



Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006: An Overview



March 2007

Goals of the 2006 Amendments



- **End overfishing**
- **Promote market-based management approaches**
- **Improve science; larger role in decision-making**
 - Improve recreational data collection
- **Enhance international cooperation**
 - Address IUU fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources



End and Prevent Overfishing



Annual Catch Limits

- **New requirement for Fishery Management Plans**
- **Sets catch levels to prevent overfishing, based on scientific advice**
- **Increased accountability**
- **Required for each managed fishery by**
 - **2010 for stocks “subject to overfishing”**
 - **2011 for all others**
 - **Exceptions: annual life cycles, international agreements**

STAY INVOLVED

NMFS will develop guidelines for the new requirements through an open public process, started in February 2007.



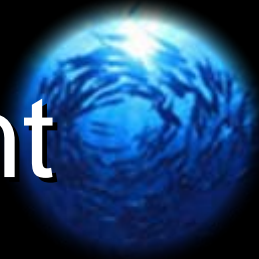
End and Prevent Overfishing



- **For overfished stocks or stocks approaching overfished:**
 - **Management measures must be prepared and implemented to end overfishing immediately within 2 years of notification**
 - **Effective July 2009**



Market-Based Management



Limited Access Privilege Programs

- **Additional tool for fisheries managers**
- **Involves a transferable permit that specifies the amount of catch a privilege holder may harvest**
- **Goals are to rebuild overfished stocks, reduce overcapacity, and promote safety, while providing social and economic benefits**

STAY INVOLVED

NMFS will release draft technical guidance for public review in April 2007.



Limited Access Privilege Programs



Allocation of Harvest Privileges

- **Individuals, corporations, communities, and “regional fishery associations” may hold privileges**
- **Initial allocations must be “fair and equitable”**
- **Prevent acquisition of excessive shares**

STAY INVOLVED

In July 2007, NMFS will release for public review draft guidelines and procedures on the New England and Gulf of Mexico Councils’ referenda.



Improving Science



Data that Meets Management Needs

- Stronger role for Councils' Science and Statistical Committees (SSC)
- Enhanced peer review processes
- New regional pilot programs for ecosystem research
- Requires each Council to develop 5-year research priorities

Research Programs

- Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program
- Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program
- Cooperative Research and Management Program



Improving Science



More Accurate and Precise Fishing Information

Recreational fisheries

- New angler registry
- Improve the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS)

Commercial fisheries

- Fish processing data and necessary economic information required in FMPs

STAY INVOLVED

Throughout 2007, NMFS will be engaged in a public process to improve recreational data collection and analysis.



International Issues



Address IUU Fishing and Bycatch

- **Address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources**
 - **Biennial Report to Congress on International Compliance**
 - **NMFS will certify as to whether nations are taking appropriate actions to address IUU fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources**
 - **Nations could be subject to sanctions of the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act**



International Issues



Enhance International Cooperation

- Provide recommendations to State Department and Congress to end overfishing
- Improve international monitoring and compliance
- Strengthen regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs)
- Maintain historical U.S. catch shares
- Establish new Secretarial representative for international fisheries
- Provide assistance to other nations (e.g., technology transfer)

Implements International Fisheries Agreements

- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention
- U.S./Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting



NEPA-MSA Streamlining



Environmental Review Procedures

- **Goal of integrating NEPA and the fisheries management process for environmental review**
- **NMFS will work with the Regional Councils and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to revise procedures for compliance with NEPA within 1 year**

STAY INVOLVED

Regional listening sessions are planned in April-June 2007; a draft document will be available for public comment in July 2007.



Towards Sustainable Fisheries



Other Important Provisions

- **Strengthens conflict of interest rules for the Councils**
- **FMPs may designate zones to protect deep sea corals and include conservation measures for non-target species**
- **Joint enforcement agreements between the Secretary and the states may be established at the request of Governors**
- **Authorizes the Community-Based Restoration Program for Fishery and Coastal Habitats**
- **Regional Coastal Disaster Assistance, Transition, and Recovery Program**
- **Fisheries Hurricane Assistance Program**



Major Implementation Activities



NMFS priorities are based on provisions with Congressionally-mandated deadlines

Including:

- **Fishery management plans meet annual catch limit requirements (2010 and 2011)**
- **Revise procedures for compliance with NEPA and MSA (Jan. 2008)**
- **Establish a program to improve the data generated by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (Jan. 2009)**
- **1st international report and certification procedures (Jan. 2009)**
- **Establish a Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (Jan. 2008)**
- **Publish guidelines on limited access program referenda for New England and Gulf Councils (Jan. 2008)**



Summary



2006 Amendments:

- End and prevent overfishing
- Expanded management tools
- Larger role for science
- Seek international cooperation



Implementation Priorities:

- Annual Catch Limits
- Recreational Data Improvement
- IUU Fishing
- NEPA-MSA Streamlining





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