



Legislative Update

181st Council Meeting

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization:

More than half way through the 116th Congress and still only one bill that reauthorizes the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

19 other bills either mention or amend the MSA, but none of these reauthorize the Act.

Chairman Huffman Listening Sessions:

Congressman Huffman (D-California) and Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee's Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee has been holding "Listening Sessions" on the reauthorization of the MSA and has said he will try to hold one in each of the fishery management council regions. So far he has held 7 sessions including one in Honolulu. He plans to introduce a reauthorization bill following the sessions and sometime possibly this spring.

According to the original announcement, "Rep. Huffman's goal for this listening tour is to assess whether improvements to the Magnuson-Stevens Act are needed and if so, what they should be. Topics covered in the roundtables will include, but are not limited to:

- Climate change impacts on fisheries and whether managers have the tools and resources they need to ensure resilient fish populations and stability to fishing communities;
- Challenges of modernizing and improving our data collection systems;
- Supporting working waterfronts, coastal communities, and subsistence fishing, such as improving the fisheries disaster relief system and mitigating the harmful impacts of trade wars and unfair, illegal fishing practices;
- Examining how current fisheries management practices are maintaining ecosystem roles and functions, protecting important habitats, and minimizing bycatch;
- Challenges associated with stocks that are still unhealthy or experiencing overfishing; and
- Ensuring equitable access to resources and a sustainable future for seafood."

A link to the announcement and other information on the listening tour can be found at:

<https://huffman.house.gov/msa>

(Note: along with the links to videos of previous listening sessions, there is also a link for submitting public comment.)

Each of the sessions has opened with a statement by Chairman Huffman, followed by five minute statements from each of the selected panelists. Following all of the statements, Chairman Huffman posed questions for the panelists to discuss and then questions (submitted in writing by audience members) were discussed by the Chairman and the panelists. Finally, each of the sessions ended with a short public comment period.

So far, the sessions have been held in: Arcata, California; San Francisco, California; Baltimore, Maryland; Seattle, Washington; New Orleans, Louisiana; Miami, Florida; with the Honolulu, Hawaii session taking place today. According to the website, the Honolulu session will be led by Congressman Case (D-Hawaii) with Chairman Huffman participating by videoconference.

Hearings of Interest:

At this point, no hearings of interest have been scheduled for the near future.

Other Legislation of Possible Interest:

Coral Reefs:

H.R. 1014, the “Offshore Wind for Territories Act”, (Rep. Gonzalez-Colon, R-Puerto Rico), a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 6, 2019, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 2352, the “Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act”, (Rep. Wasserman Schultz, D-Florida), a bill to improve the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Coast Guard, and coastal States to sustain healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems by maintaining and sustaining their capabilities relating to oil spill preparedness, prevention, and response, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 22, 2019 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and in addition to the House Natural Resources Committee, and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 2587, the “Reef Safe Act of 2019”, (Rep. Gabbard, D-Hawaii), a bill to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to develop standards for a “Reef Safe” label for sunscreen. Introduced on May 8, 2019, and referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

H.R. 2588, the “Oxybenzone and Octinoxate Impact Study Act of 2019”, (Rep. Gabbard, D-Hawaii), a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

to conduct a study on the effects of oxybenzone and octinoxate on the environment and public health, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 8, 2019 and referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and to the House Natural Resources Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 3384, the “Coral Reef Sustainability Through Innovation Act of 2019”, (Rep. Case, 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 June 20, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 3548, the “Bolstering Long-Term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries Act” or the “BLUE GLOBE Act”, (Rep. Bonamici, D-Oregon), a bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 27, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and in addition to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and the House Education and Labor Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 4294, the “American Energy First Act”, (Rep. Scalise, R-Louisiana), a bill to empower States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, to distribute revenues from oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf to certain coastal States, to promote alternative energy development, and for other purposes. Introduced on September 11, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. (Creates a Coral Reef Conservation Fund.)

S. 499, the “Offshore Wind for Territories Act”, (Sen. Cassidy, R-Louisiana), a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 14, 2019, and referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

S. 933, the “Bolstering Long-Term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries Act” or the “BLUE GLOBE Act”, (Sen. Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island), a bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 28, 2019, and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1371, the “Oxybenzone and Octinoxate Impact Study Act of 2019”, (Sen. Merkley, D-Oregon), a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on the effects of oxybenzone and octinoxate on the environment and public

health, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 8, 2019 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

S. 1375, the “Reef Safe Act of 2019”, (Sen. Merkley, D-Oregon), a bill to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to develop standards for a “Reef Safe” label for sunscreen. Introduced on May 8, 2019, and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1922, the “Coral Sustainability Through Innovation Act of 2019”, (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 June 20, 2019 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 2429, the “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019”, (Sen. Rubio, R-Florida), a bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes. Introduced on August 1, 2019 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

H.R. 4160, the “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019”, (Rep. Soto, D- Florida), a bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes. Introduced on August 2, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

Sharks:

H.R. 614 (Rep. Lieu, D-California), a bill to prohibit the sale of shark parts, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 16, 2019, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 737, (Re. Sablan, D-CNMI), a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 23, 2019, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee. On March 26, 2019, the House Natural Resources Committee’s Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee held a hearing on the legislation. On September 18, 2019, the House Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill to be reported.

H.R. 788 (Rep. Webster, R-Florida), a bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks. Introduced on January 24, 2019, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

H.R. 864, the “Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act of 2019”, (Mr. Garamendi, D-California) a bill to support wildlife conservation, improve anti-trafficking enforcement, provide dedicated funding at no expense to taxpayers, and for other purposes – would direct any fines, penalties, and forfeitures of property from shark finning or fishery violations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) to support shark conservation.

H.R. 3697, the “Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act”, (Rep. Young, R-Alaska), a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes. Introduced on July 11, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

S. 877, the “Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2019”, (Sen. Booker, D-New Jersey), a bill to prohibit sale of shark fins, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 26, 2019, and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. On April 3, 2019, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee ordered the legislation to be reported without amendment.

S. 1008, the “Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act of 2019”, (Sen. Rubio, R-Florida), a bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 3, 2019 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

Seabirds:

H.R. 1305, the “Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act”, (Rep. Lowenthal, D-California), a bill to implement the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 15, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. On March 26, 2019, the House Natural Resources Committee’s Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee held a hearing on the legislation.

Monuments:

H.R. 1050, the “America’s Natural Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States Act ”or the “ANTIQUITIES Act”, (Rep. Haaland, D-New Mexico), a bill to provide for the administration of certain national monuments, to establish a National Monument Enhancement Fund, and to establish certain wilderness areas in the States of New Mexico and Nevada. Introduced on February 7, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1664, the “National Monument Creation And Protection Act” or the “National Monument CAP 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 March 11, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

S. 367, the “America’s Natural Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States Act” or the “ANTIQUITIES Act”, (Sen. Udall, D-New Mexico), a bill to provide for the administration of certain national monuments, to establish a National Monument Enhancement Fund, and to establish certain wilderness areas in

the States of New Mexico and Nevada. Introduced on February 7, 2019 and referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Turtles:

H.R. 872, the “Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Act” or the “WILD Act”, (Rep. Lowenthal, D-California), a bill to reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and certain wildlife conservation funds, to establish prize competitions relating to the prevention of wildlife poaching and trafficking, wildlife conservation, the management of invasive species, and the protection of endangered species, to amend the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 to modify the protections provided by that Act, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 1, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 268, the “Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Act” or the “WILD Act”, (Sen. Barrasso, R-Wyoming), a bill to reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and certain wildlife conservation funds, to establish prize competitions relating to the prevention of wildlife poaching and trafficking, wildlife conservation, the management of invasive species, and the protection of endangered species, to amend the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 to modify the protections provided by that Act, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 29, 2019 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. On February 5, 2019, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee ordered the bill to be reported and without a report the bill was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.

IUU:

H.R. 864, the “Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act of 2019”, (Rep. Garamendi, D- California), a bill to support wildlife conservation, improve anti-trafficking enforcement, provide dedicated funding at no expense to taxpayers, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 30, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 3548, the “Bolstering Long-Term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries Act” or the “BLUE GLOBE Act”, (Rep. Bonamici, D-Oregon), a bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes. Introduced on June 27, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and in addition to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and the House Education and Labor Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 933, the “Bolstering Long-Term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries Act” or the “BLUE GLOBE Act”, (Sen. Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island), a bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 28, 2019, and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1269 (Sen. Wicker, R-Mississippi) a bill to address the threat to national security from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and associated illegal activity, to prevent the illegal trade of seafood and seafood products, and for other purposes.

S. 1417, the “Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act of 2019”, (Sen. Wicker, R-Mississippi), a bill to reauthorize activities of the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 9, 2019 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 1439, the “Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act of 2019”, (Sen. Wicker, R-Mississippi), a bill to reauthorize activities of the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes. Introduced on May 14, 2019 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. On May 15, 2019, the Senate Commerce Committee ordered the bill (amended) to be reported.

Misc. Fisheries Related:

H.R. 417 (Rep. Soto, R-Florida), a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish measures to combat invasive lionfish, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 9, 2019, and referred to the House Judiciary Committee, and in addition to the House Natural Resources Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 1218, the “American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act”, (Rep. Young, 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 February 13, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1240, the “Young Fishermen’s Development Act of 2019”, (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. Introduced on February 14, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1747, the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act”, (Rep. Wittman, R-Virginia), a bill to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested persons to promote fish conservation. Introduced on March 13, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

S. 494, 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 February

14, 2019 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. On April 3, 2019, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee ordered the legislation to be reported without amendment.

S. 496, the “Young Fishermen’s Development Act”, 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 February 14, 2019 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

S. 754, the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Act of 2019”, (Sen. Crapo, R-Idaho), a bill to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties to promote fish conservation, and for other purposes. Introduced on March 12, 2019 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Climate Change / Ocean Acidification / Harmful Algal Bloom:

- Note: 103 bills or amendments have been introduced that mention climate change...

H.R. 335, the “South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2019”, (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 South Florida, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 8, 2019, and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and in addition to the House Natural Resources Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 414, the “Protecting Local Communities from Harmful Algal Blooms Act” (Rep. Rooney, R-Florida) a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include algal blooms in the definition of a major disaster, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 9, 2019, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

H.R. 988, the “National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2019” or the “NEAR Act of 2019”, Rep. Posey (R-Florida), a bill to provide for a study by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments. Introduced on February 6, 2019 and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and in addition to the House Natural Resources Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. On April 9, 2019, the House Science, Space, and Technology’s Environment Subcommittee marked up the legislation and ordered it to be forwarded to the full committee by voice vote.

H.R. 1237, the “Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act of 2019” or the “COAST Research Act of 2019”, (Rep. Bonamici, D-Oregon), a bill to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 to establish an Ocean Acidification Advisory Board, to expand and improve the research on Ocean Acidification and Coastal Acidification, to establish and maintain a data archive system for

Ocean Acidification data and Coastal Acidification data, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 14, 2019 and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

H.R. 1317, “Coastal Communities Adaptation Act”, (Rep. Rouda, D-California), a bill to improve the resilience of the built and natural environment to natural disasters and climate change using, among other measures, natural and nature-based features, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 22, 2019 and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and in addition to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the House Oversight and Reform Committee, the House Financial Services Committee, and the House Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 1716, the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”, (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 March 13, 2019 and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

H.R. 1921, the “Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2019”, (Rep. Kilmer, D-Washington), a bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to ocean acidification. Introduced on March 27, 2019 and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

H.R. 2247, the “Promoting United Government Efforts To Save Our Sound Act” or the “PUGET SOS Act”, (Rep. Heck, D- Washington), a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 10, 2019 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. (Note: significant mention of salmon.)

H.R. 2349, the “Climate Change Education Act”, (Rep. Dingell, D- Michigan), a bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program, and for other purposes. Introduced on April 22, 2019 and referred to the House Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the House Education and Labor Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 778, the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”, (Sen. Murkowski, R-Alaska), 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 March 13, 2019 and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

Invasive Species:

H.R. 872, the “Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Act” or the “WILD Act”, (Rep. Lowenthal, D-California), a bill to reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

and certain wildlife conservation funds, to establish prize competitions relating to the prevention of wildlife poaching and trafficking, wildlife conservation, the management of invasive species, and the protection of endangered species, to amend the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 to modify the protections provided by that Act, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 1, 2019 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.