

Congressional Activities Report for the Council Coordination Committee

Submitted to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council

May 31, 2016

Overview of Work Provided:

- Provided information on hearings of interest to the Regional Fishery Management Councils (see below for update on and links to House and Senate Magnuson-related hearings)
- Monitored Congressional hearings and markups 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 hearings related to the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization or other fisheries issues of interest to the Councils
- Met with Congressional staff to discuss upcoming hearings and legislation
- Assisted in arranging meetings between Council staff and Congressional staff to provide up-to-date information on fisheries issues of interest to the Congressional Member
- Provided Council information to appropriate Congressional staff on fisheries issues of interest

Upcoming Magnuson-Stevens Act or Fisheries Related Hearings:

No hearings have been scheduled at this time.

Other Upcoming Hearings or Other Items of Interest:

- June 1, 2016 - The House Natural Resources Committee will hold an oversight hearing titled "Field Hearing on Elevating Local Voices and Promoting Transparency for a Potential Monument Designation in Maine" in East Millinocket, Maine. No witness list available yet, but this hearing will primarily focus on the potential land-based monument in Maine. It is likely that the issue of marine monuments will come up.
- Department of State will host the 2016 "Our Ocean Conference" in Washington, D.C. on September 15 to 16. The conference will focus on the key ocean issues of our time – marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, and climate-related impacts on the ocean.

Recent Hearings or Activities of Interest:

- May 17, 2016 – House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Oversight Hearing titled "The Implications of President Obama's National Ocean Policy"

Witnesses: Mr. Bob Zales, President, National Association of Charterboat Operators, Hurley, Mississippi; Ms. Meghan Lapp, Fisheries Liaison, Seafreeze, Ltd., North Kingstown, Rhode Island; Mr. Jim Lanard, Chief Executive Officer, Magellan Wind, Collingswood, New Jersey; Mr. Dan Keppen, Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance, Klamath Falls, Oregon. *Note: Ms. Beth Kerttula, Director of the National Ocean Council was invited to testify, but did not attend the hearing.*

Members in attendance: Subcommittee Chair John Fleming (R-Louisiana); Full Committee Chair Rob Bishop (R-Utah); Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-California); Tom McClintock (R-California); Jim Costa (D-California); Paul Gosar (R-Arizona); Alan Lowenthal (D-California); Jeff Duncan (R-South Carolina); Don Beyer (D-Virginia); Doug LaMalfa (R-California); Norma Torres (D-California); Garret Graves (R- Louisiana); Dan Newhouse (R-Washington).

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=400425>

- [Dungeness Crab](#) - The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has now filed the report on the Dungeness crab bill (S. 1143) which could mean they have been given the okay to take the bill to the Senate Floor. We had been told that there was a hold on the bill – presumably in relation to the red snapper issue – but it is unclear whether this hold is still in place. The report was filed on May 23, 2016. The report can be found at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CRPT-114srpt260/pdf/CRPT-114srpt260.pdf>
- [International Fisheries Package](#) - The Senate, on May 17th, passed S. 1335, which was introduced by Senator Sullivan (R-Alaska) and had originally had been titled the North Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act. In moving the bill, they changed the name of the bill to “Ensuring Access to Fisheries Act” and added both the South Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (S.1336) and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Amendments Act (S.1251). There are some differences between this bill and the House international fisheries package, but staff from the relevant House and Senate committees are meeting this week to look at options for moving the package.
- [National Ocean Policy](#) - Northeast Regional Planning Body announced the availability of the draft Northeast Regional Ocean Plan and held a webinar to discuss the public comment process. The RPB also plans to host public meetings in each New England state in June. According to previous documents, the RPB plans to have this plan finalized by October 2016. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Plan is expected to be finalized by December 2016. The Draft Plan can be found at: <http://neoceanplanning.org/plan/>
- [Marine Protected Areas](#) - The Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee met May 24-26th in Maine and the meeting included a presentation on the Northeast Regional Planning Body and also a presentation by NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries on community-based

nominations for sanctuaries. More information can be found at:
<http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/fac/meetings/>

Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Review:

On December 18, 2015, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2016. The same day, the Senate also passed the legislation clearing it for the President. The President signed the bill on December 18, 2015 and the bill became Public Law 114-113.

The text of the Public Law is not yet available online, but the text of the bill language can be found at:

<http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20151214/CPRT-114-HPRT-RU00-SAHR2029-AMNT1final.pdf>

The report is broken down into titles. The report to accompany the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies title of the bill can be found at:

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD003.pdf>

Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations:

- The President submitted his FY 2017 budget proposal to Congress on February 9, 2016.
- The House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Department of Commerce's budget request on February 23, 2016.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Department of Commerce's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request on March 3, 2016. The only witness was The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee reported S. 2837, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2017, on April 21, 2016.

The report to accompany the bill (Senate Report 114-239) can be found at:
<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/114th-congress/house-report/531/1>

- The House Appropriations Committee has marked up and reported H.R. _____, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2017 on May 24, 2016.
Note: See separate memo for information on the Committee-reported bill.

The bill can be found at: <http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bills-114hr-sc-ap-fy2017-cjs-subcommitteedraft.pdf>

The report to accompany the bill can be found at:
<http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hrpt-114-hr-fy2017-cjs.pdf>

Overview of Congressional Legislative Activities (updates in red):

Bills that have become Public Law:

- **H.R. 774**, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015. Introduced by Congresswoman Bordallo (D-Guam) on February 5, 2015. The bill was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. The bill implements the Agreement of Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, implements the Antiqua Convention, amends 8 other existing international fishery agreements to impose the sanctions of the High Sea Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act, and provides additional authorities for the Secretary of Commerce to regulate IUU fishing. (The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged the bill on July 20, 2015), passed the House on July 27, 2015, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation discharged the bill on October 21, 2015, passed the Senate on October 21, 2015. The bill was signed by the President on November 5, 2015 and became Public Law 114-81.
- **H.R. 2029**, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. Introduced by Congressman Charles Dent (R-Pennsylvania) on April 24, 2015. The bill includes a number of fisheries-related provisions including an extension of State waters to 9 miles for all Gulf States for the Reef Fish FMP. The President signed the bill on December 18, 2015 and the bill became Public Law 114-113.

Bills that have passed the House (awaiting action in the Senate):

H.R. 1335, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act (Young, R-Alaska) – Reported by the House Natural Resources Committee on September 30, 2015, passed the House on October 6, 2015.

H.R. 2168, West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act (Herrera Beutler, R-Washington) – Reported by the House Natural Resources Committee on September 30, 2015, and passed the House on October 6, 2015. Identical legislation (S. 1143) was ordered to be reported by the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee on November 18, 2015. I have been told that a “hold” has been placed on this legislation by Senator Rubio (R-Florida).

H.R. 2406, the “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015” or SHARE Act (Wittman, R-Virginia) – Reported by the House Natural Resources Committee on December 10, 2015 (the bill was also referred to a number of other House Committees). On February 26, 2016, the House of Representatives passed the legislation by recorded vote. *[While the House*

legislation does not contain fisheries provisions, there are two Senate versions of the bill (S.556, the Sportsmen's Act of 2015 and S. 659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015). As reported by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, S. 659 includes a provision regarding the management of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery.]

Bills that have passed the Senate (awaiting action in the House):

S. 1335, Ensuring Access to Fisheries Act (Sullivan, R-Alaska) – Reported by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on March 28, 2016. On May 17, 2016, the bill was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent with an amendment (which added the text of S. 1336 and S. 1251).

Bills that have been ordered reported by the Senate Commerce Committee:

S. 1143, the West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act (Cantwell, D-Washington) - Ordered reported by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on November 18, 2015.

S. 1251, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Amendments Act (Markey, D-MA) - Ordered reported by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on August 28, 2015.

S. 1334, Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015 (Murkowski, R-AK) – Ordered reported by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on July 28, 2015.

S. 1335, North Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (Sullivan, R-AK) – Ordered reported by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on May 20, 2015.

S. 1336, South Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (Schatz, D-HI) - Ordered reported by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on May 20, 2015.

S. 1403, Florida Fisheries Improvement Act (Rubio, R-FL) – Ordered reported by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on June 25, 2015.

Bills that have been ordered reported by the House Natural Resources Committee:

H.R. 3070, the EEZ Clarification Act (Zeldin, R-New York) - House Natural Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans hearing held on February 2, 2016. Ordered reported by the House Natural Resources Committee (amended) on March 16, 2016.

Bills that have had a hearing in either House or Senate Committees:

H.R. 564, Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act (Herrera Beutler, R-Washington) – House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans hearing held on July 23, 2015.

H.R. 3094, the Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority Act (Graves, R-Louisiana) – House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans hearing held on October 22, 2015.

H.R. 4245, To exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Pingree, D-Maine) - House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans hearing held on February 2, 2016. (Note: the bill has been referred to 2 other House Committees.)

H.R. 4576, the Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act (Radewagen, R-American Samoa) - House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans hearing held on March 1, 2016. [Note: the bill includes the text of H.R. 3269, the North Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act. Introduced by Congressman Young (R-Alaska)].

H.R. 4582, Save Our Salmon Act (Denham, R-California) - House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans hearing held on March 1, 2016.

Other Issues – Legislation Amending Other Statutes of Interest:

NEPA – 67 bills have been introduced that amend or cite NEPA – 11 have been agreed to in the House, 4 have been agreed to in the Senate – only 2 have become law – one dealt with a land transfer for the Albuquerque Indian School and one that authorized funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs.

ESA – 53 bills have been introduced to amend or that cite the Endangered Species Act – 5 have been agreed to in the House, 3 in the Senate – 0 have become law.

MMPA – 7 bills have been introduced – 0 have been agreed to in the House, 0 in the Senate, and 0 laws.

Marine Monuments – there have been 50 bills introduced that mention monuments (no just marine monuments) – 2 have been agreed to in the House, 1 in the Senate, and 1 was passed by both the House and the Senate, but that bill was vetoed by the President (National Defense Authorization Act of 2016). The veto presumably had nothing to do with the monument language.

Antiquities Act – there has been 1 bills that amends the Antiquities Act – no action.

Politics:

Note: Both major parties will hold their nominating conventions this summer. As these conventions are underway, no actions will be undertaken by Congress. The 41st Republican National Convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on July 18-21 2016 and the 47th Democratic National Convention will take place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 25-28 2016.

Note: According to the tentative calendar for the House of Representatives, as of May 31, the House of Representatives has **38** days of legislative session remaining prior to the election and an estimated 16 days after the election. (The Senate schedule is a little harder to describe because the schedule lists days when the Senate will not be in session rather than the days they will be in session.)

Note: As of April 19, 2016, 49 House Members are retiring, running for other office, resigning, or have passed away and 7 Senate Members are retiring, or running for other office.

Note: Concerns have been raised about whether the unpopularity of one or both parties' presidential nominees might affect Senate races. While the same concern has been raised about House races as well, there are not as many toss-up seats in play for this to be a major concern. In addition, both likely presidential nominees have high negatives so turnout may be an issue.

Note: Whether control of either the House or Senate changes parties, there will be a new Subcommittee chair for both the House Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans and the Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard.

Note: Generally when a new President is elected - no matter whether there is a change in party or not – all political appointees are expected to resign and it can take up to six months or more before the new political appointees are in place and making policy decisions.

Below are some specific changes that may be of interest to the fish world:

Governor John Bel Edwards (D-Louisiana) - With the election of Governor John Bel Edwards (D-Louisiana), a new Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been named. Former Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Charlie Melancon (D-Louisiana), has been appointed as the new Secretary. Whether there will be a change in the management of the red snapper fishery at the State level or a change in policy at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is unclear at this point.

House Members retiring or running for other office:

Congressman Fleming (R-Louisiana) – running for Senate – of interest because he is currently the chair of the Subcommittee on Water Power and Oceans.

Congressman Bustany (R-Louisiana) – running for Senate

Congressman Jolly (R-Florida) – running for Senate – of interest because of his involvement in the red snapper issue and seat on the House Appropriations Committee

Congressman Wittman (R-Virginia) – in 2017 running for governor but does not have to give up House seat – of interest because of his seat on the House Natural Resources Committee and leadership role on the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus.

Congressman Perluisi (D-Puerto Rico) – is the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico and is a Member of the House Natural Resources Committee. He is running for Governor.

Other Retiring Members of interest:

Dan Benishek (R-Michigan) – Member of the House Natural Resources Committee

Sam Farr (D-California) – Member of the House Appropriations Committee

Lois Capps (D-California) – Member of the House Natural Resources Committee

Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyoming) – Member of the House Natural Resources Committee

Jeff Miller (R-Florida) – has been involved in the red snapper issue

Jim McDermott (D-Washington)

Gwen Graham (D-Florida)

Mark Takai (D-Hawaii)

Links to Previous Hearings or Markups of Interest in the 114th Congress:

- May 17, 2016 – House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Oversight Hearing titled "The Implications of President Obama's National Ocean Policy"

Witnesses: Mr. Bob Zales, President, National Association of Charterboat Operators, Hurley, Mississippi; Ms. Meghan Lapp, Fisheries Liaison, Seafreeze, Ltd., North Kingstown, Rhode Island; Mr. Jim Lanard, Chief Executive Officer, Magellan Wind, Collingswood, New Jersey; Mr. Dan Keppen, Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance, Klamath Falls, Oregon. Note: Ms. Beth Kerttula, Director of the National Ocean Council was invited to testify, but was unable to attend the hearing.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=400425>
- April 20, 2016 – House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1869 (“Environmental Compliance Cost Transparency Act of 2015”), H.R. 2993 (“Water Recycling Acceleration Act of 2015”), and H.R. 4582 (“Save Our Salmon (SOS) Act”).

Witnesses: Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-California); Dr. Charles H. Hanson, Senior Fishery Biologist, Hanson Environmental, Inc. and the State Water Contractors, Walnut Creek, California (Testifying on H.R. 4582); Mr. Jim Herberg, General Manager, Orange County Sanitation District, Fountain Valley, California (Testifying on H.R. 2993); Mr. Tom Iseman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. (Testifying on H.R. 2993, 4582); Mr. Bo Downen, Senior Policy Analyst, Public Power Council, Portland, Oregon (Testifying on H.R. 1869); and Mr. Patrick F. Ledger, CEO, Arizona G&T Cooperatives, Benson, Arizona (Testifying on H.R. 1869).

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=400211>

- April 19, 2016 - House Natural Resources Committee Oversight Hearing on Recent Changes to Endangered Species Critical Habitat Designation and Implementation

Witnesses: The Honorable Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Mr. David L. Bernhardt, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP (former Solicitor for the U.S. Department of the Interior, 2006-2008); Dr. Loyal Mehrhoff, Endangered Species Recovery Director, Center for Biological Diversity; Ms. Robbie LeValley, County Administrator, Delta County (former President, Colorado Cattlemen's Association); Ms. Karen Budd-Falen, Senior Partner, Budd-Falen Law Offices, LLC.

Note: This hearing primarily focused on land-based endangered species and a recent rule issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dealing with how critical habitat can be designated.; however, additional fisheries related issues did come up including: the issues of fish and the relationship to water users; Delta smelt and salmon biological opinions; Delta smelt recovery plans and the impact of that species on farming; the effects of warm water discharges and potential closures of power plants on listed manatees; and climate change and critical habitat for sea turtles.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=400213>

- March 22, 2016 - The House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held an oversight hearing titled "Examining the Missions and Impacts of the President's Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Power Marketing Administrations".

Witnesses: Mr. Jim Kurth, Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.; The Honorable Estevan López, Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Mark Gabriel, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration, Lakewood, Colorado; Ms. Claudia Andrews, Chief Operating Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Damascus, Oregon; Ms. Eileen Sobek, Assistant Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Fisheries, Silver Spring, Maryland

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=400061>

- March 15-16, 2016 - The House Natural Resources Committee held a markup of a number of bills on including: H.R. 3070 (Rep. Lee Zeldin), the “EEZ Clarification Act”, a bill to clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes. (Note: the Committee had originally planned on considering H.R. 4245 (Rep. Chellie Pingree), a bill to exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; however, that legislation will be considered at a later date. (Additional note: At the markup, Congressman Graves mentioned recent legislation extending state water jurisdiction in the Gulf of Mexico – approximately 1:06:30)

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=400090>

- March 3, 2016, 10:00 am - Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee held an Oversight Hearing titled “The Impacts of Federal Fisheries Management on Small Businesses (the Committee is chaired by Senator Vitter, R-Louisiana).

Witnesses: Ms. Pam Anderson, Operations Manager, Capt. Anderson's Marina; Mr. Hughes Andry, Regional Manager, Sportco Marketing; Mr. Brad Gentner, President, Gentner Group Consulting, LLC; Mr. James Hayward, President, XI Northeast Fisheries Sector, Inc.; Dr. Joshua Wiersma, Manager, Northeast Fisheries, Environmental Defense Fund

Link: http://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=C9AC5BF4-B3B5-48E2-8083-2EBA23A32BC1

- March 1, 2016, 2:00 pm – House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans held a Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4576, the “Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act”

Witnesses: Ambassador David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Brian Hallman, Executive Director, American Tunaboat Association, San Diego, California; Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, Alaska; Ms. Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, West Pacific Fishery Management Council, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mr. Russell Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington, D.C.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399969>

- The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held an Oversight Hearing on February 23, 2016 titled “The Magnuson-Stevens Act at 40: Successes, Challenges and the Path Forward.” The hearing was chaired by Senator Sullivan (R-Alaska) and was attended by 9 other Senators (listed alphabetically) – Senator Ayotte (R-New Hampshire), Senator Blumenthal (D-

Connecticut), Senator Booker (D-New Jersey), Senator Cantwell (D-Washington), Senator Markey (D-Massachusetts), Senator Nelson (D-Florida), Senator Peters (D-Michigan), Senator Schatz (D-Hawaii), and Senator Wicker (R-Mississippi).

Witnesses: Sam Rauch from NMFS was the only witness.

Link: <http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=6A78AA91-F806-4C75-A0A3-DAC399CEE96B>

- The House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held an Oversight Hearing on February 24, 2016, titled “The President’s Imposition of New Environmental Mitigation Regulations”.

Witnesses: Mr. Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; Mr. Brian Ferebee, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Ms. Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality, The White House.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399897>

- The House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a Legislative Hearing on February 2, 2016 on H.R. 3070, the EEZ Clarification Act (Zeldin, R-New York) and H.R. 4245, a bill to exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Pingree, D-Maine).

Witnesses: Mr. Joe Leask, Chairman, Department of Marine Resources Sea Urchin Zone Council, Rockwood, Maine; Mr. William Woody, Assistant Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Atchan Tamaki, Founder, ISF Trading, Inc.; Portland, Maine; Mr. Daniel Morris, Deputy Regional Administrator, Greater Atlantic Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, Massachusetts; Captain John McMurray, One More Cast Charters, Oceanside, New York; and Captain Joe McBride, Montauk Boatmen & Captains Association, East Hampton, New York.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399795>

- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee marked up S. 659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2015 on January 20, 2016. Senator Vitter (R-Louisiana) offered two amendments related to management of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery. The bill was ordered reported by a vote of 12-8.
 - o The first amendment (Vitter Amendment #2) would require the Administrator of NOAA to incorporate data related to fisheries that utilize offshore infrastructure directly into stock assessments carried out for the reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico, to develop new technologies and

alternative approaches to accurately assess fish populations surrounding offshore infrastructure, and to use such data for fishery management decisions in fiscal year 2016. The amendment would also require the Administrator, if an increase is made to the acceptable biological catch of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery as a result of the new data required by the amendment, to allocate no less than 80 percent of that increase that is more than the historical high of 10 million pounds to the recreational sector of the fishery. The amendment would also require that the Administrator submit a report to Congress that details how new data will be incorporated and used in fiscal year 2016. The amendment was offered and withdrawn.

o The second amendment was modified and then offered. The amendment would extend the State boundaries to 3 marine leagues for the five States in the Gulf of Mexico for management activities pursuant to the fishery management plan for (or any amendments to) the reef fish resources of the Gulf of Mexico. The amendment passed 11-9.

At the markup, it was noted by Senator Boxer (D-California) that she had heard from Senators Nelson (D-Florida) and Cantwell (D-Washington) that management of the red snapper fishery was under the jurisdiction of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and that those Senators objected to the consideration of red snapper-related amendments by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. A hearing on the legislation had been held by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on March 17, 2015.

Link: <http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=E4B9C176-46DC-40EB-A4E9-9A7E2C4D57EC>

- The House Natural Resources Committee held an oversight hearing on December 7, 2015 titled "Restoring Atlantic Fisheries and Protecting the Regional Seafood Economy". The hearing was held in Riverhead, New York.

Witnesses: Captain Joe McBride, Montauk Boatmen & Captains Association, East Hampton, New York; Mr. Jim Donofrio, Executive Director, Recreational Fishing Alliance, New Gretna, New Jersey; Mr. Kerry Heffernan, Chef, Grand Banks, Hudson River Park, New York; Dr. Paul Rago, Branch Chief, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Woods Hole, Massachusetts; Mr. Patrick Paquette, Basic Strategies, Hyannis, Massachusetts; Ms. Bonnie Brady, Executive Director, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, Montauk, New York; and Mr. Greg DiDomenico, Executive Director, Garden State Seafood Association, Trenton, New Jersey.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399649>

- House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3094, the Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority Act (Graves, R-Louisiana) - October 22, 2015.

Witnesses: Mr. Robert Barham, Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, State of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Mr. Alan Risenhoover, Director of the Office of Sustainable

Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries, Silver Spring, Maryland; Mr. Nick Wiley, Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida; Mr. Christopher M. Horton, Fisheries Program Director, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Bismarck, Arkansas; Captain Gary Jarvis, Owner, Back Down 2 Charters, Destin, Florida; Mr. Bob Zales, President, National Association of Charterboat Operators, Hurley, Mississippi; Mr. Jason De La Cruz, President and Chief Operating Officer, Wild Seafood Co., E. Madeira Beach, Florida; Ms. Haley Bitterman, Corporate Executive Chef & Director of Operations, Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group, New Orleans, Louisiana; Mr. David Cresson, Executive Director/CEO, Coastal Conservation Association, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399448>

- House Natural Resources Committee Markup of a number of bills including H.R. 2406, To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes or "SHARE Act" (Wittman, R-VA) - October 7 & 8, 2015. Links are below:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399404>

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399405>

- House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Oversight Hearing on Marine National Monument Designations - September 29, 2015.

Witnesses: Mr. Jon Williams, Owner, The Atlantic Red Crab Company, New Bedford, Massachusetts; Dr. Holly Bamford, Acting, Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Management, National Ocean Service, Silver Spring, Maryland; Dr. Andrew A. Rosenberg, Director, Center for Science and Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Mr. Rod Moore, Executive Director, West Coast Seafood Processors Association, Portland, Oregon; Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, Alaska.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399339>

- House Natural Resources Committee Markup of a number of bills including H.R. 2168, West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act (Herrera Beutler, R-WA) – September 9 & 10, 2015. Links are below:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399239>

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399240>

- House Committee on Natural Resources and House Committee on Small Business Joint Oversight Field Hearing in Homestead, Florida on “Restricted Access at Biscayne National Park and Implications for Fishermen, Small Businesses, the Local Economy and Environment” - August 3, 2015.

Witnesses: Mr. Carl Liederman, Owner, Captain Harry’s Fishing Supply, Miami, Florida; Mr. Brian Carlstrom, Superintendent, Biscayne National Park, Homestead, Florida; Ms. Jessica McCawley, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries Management, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida; Dr. Jerry Ault, Professor, University of Miami, Miami, Florida; Mr. Bouncer Smith, Owner, Bouncer’s Dusky 33 Fishing Charters, Miami, Florida; Mr. Ernie Piton, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen’s Association, Key Largo, Florida; Mr. Bryan Boyd, Owner, Ocean Blue Yacht Sales, Stuart, Florida; Mr. Scott Salyers, Fishing Group Publisher, Bonnier Corporation, Palmetto Bay, Florida; Mr. Jimbo Thomas, Captain, Thomas Flyer, Miami, Florida.

Note: Video of the field hearing is not available; however, testimony and other information is available at the link below:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399137>

- House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Legislative Hearing on H.R. 564, Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act (Herrera Beutler, R-WA), and H.R. 2168, West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act (Herrera Beutler, R-WA) - July 23, 2015.

Witnesses: The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler, Member of Congress, Washington's 3rd District; The Honorable John Carney, Member of Congress, Delaware's At-Large District; The Honorable Leotis McCormack, Commissioner, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Lapwai, Idaho (Testifying on H.R. 564); Mr. Collin O’Mara, President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation, Merrifield, Virginia (Testifying on H.R. 1772); Ms. Wendi Webber, Northeast Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts (Testifying on H.R. 1772); Mr. Barry Thom, Deputy Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, Portland, Oregon (Testifying on H.R. 564 and H.R. 2168); Mr. Dale Beasley, President, Columbia River Crab Fisherman’s Association, Ilwaco, Washington (Testifying on H.R. 2168).

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399077>

- Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Markup of S. 1403, Florida Fisheries Improvement Act (Rubio, R-FL) and other legislation - June 25, 2015.

Link: <http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=FC4FFE29-8386-43AA-835F-2703329209A5>

- Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Markup of S. 1334, Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act (Murkowski, R-AK), S. 1335, North Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (Sullivan, R-AK), S. 1251, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Amendments Act (Markey, D-MA), S. 1336, South Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (Schatz, D-HI) - May 20, 2015.

Link: <http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=D82FC137-2F21-4008-969A-67A1CFD53D30>

- House Natural Resources Committee Joint Legislative Hearing by the Subcommittee on Federal Lands and the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans titled "To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes" – May 20, 2015.

Witnesses: Mr. Steve Ellis, Deputy Director for Operations, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.; Ms. Leslie Weldon, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.; Mr. John Annoni, Founder, Camp Compass Academy and 2 Million Bullets, Allentown, Pennsylvania; Mr. Jeff Crane, President, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Jorge Gutierrez, Past President, Everglades Coordinating Council, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398523>

- The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee’s Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard held an Oversight Hearing titled “Improvements and Innovations in Fishery Management and Data Collection” on Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Witnesses: The Honorable Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D., Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Mr. Robert Beal, Executive Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; Mr. Brett Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Snook and Gamefish Foundation; Dr. Steven A. Murawski, Professor and Peter Betzer Endowed Chair of Biological Oceanography, University of South Florida.

Link: <http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=0D31F7DF-1CB0-476A-9D64-A848B874B1A7>

- House Natural Resources Committee Markup of H.R. 774, Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015 (Bordallo, D-Guam) and H.R. 1335, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act (Young, R-Alaska) - April 30, 2015.

Link: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398439>

- Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on “The Impacts of Vessel Discharge Regulations on our Shipping and Fishing Industries” – February 4, 2015.

Witnesses: Mr. James Farley, President, Kirby Offshore Marine; Mr. James Weakley, President, Lake Carriers Association; Ms. Claudia Copeland, Specialist in Resources and Environmental Policy, Congressional Research Service; Captain Robert Zales, President, National Association of Charter Boat Operators.

Link: <http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=3D96309E-7F98-445B-9FDF-9483E042CD5E>