Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization
Update and MAFMC Survey Results

April 8, 2014
Overview

- MSA reauthorization update
- Summary of council survey results
- Develop draft Council position on MSA
MSA Reauthorization Update

- May 2013 – Early 2014: Congressional Hearings
- December 2013 – House Natural Resources Committee released discussion draft
  - Councils have been asked to provide comments on MSA issues
  - Half have submitted comments so far (New England, Pacific, West Pacific, North Pacific)
- Senate draft is expected within next several weeks
Council Position

- The Council’s position will be used to develop specific comments on the discussion draft and on future draft MSA reauthorization
- Can be amended and supplemented as necessary

Links, documents, and information related to MSA reauthorization are posted at www.mafmc.org/legislative
“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 magnusonstevens@mail.house.gov
MSA Survey

- **Objective:** Gather input from members to support and enhance Council discussions at the April 2014 meeting.
- 16 surveys completed
- Comprehensive data summaries posted on the Council’s website at [www.mafmc.org/briefing/april-2014](http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/april-2014)
Rebuilding Flexibility

Do you believe the councils should have more flexibility in establishing timelines for stock rebuilding plans?

- Yes: 75%
- No: 19%
- Undecided: 6%
Do you support the proposed change to require stock rebuilding as quickly as practicable, not to exceed the time the stock would be rebuilt without fishing occurring plus one mean generation?
Flexibility for Highly Dynamic Fisheries

Do you support a change that would allow councils to phase-in rebuilding plans for “highly dynamic fisheries,” over a 3-year period to lessen economic harm to fishing communities?

- Yes, if modified: 36%
- Yes, as written: 21%
- No: 43%
Rebuilding Exemptions

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed exemptions to stock rebuilding requirements?

- When rebuilding is not possible due to the biology of the stock
- When rebuilding is not possible due to env. conditions
- When rebuilding is not possible due to mgmt under international agreements
- When the cause of depletion is outside of the Council's jurisdiction

![Bar chart showing responses to the question.](chart.png)
Rebuilding Exemptions, II

- When the fishery is part of a mixed stock and can't be rebuilt w/o significant economic harm
- When rebuilding is hindered by activities outside the EEZ that are associated with informal transboundary agreements
- When the stock has been affected by unusual events that make rebuilding impossible without significant economic harm
Alternative Rebuilding Strategies

Do you support this proposed language?

“*A fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations may use alternative rebuilding strategies, including harvest control rules and fishing mortality targets.*”

Pie chart showing:
- Yes: 60%
- I don't understand what this means: 27%
- No: 13%
Termination of Rebuilding Plans

Do you believe the ability to terminate a rebuilding plan should be tied directly to a stock assessment or assessment update?

- Yes: 62%
- No: 13%
- Other: 25%
Emergency Measures

Do you support the proposal to extend the limit for emergency regulations to 1 year from the date of publication?

The limit is currently 180 days.
ACL Exemptions

- **Ecosystem component species**: Strongly Agree 90%, Agree 60%, Neutral 40%, Disagree 20%, Strongly Disagree 10%
- **A fishery with a life cycle of 1 year (unless it is subject to overfishing)**: Strongly Agree 90%, Agree 80%, Neutral 60%, Disagree 40%, Strongly Disagree 20%
- **A stock for which more than half of a single year class will complete their life cycle in <18 months and fishing has little impact on the stock**: Strongly Agree 90%, Agree 80%, Neutral 60%, Disagree 40%, Strongly Disagree 20%
ACL Requirements

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to ACL requirements?

- A Council may establish an ACL for a stock complex
- A Council may set multi-year ACLs for a period of up to three years

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
SSC’s Role in Setting ABCs

Do you support the proposal to modify the Council’s ceiling on setting ABCs from the SSC’s recommended ABC to the overfishing limit?

- Yes, 20%
- Yes, with modification 13%
- No, 67%
Overfished vs. Depleted

Do you support the proposed change to replace the term “overfished” with “depleted”?

- Yes: 67%
- No: 20%
- Yes, with modification to the definition of "depleted": 13%
Distinguishing Between Sources of Fishery Depletion

Do you support the proposal to distinguish between fisheries that are depleted as a result of fishing and fisheries that are depleted due to factors other than fishing?
Transparency and Public Access to Council & SSC Meetings

What forms of public access and record keeping are necessary to ensure transparency before, during, and after Council & SSC meetings?

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Do you support the following provision?

"Any fishery management plan, amendment, or management measure that is prepared in accordance with applicable provisions of the MSA shall be considered to satisfy NEPA requirements."

Yes

57%

No

36%

Yes, with modification

7%
Catch Share Limitations

Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to require the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico Councils from establishing new catch share programs until the program has been approved in a referendum by a majority of eligible permit holders.
Liaison Voting Rights

Do you support the proposal to allow liaisons to vote on the New England and Mid-Atlantic Council?

- Yes: 53%
- No: 20%
- I'm not sure: 27%
Do you think the councils should be required to review allocations periodically?
Sustainable Seafood Certification

Do you think the reauthorization bill should establish a Sustainable Seafood Certification for fisheries managed under the MSA?
Forage Fisheries

When setting quotas on forage species, do you think the Council should be required to consider the ecological role of those species?

- Yes: 94%
- I'm not sure: 6%