

Council Coordination Committee Meeting

Revised NEPA/Magnuson-Stevens Act Procedures Update

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Background

- ◆ New Magnuson-Stevens Act NEPA Provisions January 2007
- ◆ CCC Strawman February 2007
- ◆ Public Comments
- ◆ December 19 Meeting w/ CCC Subcomm.



New Magnuson Stevens Act NEPA Provisions

- ◆ “The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Councils and the CEQ, revise and update agency procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Procedures shall—
- ◆ Conform to the time lines for review and approval of fishery management plans and plan amendments; and”



New Magnuson Stevens Act NEPA Provisions (continued)

- ◆ “Integrate applicable environmental analytical procedures, including the time frames for public input, with the procedure for the preparation and dissemination of fishery management plans, plan amendments, and other actions taken or approved pursuant to this Act in order to provide for timely, clear, and concise analysis that is useful to decision makers and the public, reduce extraneous paperwork, and effectively involve the public.”



Major Issues for “New” NEPA Process

- ◆ Sole NEPA Compliance Process for MSA Fishery Management Actions
- ◆ Alignment of MSA/NEPA Timelines—Scoping, Public Comments, MSA clock
- ◆ Clarification of “Reasonable Alternatives” and the “No Action” Alt. for MSA Actions
- ◆ Voting “Inside” and “Outside” of the Box
- ◆ MSA Actions and Dealing with Unavailable Info
- ◆ Programmatic Approach for MSA Emergency Actions



Discussion and Next Steps

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