

Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Agenda
MAFAC Meeting – May 22 - May 24, 2012
Seattle, WA

- 1. Title of Discussion** Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program
- 2. Presenters:** Dr. Mark Holliday, Director, NMFS Office of Policy
- 3. Objective/Purpose: [Informational]:**
- Overview of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program
 - Review of recently introduced legislation

4. Background/Synopsis:

During MAFAC's October 2011 meeting in Washington, DC, the committee requested a briefing on the status and future of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program.

The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act establishes a competitive program administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program is supported by duties levied on imported fishery products. The program provides financial assistance (grants or cooperative agreements) for research and development projects to benefit the U.S. fishing industry. The S-K program addresses the needs of fishing communities by providing economic benefits for rebuilding and maintaining sustainable fisheries and addressing the impacts of conservation and management measures. Historically, the S-K program played an important role in addressing issues of immediate concern to the commercial fishing industry, such as supporting many new gear innovations, markets, and management options.

The Act also authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to carry out programmatic work to address aspects of U.S. fisheries not adequately addressed by projects funded under the Competitive Grant Program. This aspect of appropriating the Act's funds has been criticized – particularly by the fishing industry. In recent years, Congress has appropriated S-K funds to off-set operational costs at NOAA, rather than appropriating funds for these activities out of general Treasury revenues.

In April 2012, legislation was introduced in the U.S. House and Senate to restore the primary use of Saltonstall-Kennedy funds to the external grant program that supports engaging fishermen for fisheries research and development. The two introduced bills are:

- [HR 4208, Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act of 2012](#)
- [S 2184, Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act of 2012](#)

5. Options: N/A

6. Preferred Recommendation:

Record of Decision:
Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:
Assigned to:
Due Date: