


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke 
Executive Director

DATE: September 21, 1990

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

ACTION REQUIRED

None. Information only.

BACKGROUND

Magnuson Act Reauthorization

Little visible progress has been made on the reauthorization of the Magnuson Act since June. The Senate Commerce Committee has completed its proposed legislation which now must go before the full Senate prior to the House-Senate Conference Committee. However, Congressional staffers have informed me that this bill may move quickly over the next few weeks and that final action may occur in October.

Progress has been made on agency funding. The Senate Commerce Appropriations Committee met on September 14 to mark up the appropriations bill for fiscal year 1991. The Committee has proposed setting the NMFS budget at approximately \$200 million, an increase of \$16 million over that approved for 1990. This budget reflects a \$1.5 million increase to the North Pacific Driftnet Program (now \$4.8 million), and a \$1.8 million increase to the Regional Councils (now \$9 million). These increases are not reflected in the House proposal. House and Senate representatives will be meeting soon to develop a single budget package.

Seafood Inspection

In June I reported that the Senate's Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry seafood inspection bill had been completed and that copies were available upon request. This bill has now been approved by the full Senate and has gone to the House for review. Given the Senate, House, and Administration versions of the bill, this legislation will likely be tied up in Congress until later in the session.