



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Legislative Committee MINUTES

October 2, 2019, 3-5 pm, Harbor Room, Land's End Homer, Alaska

Committee members Present: Simon Kinneen (chair), Bill Tweit, Steve Marx, Jim Balsiger, Rachel Baker, and Dave Hanson. Dave Witherell provided staff support.

Public present: Stephanie Madsen, Amy Kirkham, Linda Kozak, Mary Beth Tooley, Keith Bruton, Elaina Spraker.

Chairman Kinneen opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the agenda, and Dave Witherell reviewed the background materials including an action memo and handouts.

Following the presentation, public testimony was taken from Stephanie Madsen.

Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommended that the Council draft a comment letter on H.R. 1979 “The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act” and H.R. 2236 “The Forage Fish Conservation Act” as requested by Mr. Rob Bishop of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources. The letter would be based on the language included in the action memorandum for the Legislative Committee meeting. This language summarizes the major points from the Council’s prior letter on the Forage Fish bill, and provides a short summary on how the Driftnet bill would not impact our current driftnet fisheries in the North Pacific EEZ. The Committee recommended that the letter should also include links to the Council’s prior comment letter on forage fish and the 2-page summary of forage fish management in the North Pacific.

The Committee also recommended that the letter include a recommendation on how the MSA could be amended to allow forage fish to be defined by the councils. It was suggested that the FMPs could include a mandatory provision that requires councils to list forage fish species in their FMPs and describe the conservation and management measures for these forage fish species.