

Congressional Activities Report for the Council Coordination Committee:

MSA Reauthorization Section Only

Submitted to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Prepared by Dave Whaley

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Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Hearings or Mark-ups:

- On December 13, 2017, the House Natural Resources Committee marked up and ordered to be reported H.R. 200, 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>

- 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=E9AF43-4EFC-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>