Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), Rep. Don Beyer (D-Virginia), Rep. Daniel Webster (R-Florida), Rep. Nanette Barragan (R-California), Rep. Jody Hice (R-Georgia), Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-California), Rep. Garret Graves (R-Louisiana), Full Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and Rep. Austin Scott (R-Georgia). (Note: Rep. Scott is not a Member of the Natural Resources Committee but a unanimous consent request allowed him to participate in the hearing.)

The archived webcast of the hearing, testimony, and other information can be viewed at the following link: <https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402475>

Other Upcoming Hearings, Markups, or Actions of Potential Interest:

- On Tuesday, October 31, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee's Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard held a hearing titled "Exploring Native American Subsistence Rights and International Treaties". The hearing examined the cultural, economic and noncommercial use of fish and marine mammals for subsistence hunting.

Witnesses:

- The Honorable Harry Brower, Mayor, North Slope Borough;
- Mr. John Hopson, Jr., Chairman, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission;
- Dr. Robert Suydam, Senior Wildlife Biologist, North Slope Borough; and
- Mr. Chris Swartz, President of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=75E3C313-8727-400B-8E2B-53F88223A95D>

- On Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., the full Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a Nomination Hearing to consider four nominations subject to Senate confirmation (the most likely to be of interest to the Councils is highlighted in **bold**):
 - The Honorable James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
 - Ms. Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission;
 - **Dr. Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Environmental Observation and Prediction;**
 - Ms. Nazakhtar Nikakhtar of Maryland to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Industry and Analysis.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=6A48D018-A015-4E09-851F-7778CDC3EE10>

- On Thursday, November 2, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans will hold a legislative hearing on three bills. One of these bills may be of interest to the Councils (highlighted in **bold**):
 - H.R. 221 (Rep. Don Young of AK), a bill to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes. "Hydrographic Services Improvement Amendments Act";
 - **H.R. 1176 (Rep. Chellie Pingree), a bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a Working Waterfront Task Force and a working waterfronts grant program, and for other purposes. "Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act";** and
 - S. 140 (Sen. Jeff Flake), To amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=403204>

Other Recent Actions of Interest:

- o On October 3rd and 4th, 2017, the House Natural Resources Committee held a markup of a number of Endangered Species Act related bills. The bills that were marked up include:
 - H.R. 210 (Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska), to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes. "Native American Energy Act"
 - H.R. 424 (Rep. Collin Peterson, D- Minnesota), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to listing of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes. "Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017"
 - H.R. 717 (Rep. Pete Olson, R-Texas), to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require review of the economic cost of adding a species to the list of endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. "Listing Reform Act"
 - H.R. 1274 (Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Washington), to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require making available to States affected by determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species all data that is the basis of such determinations, and for other purposes. "State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act"
 - H.R. 1488 (Rep. Peter Visclosky, D-Indiana), to retitle Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as Indiana Dunes National Park, and for other purposes. "The Indiana Dunes National Park Act"
 - H.R. 2600 (Rep. David Young, R-Iowa), To provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and for other purposes.
 - H.R. 2603 (Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas), to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that nonnative species in the United States shall not be treated as endangered species or threatened species for purposes. "Saving America's Endangered Species Act" or the "SAVES Act"
 - H.R. 2897 (Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-Washington, DC), to authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

- H.R. 3131 (Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Michigan), to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to conform citizen suits under that Act with other existing law, and for other purposes. "Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act"

The markup can be viewed at:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402962>

- o On Tuesday, October 3, 2017, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Marine Transportation held a hearing titled "Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Coast Guard Stakeholders' Perspectives and Jones Act Fleet Capabilities".

Invited witnesses included:

Panel I:

- Rear Admiral William Kelly, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources, United States Coast Guard;
- Rear Admiral Melvin Bouboulis, Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics, United States Coast Guard;
- Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, USN, Ret., Administrator, Maritime Administration;

Panel II:

- Mr. Thomas Allegretti, Chairman, American Maritime Partnership;
- Mr. Augustin "Augie" Tellez, Executive Vice President, Seafarers International Union;
- Mr. Anthony Chiarello, President and CEO, Tote;
- Mr. Michael Roberts, Senior Vice President, Crowley;
- Mr. Matthew O. Paxton, President, Shipbuilders Council of America.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401913>

- o On October 4, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held an Executive Session to consider a number of bills and a number of nominations of presidential nominees that are subject to Senate confirmation. (Note: the bills that were considered are probably not of interest to the Councils, but three of the nominees may be of interest and are highlighted in **bold**.)
 - Nomination of Ann Marie Buerkle, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and to be a Commissioner of the CPSC for a term of seven years;
 - **Nomination of Walter G. Copan, of Colorado, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology;**

- Nomination of Howard R. Elliott, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation;
- **Nomination of Timothy Gallaudet, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere;**
- **Nomination of David J. Redl, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.**

The Executive Session can be viewed at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=0EFA9AE6-905B-4D95-B74A-17859A8D19C8>

- On September 27, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a hearing on the nominations of a number of presidential nominees subject to Senate confirmation including:
 - The Honorable Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission;
 - **Rear Admiral (Ret.) Timothy Gallaudet, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere;**
 - Mr. Howard R. Elliott, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation;
 - Dr. Walter G. Copan, of Colorado, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=75B7CDDA-FAE9-42E3-9968-013FCCA4D522>

- On August 3, 2017, the Senate passed and on August 18, 2017, the President signed H.R. 374, a bill to remove the sunset provision of section 203 of Public Law 105–384, and for other purposes (Rep. Beutler, R-Washington). The bill was introduced on January 9, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. This legislation passed the House of Representatives on January 30, 2017 under Suspension of the Rules. The Senate passed the bill on August 3, 2017 without amendment by Unanimous Consent. The President signed the legislation on August 18, 2017 and the legislation became P.L. 115-49.

Appropriations Update:

- On September 6, 2017, the House of Representatives took up an omnibus appropriations bill which will include eight separate appropriation bills (including the Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations) along with an extension of the debt ceiling. This legislation continued appropriations through December 8, 2017. This legislation was then approved by the Senate and became Public Law 115-56.

House Appropriations Actions:

- July 13, 2017 – House Appropriations Committee reported H.R. 3267, Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

The text of the reported bill can be found at:

<https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr3267/BILLS-115hr3267rh.pdf>

The text of the report can be found at:

<https://www.congress.gov/115/crpt/hrpt231/CRPT-115hrpt231.pdf>

- June 29, 2017 – House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies marked up H.R. _____, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

While the draft bill gives the overall appropriation numbers for NOAA, the draft bill does not give amounts for specific line items. A break-out of the appropriation for specific line items is usually found in the report that is filed following the markup by the full Appropriations Committee. However, the Subcommittee press release noted that “The legislation contains \$4.97 billion for NOAA, which is \$710 million below the enacted level. Funding is targeted to important priorities such as the National Weather Service, fisheries management, weather research, and ocean exploration while reducing funds for lower priority activities.”

An archived webcast of the markup and other related information (including the draft bill that was marked up) can be found at the following link:

<https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=394933>

- May 25, 2017 – House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Department of Commerce Budget for Fiscal Year 2018. The only witness was The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=394886>

Senate Appropriations Update:

- July 27 2017 – Senate Appropriations Committee marked up S. 1662, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

The text of the reported bill can be found at:

<https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/s1662/BILLS-115s1662pcs.pdf>

The report can be found at:

<https://www.congress.gov/115/crpt/srpt139/CRPT-115srpt139.pdf>

- June 8, 2017 – Senate Appropriations Committee’s Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee held a hearing titled “Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Commerce”. The only witness was The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Testimony and an archived webcast of the hearing can be found at the following link:

<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/review-of-the-fy2018-budget-request-for-the-us-department-of-commerce>

Previous Hearings, Markups, or Meetings of Interest (most recent hearings of interest in red):

- August 2, 2017 – Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held an Executive Session to consider a number of nominations and a number of bills of possible interest including: S. 1322, American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act, Sponsors: Sens. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.); and S. 1425, Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act, Sponsors: Sens. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska).

The markup can be viewed at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=36708133-FF50-4877-8798-AFEF73B1700B>

- July 25, 2017 – (*Note: Originally scheduled for June 22, 2017* – The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee’s Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard held an oversight hearing titled “Marine Debris: Efforts on Marine Debris in the Oceans and Great Lakes.

Witnesses included: Mr. Dave Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, U.S. Department of State; Ms. Nancy Wallace, Director of Marine Debris Program, National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; and Dr. Melissa Duhaime, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan.

The archived webcast of the hearing can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=62EF9156-2910-4318-BC6C-3D4801C82C6B>

- June 27, 2017 – Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee’s Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee held a hearing titled, “Marine Sanctuaries: Fisheries, Access, the Environment, and Maritime Heritage”.

Witness included: Captain Scott Hickman, Owner, Circle H Outfitters; Captain Jeremiah O’Brien, Former President, Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Association; Mr. Ernest Weiss, Natural Resources Director, Aleutians East Borough, Alaska; Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher Jr., Former Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Senators in attendance included (*Note: not all Senators in attendance actively participated in the hearing*): Sen. Sullivan (R-Alaska), Sen. Peters (D-Michigan), Sen. Markey (D-Massachusetts), Sen. Young (R-Indiana), Sen. Gardner (R-Colorado), Sen. Booker (D-New Jersey).

Testimony and an archived webcast of the hearing can be found at the following link:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=212AF2A6-2FAA-4AF3-87F5-438E094FC34B>

- *(Cancelled until further notice)* – Originally scheduled for June 14, 2017 – The House Natural Resources Committee’s Federal Lands Subcommittee was scheduled to hold a legislative hearing on a Discussion Draft of “Sportsmen Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act” or “SHARE Act”. A copy of the Discussion Draft which was to be the subject of the hearing can be found at: <https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402112>
Note: While the Discussion Draft contains very few provisions related to marine fisheries, in past Congresses, “Sportsmen’s” bills have been amended to include marine fisheries related provisions (such as red snapper provisions). Of particular note – while the Discussion Draft does not mention the Regional Fishery Management Councils, in title 9 it would require that any fishing restrictions in a National Marine Sanctuary be developed in coordination with state management agencies.
- June 8, 2017 – The House Natural Resources Committee’s Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee held a legislative hearing on two bills: **H.R. 2083**, the “**Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act**”, (Rep. Beutler, R-Washington), a bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and

other non-listed species, and for other purposes; and a Discussion Draft of Reclamation Title Transfer Act.

Witnesses included: Congresswoman Beutler (R-Washington); Mr. Dan Keppen, Executive Director, The Family Farm Alliance, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Mr. Tom Knutson, Board of Directors, National Water Resources Association, St. Paul, Nebraska; The Honorable Leland Bill, Chairman, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Portland, Oregon; The Honorable Gary Dorr, Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment, Lapwai, Idaho; Mr. James Hess, Chief of Staff, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Washington, D.C. (*Note – The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. was an invited witness but did not testify.*)

Additional information and an archived webcast of the hearing can be found at the following link:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402057>

- May 24, 2017 – the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a markup of a number of bills including H.R. 2518, The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017.

The markup and related information about the legislation can be found at:

<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401455>

- May 18, 2017 – the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held an executive session to consider a number of bills including **S. 1129**, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017; **S. 396**, A bill to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes; **S. 793**, Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act of 2017; and **S. 1057**, A bill to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms.

The executive session and other related materials can be found at:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=10A43581-9AAF-4A89-87C5-AC2E5C1C12B3>

- May 17, 2017 – the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing titled “Reviewing Recent State Successes with the Rigs to Reefs Program”. Witnesses included: Mr. David Bump, Vice President, Drilling, Completions, and Facilities, W&T Offshore, Inc., Houston, TX; Mr. Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and Environment Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Mr. J. Dale Shively, M.S., Leader, Artificial Reef Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Austin, TX; and Mr. Greg Stunz, Ph.D., Endowed Chair, Fisheries & Ocean Health, Director, Center for Sportfish Science & Conservation, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401935>

- May 2, 2017 – the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee’s Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and Environment held a hearing titled “Examining the Management of Red Snapper Fishing in the Gulf of Mexico”. Witnesses included: Mr. Earl Comstock, Director, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning U.S. Department of Commerce; Mr. Jamie M. Miller, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources State of Mississippi; Mr. Christopher Brown, President, Seafood Harvesters of America; and Mr. Mark Ray, Vice Chairman, Coastal Conservation Association.

The hearing and archive can be viewed at: <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/examining-management-red-snapper-fishing-gulf-mexico/>

- May 2, 2017 – the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing titled “Oversight Hearing on the Consequences of Executive Branch Overreach of the Antiquities Act”. Witnesses included: the Honorable Paul LePage, Governor, The State of Maine; Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Director, Utah Public Lands Coordinating Office, Salt Lake City, UT; Mr. Lucas St. Clair, Board Member, Quimby Family Foundation, Portland, ME; Mr. Knox Marshall, Vice President of Resources, Murphy Timber Investments LLC, Eugene, Oregon.

The hearing and archive can be viewed at:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401854>

- April 5, 2017 – the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a markup of a number of bills. The bills that were marked up include (bills of interest to the Councils are in bold):

* S. 763, Surface and Maritime Transportation Security Act

* **S. 61, a bill to remove the sunset provision of section 203 of Public Law 105-384 (the Dungeness Crabs bill)**

* S. 74, Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act

* S. 701, a bill to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities

* S. 755, Fairness For Pilots Act

* S. 756, Save Our Seas Act of 2017

* S. 770, Making Available Information Now to Strengthen Trust and Resilience and Enhance Enterprise Technology (MAIN STREET) Cybersecurity Act

The markup can be viewed at:

<http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=7D645C69-762C-48E8-B264-4E95EBA6F143>

(Note: S. 396, a bill to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes had be scheduled to be marked up, but was withdrawn from consideration.)

- April 4, 2017 – the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a legislative hearing on three bills (bills of interest to the Councils are in bold):

* H.R. 220, to authorize the expansion of the existing Terror Lake hydroelectric project, and or other purposes.

* **H.R. 1411, the “Transparent Summer Flounder Quotas Act.” A bill to exempt the summer flounder fishing from current federal fishery regulations.**

* Discussion Draft of H.R. _____, the “Bureau of Reclamation Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act.” A bill to amend the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to authorize pumped storage hydropower development utilizing multiple Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401759>

- April 4, 2017 – House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held an oversight hearing on the “Authorization of Coast Guard and other Maritime Transportation Programs” on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401288>

- March 15, 2017 – House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held an oversight hearing titled “Examining the Creation and Management of Marine Monuments and Sanctuaries”.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/default.aspx?Year=2017&Month=03&Earliest=3/15/2017>

- February 7, 2017 – House Natural Resources Committee’s organizational meeting.

Link to the meeting:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/default.aspx?Year=2017&Month=02&Earliest=2/7/2017>

- January 24, 2017 – Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Executive Session on a number of issues including the vote on the nomination of Wilbur Ross, President-elect Donald Trump’s Secretary of the Department of Commerce designee.

Link: <http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=2D5C496A-1B0C-4DA4-861A-607187402E38>

- January 18, 2017 – Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Hearing on the nomination of Wilbur Ross, President-elect Donald Trump’s Secretary of the Department of Commerce designee.

Link: <http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=D31485C6-69E7-4AA5-A9B4-1025C364B3DF>

Other hearings (not directly related to fisheries) of possible interest:

Invasive Species:

- The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing entitled, “Examining Innovative Solutions to Control Invasive Species and Promote Wildlife Conservation” on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

The hearing archive can be viewed at:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=40C0CE17-9913-4336-AE5A-5EEF87975159>

Endangered Species Act:

- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a full committee hearing entitled “Conservation, Consultation, and Capacity: State Views on the Need to Modernize the Endangered Species Act” on May 10, 2017. Witnesses included: Mr. Nick Wiley, Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, President, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; Mr. Larry Voyles, Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Former President, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; Ms. Janet Coit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

The hearing can be viewed at:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=AD42E30A-0C01-454A-B82C-ADDC6320817C>

- The House Natural Resources Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee held an oversight hearing titled "ESA Consultation Impediments to Economic and Infrastructure Development" on Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

The hearing archive can be viewed at:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401724>

- The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing titled "Oversight: Modernization of the Endangered Species Act" on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

The hearing archive can be viewed at:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=72694EEF-F5BB-40CC-A382-1E8B6F7CA28C>

Legislation of Interest and Legislative Activities (updates or Congressional actions in red):

House Fisheries-Related Bills:

H.R. 200, the "Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act" (Rep. Young, R-Alaska). Introduced on January 3, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. **On September 26, 2017 a hearing on this legislation was held by the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.**

H.R. 204, the "Genetically Engineered Salmon Labeling Act" (Rep. Young, R-Alaska). Introduced on January 3, 2017 and referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

H.R. 205, a bill to "amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling of genetically engineered fish" (Rep. Young, R-Alaska). Introduced on January 3, 2017 and referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

H.R. 206, the "Prevention of Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United States Act (Rep. Young, R-Alaska). Introduced on January 3, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 214, the "American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act" (Rep. Young, R-Alaska). Introduced on January 3, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 223, a bill to "prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone except in accordance with a law authorizing such action." (Rep. Young, R-Alaska). Introduced on January 3, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 374, a bill to remove the sunset provision of section 203 of Public Law 105–384, and for other purposes (Rep. Beutler, R-Washington). Introduced on January 9, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. *(Note: This is the bill to extend state jurisdiction over the Dungeness crab fishery.)* This legislation passed the House of Representatives on January 30, 2017 under Suspension of the Rules. The Senate passed the bill on August 3, 2017 without amendment by Unanimous Consent. The President signed the legislation on August 18, 2017 and the legislation became P.L. 115-49.

H.R. 943, the “Finding Innovative Lionfish Elimination Technologies Act of 2017”, (Rep. Curbelo, R-Florida), to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to award competitive grants to combat the certain species of lionfish in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Introduced on February 23, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1195, the “Local Fishing Access Act”, (Rep. Zeldin, R-New York), to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to permit striped bass fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone transit zone between Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 16, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1382, the “Give Our Fishermen Immediate Snapper Help Act” or the “GOFISH Act”, (Rep. Weber, R-Texas), to establish requirements and restrictions for the commercial, charter, and recreational red snapper fishing seasons in the Gulf of Mexico for the 2017 and 2018 fishing seasons, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 7, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1411, the “Transparent Summer Flounder Quotas Act”, (Rep. Pallone, D-New Jersey), to continue in effect for the 2017 and 2018 fishing seasons certain fishing specifications for the summer flounder fishery, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 7, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. A hearing on this legislation was held on April 4, 2017 by the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

H.R. 1456, the “Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2017”, (Rep. Royce, R-California), to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 9, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1887, a bill to amend the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 to clarify an exemption for traditional fisheries and markets (Rep. Diaz-Balart, R-Florida). This legislation is similar to the Senate billfish bill (S. 396) but not identical. Introduced on April 4, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2023, the “Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017”, (Rep. Graves, R-Louisiana), the bill would amend the MSA, but would not reauthorize the Act. The bill would: 1) establish a process for allocation review for SA and Gulf (based on NAS guidelines); 2) allow alternatives for management of recreational fisheries; 3) institute a moratorium on any new catch shares for recreational only or mixed-sector fisheries; 4) provide flexibility in rebuilding timeframes; 5) provide flexibility in establishing ACLs; 6) implement new requirements prior to authorizing Exempted Fishing Permits; 7) require increased data incorporation in stock assessments, etc.; 8) require that the Secretary establish new partnerships with States for recreational data collection (NAS study). Introduced on April 20, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. On September 26, 2017 a hearing on

this legislation was held by the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

H.R. 2079, the “Young Fishermen’s Development Act of 2017”, (Rep. Young, R-Alaska), a bill to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen. (Requires the creation a new grant program to provide training, education, outreach and technical assistance to “young fishermen” for new entrants, captains, crew, etc.) Introduced on April 24, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2203, the “Coral Reef Sustainability Through Innovation Act of 2017”, (Rep. Hanabusa, D-Hawaii), a bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 27, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

H.R. 2330, the “Yurok Tribe Klamath River Chinook Salmon Emergency Disaster Assistance Act of 2017”, (Rep. Huffman, D-California), a bill to make funds available for fisheries resource disaster assistance for the 2016 Yurok Tribe Klamath River Chinook salmon fishery disaster, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 3, 2017 and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

H.R. 2344, the “Crab Emergency Disaster Assistance Act of 2017”, (Rep. Speier, D-California), a bill to make funds available for fisheries resource disaster assistance for the 2015–16 Dungeness crab and rock crab fisheries disaster, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 3, 2017 and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

H.R. 2463, the “Shark Sales Elimination Act of 2017”, (Rep. Lieu, D-California), a bill to prohibit the sale of shark parts, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 16, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2504, (Rep. Pingree, D-Maine), a bill to ensure fair treatment in licensing requirements for the export of certain echinoderms. Introduced on May 17, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and in addition to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

H.R. 2560, the “Reef Assassin Act”, (Rep. Gaetz, R- Florida), a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to encourage elimination of lionfish from United States waters by allowing individuals to exchange lionfish for tags authorizing fishing for certain species in addition to the number of such species otherwise authorized to be taken by such individuals, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 19, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H. R. 2637, the “Fishing Safety Training and Research Act”, (Rep. Keating, D-Massachusetts), a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to reauthorize the Fishing Safety Training Grant Program and the Fishing Safety Research Grant Program. Introduced on May 24, 2017 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

H.R. 2983, the “Stop the Asian Carp Now Act of 2017”, (Rep. Kaptur, D-Ohio), a bill to direct the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to release an interim report related to aquatic nuisance species control, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 21, 2017 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

H.R. 3041, the “Aquaculture Risk Reduction Act”, (Rep. Crawford, R-Arkansas), a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to provide an exception for a de minimus amount of fish or wildlife included in interstate commercial shipments, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 23, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 3108, the “Protecting Honest Fishermen Act of 2017”, (Rep. Farenthold, R-Texas), a bill to strengthen Federal consumer protection and product traceability with respect to commercially marketed seafood, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 29, 2017 and referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and subsequently to the House Agriculture Committee, the House Natural Resources Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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”, (Rep. Graves, R-Louisiana), a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for management of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes. The bill was introduced on July 28, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. *(Note: The Senate version of this bill is S. 1686.)* **The House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing on this legislation on September 26, 2017.**

H.R. 3661, the “Harmful Algal Blooms Solutions Act of 2017” or the “HABS Act of 2017”, (Rep. Mast, R-Florida), a bill to establish a program to award prizes for the development of innovative, environmentally safe solutions for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes. Introduced on August 18, 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the House Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

H.R. 3665, the “South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2017”, (Rep. Mast, R-Florida), a bill to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in the Greater Everglades region, and for other purposes. Introduced on August 25, 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the House Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

H.R. 3668, “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act” or the “SHARE Act”, (Rep. Duncan, R-South Carolina) a bill to provide for the preservation of sportsmen’s heritage and enhance recreation opportunities on Federal land, and for other purposes. Introduced on September 1, 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the House Committees on Agriculture, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker. *(Note: This legislation often becomes a vehicle for other sportsmen’s provisions including fisheries related provisions.)* *The House Natural Resources Committee ordered the legislation to be reported on September 18, 2017. The House Committees on Agriculture, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means were all discharged from further consideration and the bill was placed on the Union Calendar.*

H.R. 3682, the “Blue Whales and Blue Skies Act”, (Rep. Lowenthal, D-California), a bill to direct the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration to create a Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program to reduce air pollution and harmful underwater acoustic impacts and the risk of fatal vessel whale strikes by recognizing voluntary reductions in the speed of vessels transiting the Greater Santa Barbara Channel Region, California, and for other purposes. Introduced on September 6, 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. *(Note: I am not sure why this legislation was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and not the House Natural Resources Committee.)*

Senate Fisheries-Related Bills:

S. 61, a bill to remove the sunset provision of section 203 of Public Law 105–384 and for other purposes (Sen. Cantwell, D-Washington). Introduced on January 9, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. *(Note: This is the bill to extend state jurisdiction over the Dungeness crab fishery.)* This legislation was marked up by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on April 5, 2017. The report was filed on June 5, 2017 and the bill was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.

S. 396, (Sen. Nelson, D-Florida) to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 15, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. *(Note: this legislation would amend the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 and the Shark Conservation Act of 2010.)* Note: as mentioned above, this legislation was scheduled to be marked up by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on April 5, 2017, but was withdrawn. Note: On May 18, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee met in executive session and ordered S. 396 to be reported. On September 19, 2017, the bill was reported without amendment (report No. 115-160) and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. On October 2, 2017, the Senate passed the bill without amendment by Voice Vote. On October 3, 2017 the bill was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

S. 793, (Sen. Booker, D-NJ) – Shark Finning prohibition – would prohibit the possession, transportation, the sale or purchase of shark fins or products containing shark fins (with limited exceptions if the shark fin is separated from the shark in a manner consistent with the license or permit and is: 1) destroyed or discarded upon separation; 2) used for noncommercial subsistence purposes in accordance with State or territorial law; or 3) used solely for display or research purposes by a museum, college, or university, or other person under a State or Federal permit to conduct non-commercial scientific research. The bill would impose MSA penalties for violations. Introduced on March 30, 2017 and referred to the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. On May 18, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee met in executive session and ordered S. 793 to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 859, the “Great Lakes Fishery Research Authorization Act of 2017”, (Sen. Peters, D-Michigan), a bill to authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to conduct monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 5, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 958, the “Coral Reef Sustainability Through Innovation Act of 2017”, (Sen. Hirono, D-Hawaii), a bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 27, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1322, the “American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act”, (Sen. Sullivan, R-Alaska), a bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 8, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. **Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on August 2, 2017.**

S. 1323, the “Young Fishermen’s Development Act of 2017”, (Sen. Sullivan, R-Alaska), a bill to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 8, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1331, the “Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act”, (Sen. Stabenow, D-Michigan), a bill to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 8, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 1398, the “Stop the Asian Carp Now Act of 2017”, (Sen. Stabenow, D- Michigan), a bill to direct the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to release an interim report related to aquatic nuisance species control, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 21, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 1436, the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Act”, (Sen. Crapo, R-Idaho), a bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 26, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 1528, the “Genetically Engineered Salmon Labeling Act”, (Sen. Murkowski, R-Alaska), a bill to amend the market name of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes. Introduced on July 11, 2017 and referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

S. 1686, the “Regionally Empowered Decision-making for Snapper, Noting the Angling Public and the Preservation of an Exceptional Resource Act” or the “RED SNAPPER Act”, (Sen. Cassidy, R-Louisiana), a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for management of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes. The bill was introduced on August 1, 2017 and was referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1748, the “Florida Fisheries Improvement Act of 2017”, (Sen. Rubio, R-Florida), a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to promote sustainable conservation and management for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on them, and for other purposes. The bill was introduced on August 3, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

Other House Bills of Interest:

H.R. 169, the “West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2017” (Rep. Huffman, D-California) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. Introduced on January 3, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 222, a bill to “amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to prescribe an additional requirement for the designation of marine sanctuaries off the coast of Alaska and for other purposes” (Rep. Young, R-Alaska). Introduced on January 3, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 310, the “Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act” (Rep. DeFazio, D- Oregon) to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 5, 2017 and referred to the House Natural resources Committee.

H.R. 368, the “Safeguard Aquaculture Farmers Act” (Rep. Crawford, R-Arkansas) to provide the force and effect of law for certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants to reduce depredation at aquaculture facilities and protect public resources. Introduced on January 9, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 717, the “Listing Reform Act” (Rep. Olson, R-Texas), to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require review of the economic cost of adding a species to the list of endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 27, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. **On July 19, 2017, the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on this legislation. On October 4, 2017 the House Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill to be Reported by the Yeas and Nays: 22 - 13.**

H.R. 845, the “Ocean Acidification Research Partnerships Act” (Rep. Carbajal, D-California) provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities. Introduced on February 3, 2017 and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

H.R. 961, the “Ban Aquaculture in the Great Lakes Act” (Rep. Kildee, D-Michigan) to prohibit aquaculture in the Great Lakes. Introduced on February 7, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Agriculture Committee.

H.R. 1274, the “State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act” (Rep. Newhouse, R-Washington), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require making available to States affected by determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species all data that is the basis of such determinations, and for other purposes. The bill was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. **On July 19, 2017, the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on this legislation. On October 4, 2017 the House Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 22 - 14.**

H.R. 1489, the “Marine Access and State Transparency” or the “MAST Act”, (Rep. Young, R-Alaska), to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for declaration of marine

national monuments, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 9, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2074, “Public Input for National Monuments Act”, (Rep. Walden, R-Oregon) to require the President to comply with NEPA in designating monuments. Introduced on April 24, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2083, “Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act”, (Rep. Beutler, R-Washington), to amend the MMPA to give temporary authorization to issue “eligible entities” to lethally take sea lions on the Columbia River. Introduced on April 24, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. **On June 8, 2017, a hearing on this legislation was held by the House Natural Resources Committee’s Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee. On July 26, 2017, the legislation was ordered to be reported by the House Natural Resources Committee. On September 5, 2017, the report was filed and the bill was placed on the Union Calendar.**

H.R. 2134, the “Endangered Species Management Self-Determination Act” (Rep. Luetkemeyer, R-Missouri) to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 25, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2284, the “National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act”, (Rep. Labrador, R-Idaho), a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments. Introduced on May 2, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2603, the “Saving America’s Endangered Species Act” or the “SAVES Act”, (Rep. Gohmert, R-Texas), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that nonnative species in the United States shall not be treated as endangered species or threatened species for purposes of that Act. Introduced on May 23, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. **On July 19, 2017 a hearing on this legislation was held by the House Natural Resources Committee. On October 04, 2017 the House Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 23 – 16.**

H.R. 2719, the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2017”, (Rep. Pingree, D-Maine), a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 25, 2017 and referred to the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

H.R. 2748, the “Save Our Seas Act of 2017” or the “SOS Act of 2017”, (Rep. Young, R-Alaska), a bill to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 25, 2017 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and subsequently to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2755, the “Beach Act of 2017”, (Rep. Pallone, D-New Jersey) a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes. The bill was introduced on May 26, 2017 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

H. R. 2882, the “Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2017”, (Rep. Kilmer, D- Oregon) to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to ocean acidification. Introduced on June 12, 2017 and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

H.R. 2923, the “Gulf States Coordination Act” (Rep. Graves, R-Louisiana), a bill to designate the Gulf of Mexico Alliance as a regional coordination partnership of Federal and State actions related to the management of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 15, 2017 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and subsequently to the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

H.R. 3021, the “American Samoa Job Protection & Expansion Act of 2017”, (Rep. Radewagen, R- American Samoa), a bill to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to stop a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa and to provide that any future increases in such minimum wage shall be determined by the Secretary of Labor. Introduced on June 22, 2017 and referred to the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

H.R. 3131, the “Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act”, (Rep. Huizenga, R-Michigan), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to conform citizen suits under that Act with other existing law, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 29, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources committee and subsequently to the House Judiciary Committee. **On July 19, 2017 a hearing on this legislation was held by the House Natural Resources Committee. On October 04, 2017 the House Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill to be Reported by the Yeas and Nays: 22 – 16.**

H.R. 3144, (Rep. McMorris Rodgers, R-Washington), a bill to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 29, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker. **On October 12, 2017 the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing.**

H.R. 3608, the “Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act”, (Rep. McClintock, R-California), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. Introduced on July 28, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 3916, the “Federally Integrated Species Health Act” or the “FISH Act”, (Rep. Calvert, R-California), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to vest in the Secretary of the Interior functions under that Act with respect to species of fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and migrate to ocean waters, and species of fish that spawn in ocean waters and migrate to fresh waters. Introduced on October 3, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. **On October 12, 2017, the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing on the bill.**

H.R. 3990, the “National Monument Creation and Protection Act”, (Rep. Bishop, R-Utah), a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reform the Antiquities Act of 1906, and for other purposes. Introduced on October 6, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. **On October 11, the House Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 23 – 17.**

H.R. 4062, the “Digital Coast Act” (Rep. Ruppertsberger, D-Maryland), a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes. Introduced on October 12, 2017 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 4114, the “Environmental Justice Act of 2017”, (Rep. Ruiz, D-California), a bill to require Federal agencies to address environmental justice, to require consideration of cumulative impacts in certain permitting decisions, and for other purposes. Introduced on October 24, 2017 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.

Other Senate Bills of Interest:

S. 31, the “West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2017” (Sen. Wyden, D-Oregon) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. Introduced on January 4, 2017 and referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

S. 33, the “Improved National Monument Designation Process Act” (Sen. Murkowski, R-Alaska), to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for the declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 5, 2017 and referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

S. 110, the “Digital Coast Act”, (Sen. Baldwin, D-Wisconsin), a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 12, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. **On January 24, 2017 the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee ordered the bill to be reported without amendment. On March 30, 2017 the report was filed and the bill was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. On May 25, 2017 the bill passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.**

S. 132, the “National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act of 2017” (Sen. Crapo, R-Idaho), to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments. Introduced on January 12, 2017 and referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

S. 376, the “21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act”, (Sen. Cornyn, R-Texas), to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations

that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 14, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 756, the “Save Our Seas Act of 2017”, (Sen. Sullivan, R-Alaska), a bill to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 29, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. **On April 5, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee met in executive session and ordered S. 756 to be reported. On July 24, 2017, the report to accompany S. 756 was filed (Report #115-135). On August 3, 2017, the Senate passed the bill with amendments by Unanimous Consent. On August 4, 2017, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the House Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.**

S. 935, the “Endangered Species Management Self-Determination Act”, (Sen. Paul, R-Kentucky), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to permit the taking of certain black vultures and ravens, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 25, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 1036, the “Marine Energy Act”, (Sen. Wyden, D-Oregon), a bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 3, 2017 and referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

S. 1057, the “Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2017”, (Sen. Nelson, D-Florida), a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes. . Introduced on May 4, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. **Ordered reported by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on May 18, 2017. The report was filed on August 3, 2017 and the bill was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. On September 26, 2017, the Senate passed the bill with an amendment by Voice Vote.**

S. 1100, the (Sen. Baldwin, D-Wisconsin), a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the program to provide assistance for small shipyards and maritime communities through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 11, 2017, and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1214, the “Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act”, (Sen. Thune, R-South Dakota), a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from a definition under that Act. Introduced on May 24, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 1234, the “Everglades for the Next Generation Act”, (Sen. Nelson, D-Florida), a bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to provide for expedited project implementation relating to the comprehensive Everglades restoration plan. Introduced on May 25, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 1332, the “Great Lakes Aquatic Connectivity and Infrastructure Program Act”, (Sen. Stabenow, D-Michigan) a bill to establish the Great Lakes Aquatic Connectivity and Infrastructure Program, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 8, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 1373, the “Gulf States Protection and Restoration Coordination Act”, (Sen. Wicker, R-Mississippi) a bill to designate the Gulf of Mexico Alliance as a Regional Coordination Partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 15, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1425, the “Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act”, (Sen. Wicker, R-Mississippi), a bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 22, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. **Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on August 2, 2017.**

S. 1586, a bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes, (Sen. Peters, D-Michigan). Introduced on July 19, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. **Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on August 2, 2017.**

S. 1702, the “Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act”, (Sen. Risch, R-Idaho), a bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation by sea lions on endangered Columbia River salmon and other species not listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes. The bill was introduced on August 2, 2017 and was referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1747, the “Florida Manatee Research and Recovery Act”, (Sen. Nelson, D-Florida), a bill to authorize research and recovery activities to provide for the protection, conservation, and recovery of the Florida manatee, and for other purposes. The bill was introduced on August 3, 2017 and was referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1839, the “Cultivating Revitalization by Expanding American Agricultural Trade and Exports Act” or the “CREAATE Act”, (Sen. King, I-Maine), a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to extend and expand the market access program and the foreign market development cooperator program. September 19, 2017 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Note: While primarily focused on agricultural products, the bill does mention seafood.)

S. 1863, the “Native Species Protection Act” (Sen. Lee, R-Utah), a bill to clarify that noncommercial species found entirely within the borders of a single State are not in interstate commerce or subject to regulation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or any other provision of law enacted as an exercise of the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce. Introduced on September 26, 2017 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S. 1965, the “Allowing Alaska to Improve Vital Opportunities in the Rural Economy Act” or the “Allowing Alaska IVORY Act”, (Sen. Sullivan, R-Alaska), a bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972

to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and traditional mammoth ivory products, and for other purposes. Introduced on October 17, 2017 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1996, the “Environmental Justice Act of 2017”. (Sen. Booker, D-New Jersey), a bill to require Federal agencies to address environmental justice, to require consideration of cumulative impacts in certain permitting decisions, and for other purposes. Introduced on October 24, 2017 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.