



MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization

*H.R. ____: "Strengthening Fishing Communities and
Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act."*

Council Coordinating Committee
2/20/2014

MSA Reauthorization Timeline

- **May 7-9, 2013:** Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 – findings and recommendations developed for Congressional consideration.
- **March 2013 – Present:** Reauthorization hearings before the 113th Congress
- **November 8, 2013:** CCC letter to Hastings & Begich
- **December 19, 2013:** House Natural Resource Committee releases a discussion draft for public comment.
- **End of 2014:** House Natural Resource Committee's expects to move forward on reauthorization legislation.

MSA Reauthorization Hearings

113th Congress

U.S. House of Representatives – Committee on Natural Resources

- **March 13, 2013:** Oversight Hearing
- **September 11, 2013:** Oversight Hearing
- **February 4, 2013:** Legislative Hearing

Complete list of hearings: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/magnusonstevens/>

U.S. Senate – Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard

- **July 23, 2013:** Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Perspectives
- **November 14, 2013:** Southeast Regional Perspectives
- **January 30, 2014:** Western Pacific Perspectives

November 8, 2013 letter to
Representative Doc Hastings and Senator Mark Begich

CCC Priorities for Improvement

- Stock rebuilding plans, including:
 - Providing flexibility in rebuilding schedules
 - Addressing discontinuity of the 10-yr requirement
 - Taking socioeconomic factors into account
- Ending overfishing
- Mixed stock fishery flexibility
- Recreational fishery considerations
- Management of data-poor stocks
- International fishery management issues

Draft MSA Reauthorization Legislation Overview

Draft Sections by #:

3. Flexibility in rebuilding fish stocks.
4. Modifications to the annual catch limit requirement.
5. Distinguishing between overfished and depleted.
6. Transparency and public process for scientific and management actions.
7. Limitation on future catch share programs.
8. Data collection and data confidentiality.
9. Council jurisdiction for overlapping fisheries.

Feb 2014 Hearing: Overview of Main Concerns

Issues Not Addressed

Recreational Fisheries

Sustainability certification

Ecosystems

Observer Funding

Problematic aspects of the draft

ACL Exemption for Incidental Species

Mixed-Stock Exemption

Changes in the SSC's role

Data confidentiality

Catch share referenda requirements

Other Issues

Ambiguous language

Practicality?

Interactions with other laws?

Next Steps: CCC Working Groups?

- Interaction between MSA and other applicable laws
 - NEPA, ESA, MMPA, etc.
- Stock rebuilding
- Other?

Next Steps: Updated CCC Input?

Discussion Draft Sections:

3. Flexibility in rebuilding fish stocks.
4. Modifications to the annual catch limit requirement.
5. Distinguishing between overfished and depleted.
6. Transparency and public process for scientific and management actions.
7. Limitation on future catch share programs.
8. Data collection and data confidentiality.
9. Council jurisdiction for overlapping fisheries.

NEXT STEPS: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT?

"It has been released as a draft rather than as an introduced bill with text locked in stone to allow for public discussion, review and comment. The intent is to seek feedback and listen to input."

- Representative Doc Hastings, Opening Remarks – House Natural Resource Committee Hearing, February 4, 2014

Comments on the draft can be emailed to
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