

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Business Session *Strategic Planning*

*August 6, 2013
2:45 – 4:45 p.m.
Alexandria, Virginia*

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Diodati*) 2:45 p.m.
2. Board Consent 2:50 p.m.
 - Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment 2:55 p.m.
4. Draft 2014-12018 Strategic Plan for Public Comment (*R. Beal*) 3:00 p.m.
 - Review Draft Plan
 - Review Timeline and Options for Soliciting Public Input
 - Consider Approval for Public Comment **Action**
5. Other Business/Adjourn 4:45 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia (703) 683 – 6000

Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015.

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Insert Final Vision Statement

Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan 2014-2018



*The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources
as assets which it must turn over to the next generation
increased and not impaired in value.*

Theodore Roosevelt

Introduction

Each state has a fundamental responsibility to safeguard the public trust with respect to its natural resources. Fishery managers are faced with many challenges in carrying out that responsibility. Living marine resources inhabit ecosystems that cross state and federal jurisdictions. Thus, no state, by itself, can effectively protect the interests of its citizens. Each state must work with its sister states and the federal government to conserve and manage natural resources.

Beginning in the late 1930s, the 15 Atlantic coastal states from Maine to Florida took steps to develop cooperative mechanisms to define and achieve their mutual interests in coastal fisheries. The most notable of these was their commitment to form the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) in 1942, and to work together through the Commission to promote the conservation and management of shared marine fishery resources. Over the years, the Commission has remained an effective forum for fishery managers to pursue concerted management actions. Through the Commission, states cooperate in a broad range of programs including interstate fisheries management, fisheries science, habitat conservation, and law enforcement.

Congress has long recognized the critical role of the states and the need to support their mutual efforts. Most notably, it enacted the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act) in 1993, which built on the success of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act of 1984. Acknowledging that no single governmental entity has exclusive management authority for Atlantic coastal fishery resources, the Atlantic Coastal Act recognizes the states' responsibility for cooperative fisheries management through the Commission. The Atlantic Coastal Act charges all Atlantic states with implementing coastal fishery management plans that will safeguard the future of Atlantic coastal fisheries in the interest of both fishermen and the nation.

Accepting these challenges and maintaining their mutual commitment to success, the Atlantic coastal states have adopted this five-year Strategic Plan for the Commission. The states recognize circumstances today make the work of the Commission more important than ever before. The Strategic Plan articulates the mission, vision, values, goals, and strategies needed to accomplish the Commission's mission.

Mission

The Commission's mission, as stated in its 1942 Compact, is:

To promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries, and by the prevention of physical waste of the fisheries from any cause.

The mission grounds the Commission in history. It reminds everyone of the Commission's sense of purpose that has been in place for over 70 years. The constantly changing physical, political,

social, and economic environments led the Commission to restate the mission in more modern terms:

To promote cooperative management of fisheries, marine, shell and diadromous, of the Atlantic coast of the United States by the protection and enhancement of such fisheries, and by the avoidance of physical waste of the fisheries from any cause.

The mission and nature of the Commission as a mutual interstate body incorporate several guiding principles. They include:

- States are sovereign entities, each having its own laws and responsibilities for managing fishery resources within its jurisdiction
- States serve the broad public interest and represent the common good
- Multi-state resource management is complex and dependent upon cooperative efforts by all states involved
- The Commission provides a critical sounding board on issues requiring cross-jurisdictional action, coordinating cooperation, and collaboration among the states and federal government

Vision

The long-term vision of the Commission is to work together to:

Proposed Vision Statements	Vision Statement Ranking (from most to least preferred)			
	1	2	3	4
Sustainably managing Atlantic coastal fisheries	34.6% (9)	26.9% (7)	26.9% (7)	11.5% (3)
Sustainably managing Atlantic marine fisheries	26.9% (7)	42.3% (11)	19.2% (5)	1.5% (3)
Sustainably managing Atlantic coastal resources	19.2% (5)	11.5% (3)	42.3% (11)	26.9% (7)
Sustainable marine fisheries achieved through science and collaboration benefiting all	19.2% (5)	19.2% (5)	11.5% (3)	50% (13)

Values

The Commission and its member states have adopted the following values to guide its operations and activities.

- Effective stewardship of marine resources through strong partnerships
- Decisions based on sound science
- Long-term ecological sustainability
- Transparency and accountability in all actions
- Timely response to new information through adaptive management
- Balancing resource conservation with the economic success of coastal communities
- Efficient use of time and fiscal resources
- Work cooperatively with honesty, integrity, and fairness

Driving Forces

The Commission and its actions are influenced by a multitude of factors. These factors are constantly evolving and will most likely change over the time period of this Strategic Plan. However, the most pressing factors affecting the Commission today are increased pressure on fishery resources, elevated stakeholder scrutiny of the science supporting management decisions, a shifting legislative climate, shrinking state and federal budgets, a growing demand to address ecosystem functions, shifts in populations and habitats due to climate change, and the potential listing of coastal species as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The Strategic Plan, through its goals and broad strategies, will seek to address each of these issues over the next five years.

Pressure on Fishery Resources and Industry

Fishery resources are impacted by a range of sources from fishing related events (harvest and discards) to non-fishery related factors such as trophic interactions, habitat quality and availability, invasive species, and climate change. The Commission, through the authority of the states' marine fishery agencies, can significantly affect fishery-related mortality (through harvest limits and input/output controls), but has little or no control over the non-fishery related factors. Partnerships, research, education, and advocacy will continue to play an important role in enabling the Commission and the states in addressing non-fishery related impacts.

The fishing industry also faces a variety of pressures, including global, national, and local market forces. Essential waterfront infrastructure is being lost to or dramatically changed by more profitable coastal development. Fishermen face increasingly stringent regulations that at times shift fishing effort, create inefficiencies, and restrict fishing opportunities. Resource allocation among the states and between various user groups will continue to be an important issue over the next five years.

Science-based Management

There is a tendency for the public and stakeholders to question the science supporting fisheries management decisions, due in part to a perceived disconnect between fishermen's on-the-water observations and stock assessment results. In some cases, this has resulted in stakeholders developing separate research initiatives or hiring their own fisheries consultants to develop alternative data sets, analyses, and stock assessments, often resulting in conflicting information available to managers. The Commission remains committed to management decisions based on sound science. This includes collaborating with stakeholders to conduct cooperative research, and seeking stakeholder input during the stock assessment process. It also includes an obligation to clearly communicate stock assessment results and advance the public's understanding of fisheries biology and stock assessment concepts through outreach tools.

Legislation

Over the next five years, there are several items on the legislative front that the Commission will need to track closely, including reauthorization of the Atlantic Coastal Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, and the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act – all of which have expired. Each of these laws has a tremendous impact on the states' fisheries

programs, greatly influencing Commission/federal alignment in carrying out our shared stewardship responsibilities. The Commission is dedicated to advancing the states' interests to Congress as it reauthorizes these Acts or takes action on any other legislation that may affect the Commission's operations.

Federal, State, and Commission Resources

Federal funding continues to be restricted by the Budget Control Act of 2011, which includes spending caps on yearly appropriations bills as well as automatic, across-the-board spending cuts, commonly known as "sequestration". Beginning in 2013, nearly every stream of federal fisheries funding decreased by approximately ten percent, including grants that go directly to the states and funding for data collection, as well as the day-to-day operations of the Commission.

The states have also been severely impacted by reduced budgets over the past several years, resulting in an overall reduction in workforce and an associated reduction in fisheries management and research activities. This dire funding environment has led to a situation where current federal and state resources for fisheries science and management are insufficient to meet our collective responsibilities and mandates. Federal and state government resources will continue to be stretched as complex requirements are added without adequate complementary funding. Given these financial realities, the states and their federal partners must maintain and strengthen their partnerships, providing for efficient and effective fisheries management across all agencies. No one state or federal agency has the resources or authority to do it alone.

Ecosystem Functions

Nationally, there has been a growing demand for fisheries managers to address broader ecosystem functions such as predator/prey interactions and environmental factors into their fisheries management planning. The challenge in meeting this demand is its rigorous data requirements. The lack of resources to collect and manage these additional data sets has hindered the Commission in implementing ecosystem-based management. A majority of the Commission's species are managed and assessed on a single species basis incorporating ecosystem services information where available. The Commission remains committed to seeking ecological sustainability over the long-term through continuing its work on multispecies assessment modeling and the development of ecosystem-based reference points in its fisheries management planning process.

Climate Change

Climate change and warming water temperatures will play an important role in the health and availability of coastal fishery resources for years to come. Potential impacts include prey and habitat availability, water quality, susceptibility to disease, and spawning and reproductive potential. The Commission is exploring the relationship between climate change and warming coastal water temperatures, and possible shifts in the geographic distributions of several key Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic stocks. Where shifts are occurring, the Commission may reconsider state-by-state allocation schemes and the need for adjustments to our fishery management plans.

Threatened and Endangered Species Listings

The recent listing of Atlantic sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act and the potential listings of river herring and American eel impact the ability of the Commission and its member states to carry out their stewardship responsibilities for these important diadromous species. The Commission and states have made substantial investments in these species and believe that management authority should remain at the state level. All of these species spend the majority of their lives in state waters and depend on estuarine and riverine habitat for their survival. Listing has the potential to jeopardize the states' ability to effectively monitor and assess stock condition, as well as impact fisheries that may encounter listed species. It is incumbent upon the Commission and its federal partners to work jointly to assess stock health, identify threats, and implement effective rebuilding programs for listed and candidate species.

GOALS & STRATEGIES

The Commission will pursue the following seven goals and their related strategies during the five-year planning period, from 2014 through 2018. It will pursue these goals through specific objectives, targets, and milestones outlined in an annual Action Plan, which is adopted each year at the Commission's Annual Meeting to guide the subsequent year's activities. Throughout the year, the Commission and its staff will monitor progress in meeting the Commission's goals, and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies. While committed to the strategies included in this plan, the Commission is ready to adopt additional strategies to take advantage of new opportunities and address emerging issues as they arise.

Goal 1 - Rebuild, maintain and fairly (equitably) allocate Atlantic coastal fisheries

Goal 1 focuses on the responsibility of the states to conserve and manage Atlantic coastal fishery resources for sustainable use. Commission members will advocate decisions to achieve the long-term benefits of conservation, while balancing the socio-economic interests of coastal communities. The states are committed to proactive management, with a focus on integrating ecosystem services, socio-economic impacts, habitat issues, bycatch and discard reduction measures, and protected species interactions into well defined fishery management plans. Fishery management plans will also address fair (equitable) allocation of fishery resources among the states. Understanding global climate change and its impact on fishery productivity and distribution is an elevated priority. Improving cooperation and coordination with federal partners and stakeholders can streamline efficiency, transparency, and, ultimately, success. In the next five years, the Commission is committed to making significant progress on rebuilding overfished or depleted Atlantic fish stocks.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- a. Manage interstate resources using sound science and well defined management goals
- b. Strengthen state and federal partnerships to improve comprehensive management of shared fishery resources
- c. Adapt management to address emerging issues
- d. Practice efficient, transparent, and accountable management processes
- e. Evaluate progress towards rebuilding fisheries

- f. Strengthen interactions and input among stakeholders, technical, advisory, and management groups

Goal 2 – Provide the scientific basis to conduct stock assessments and support informed management actions

Sustainable management of fisheries relies on accurate and timely scientific advice. The Commission strives to produce sound, actionable science through a technically rigorous, independently peer-reviewed stock assessment process. Assessments are developed using a broad suite of fishery-independent surveys and fishery-dependent monitoring, as well as research products developed by a vast network of fisheries scientists at state, federal, and academic institutions along the coast. The goal encompasses the development of new, innovative scientific research and methodology, and the enhancement of the states' stock assessment capabilities. It provides for the administration, coordination, and expansion of collaborative research and data collection programs. Achieving the goal will ensure sound science is available to serve as the foundation for the Commission's evaluation of stock status and adaptive management actions.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- a. Conduct stock assessments based on comprehensive data sources and collaborative research
- b. Proactively address research priorities through cooperative state and regional data collection programs and rigorous technical analysis
- c. Facilitate stakeholder involvement in research initiatives and the stock assessment process
- d. Promote data collection and research to support ecosystem-based management
- e. Provide stock assessment training to improve the expertise and involvement of state and staff scientists

Goal 3 – Ensure stakeholder compliance with interstate fishery management plans

Fisheries managers, law enforcement personnel, and stakeholders have a shared responsibility to promote compliance with fisheries management measures. Activities under the goal seek to increase and improve compliance with fishery management plans. This requires the successful coordination of both management and enforcement activities among state and federal agencies. Commission members recognize that adequate and consistent enforcement of fisheries rules is required to keep pace with increasingly complex management activity and emerging technologies. Achieving the goal will improve the effectiveness of the Commission's fishery management plans.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- a. Develop practical compliance requirements that foster stakeholder buy-in
- b. Evaluate the enforceability of management measures and the effectiveness of law enforcement programs
- c. Promote coordination and expand existing partnerships with state and federal natural resource law enforcement agencies

- d. Enhance stakeholder awareness of management measures through education and outreach
- e. Use emerging communication platforms to deliver real time information regarding regulations and the outcomes of law enforcement investigations

Goal 4 – Protect and enhance fish habitat and ecosystem health through partnerships and education

Goal 4 aims to conserve and improve coastal, marine, and riverine habitat to enhance the benefits of sustainable Atlantic coastal fisheries and resilient coastal communities in the face of changing ecosystems. Habitat loss and degradation have been identified as significant factors affecting the long-term sustainability and productivity of our nation’s fisheries. The Commission’s Habitat Program develops objectives, sets priorities, and produces tools to guide fisheries habitat conservation efforts directed towards ecosystem-based management.

The challenge for the Commission and its state members is maintaining fish habitat in the absence of specific regulatory authority for habitat protection or enhancement. Therefore, the Commission will work cooperatively with state, federal, and stakeholder partnerships to achieve this goal. The Commission and its Habitat Program endorses the National Fish Habitat Partnership, and will continue to work cooperatively with the program to improve aquatic habitat along the Atlantic coast. Since 2008, the Commission has invested considerable resources, as both a partner and administrative home, to the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, a coastwide collaborative effort to accelerate the conservation and restoration of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- a. Identify critical habitat through fisheries management programs and partnerships
- b. Educate Commissioners, stakeholders, and the general public about the importance of habitat to healthy fisheries and ecosystems
- c. Engage regional and local governments in mutually beneficial habitat protection and enhancement programs through partnerships
- d. Foster partnerships with management agencies, researchers, and habitat stakeholders to leverage regulatory, political, and financial support
- e. Identify mechanisms to evaluate ecosystem health
- f. Engage in state and federal agency efforts to ensure climate change management strategies are included in habitat conservation efforts

Goal 5 – Strengthen stakeholder and public support for the Commission

Stakeholder and public acceptance of Commission decisions are critical to our ultimate success. For the Commission to be effective, these groups must have a clear understanding of our mission, vision, and decision-making processes. The goal seeks to do so through expanded outreach and education efforts about Commission programs, decision-making processes, and its management successes and challenges. It aims to engage stakeholders in the process of fisheries management, and promote the activities and accomplishments of the Commission. Achieving the

goal will increase stakeholder participation, understanding, and acceptance of Commission activities.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- a. Increase public understanding and support of activities through expanded outreach at the local, state, and federal levels
- b. Clearly define Commission processes to facilitate stakeholder participation, as well as transparency and accountability
- c. Strengthen national, regional, and local media relations to increase coverage of Commission actions
- d. Use new technologies and communication platforms to more fully engage the broader public in the Commission's activities and actions

Goal 6 – Advance Commission and member states' priorities through a proactive legislative policy agenda

Although states are positioned to achieve many of the national goals for marine fisheries through cooperative efforts, state fisheries interests are often underrepresented at the national level. This is due, in part, to the fact that policy formulation is often disconnected from the processes that provide the support, organization, and resources necessary to implement the policies. The capabilities and input of the states are an important aspect of developing national fisheries policy, and the goal seeks to increase the states' role in national policy formulation. Additionally, the goal emphasizes the importance of achieving management goals consistent with productive commercial and recreational fisheries and healthy ecosystems.

The Commission recognizes the need to work with Congress in all phases of policy formulation. Several important fishery-related laws will be reauthorized over the next couple of years (i.e., Atlantic Coastal Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, and Anadromous Fish Conservation Act). The Commission will be vigilant in advancing the states' interests to Congress as these laws are reauthorized and other fishery-related pieces of legislation are considered.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- a. Increase the Commission's profile and support in the U.S. Congress by developing relationships between Members and their staff and Commissioners, the Executive Director, and Commission staff
- b. Communicate the Commission's federal funding needs to Congress and advocate for sufficient appropriations
- c. Engage Congress on fishery-related legislation affecting the Atlantic coast
- d. Coordinate with member states to communicate unified goals to address state and Commission needs
- e. Promote member states' collective interests at the regional and national levels
- f. Demonstrate the value of the Commission as an effective management entity and resource to Members of Congress and their staffs.
- g. Promote economic benefits of the Commission's actions (return on investment)

Goal 7 – Ensure the fiscal stability & efficient administration of the Commission

Goal 7 will ensure that the business affairs of the Commission are managed effectively and efficiently, including workload balancing through the development of annual action plans to support the Commission’s management process. It also highlights the need for the Commission to efficiently manage the resources it currently receives and develop strategies for finding new funding sources to carry out its programs. The goal promotes the efficient use of legal advice to proactively review policies and react to litigation as necessary. It also promotes human resource policies that attract talented and committed individuals to conduct the work of the Commission. The goal highlights the need for the Commission as an organization to continually expand its skill set through training and educational opportunities. It calls for Commissioners and Commission staff to maintain and increase the institutional knowledge of the Commission through periods of transition. Achieving this goal will build core strengths, enabling the Commission to respond to increasingly difficult and complex fisheries management issues.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

- a. Maintain or increase long-term funding for Commission programs
- b. Conservatively manage operational and programmatic budgets and reserves
- c. Utilize new information technology to improve meeting and workload efficiencies, and enhance communications
- d. Refine strategies to recruit professional staff, and enhance growth and learning opportunities for Commission and state personnel
- e. Fully engage new Commissioners in the Commission process and document institutional knowledge.



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Dr. Louis B. Daniel, III, (NC), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

MEMORANDUM

July 24, 2013

To: ASMFC Commissioners

From: Robert Beal

Re: Federal Legislative Tracking Sheet: 113th Congress, 1st Session

Please find attached an update on federal fisheries legislation impacting the Commission, as well as more comprehensive tables providing summary information of key federal legislation introduced in the 113th Congress. The tables are divided into three categories:

Priority I: Legislation directly impacting the Commission or Commission managed species

Priority II: Other ocean and fishery legislation

Fisheries Disaster Legislation: Bills directing federal assistance to fisheries with disaster declarations

This document will be updated quarterly or as key bills are introduced or acted on. The document is not intended to summarize all legislation that might affect oceans and coasts, nor does it list the complete contents of bills. To access the complete text of the bills as well as the Library of Congress summary, click on the links below the titles provided in the table. If there is a particular bill not included here that you would like summarized or if you would like more information on bills listed, please contact Deke Tompkins (dtompkins@asmfc.org).

Congressional Fisheries Issues

Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have both passed their respective Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations bills, which fund NOAA Fisheries and the Commission. Both bills are now awaiting final passage in each chamber and then a conference agreement to merge the two versions into one identical bill.

The Senate CJS bill funds NOAA at \$5.589 billion, \$150 million more than the President's budget request. Meanwhile the House funds NOAA at \$4.915 billion, \$524 million less than the President's request. Overall, that is a \$674 million discrepancy between House and Senate funding levels for NOAA. Because of these differences and a blanket Obama veto threat on all House appropriations bills, the CJS bill is unlikely to be enacted before the fiscal year starts on October 1. A Continuing Resolution and/or an Omnibus package of appropriations bills are the most likely outcomes. As you will see below, an Omnibus package would likely be the best outcome to maximize the Commission's federal funding, as the FY 2014 CJS bills have higher funding levels for Regional Councils and Fishery Commissions and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA) grants than FY 2013 levels.

House Commerce Justice, Science Appropriations Details

The House Appropriations Committee unanimously passed its FY 2014 CJS bill on July 17th. In total, the legislation contains \$47.4 billion in funding. This is \$2.8 billion below the FY 2013 enacted level and \$350 million below the level caused by sequestration. The House FY 2014 CJS bill proposes to decrease NOAA's budget by \$89 million (to \$4.9 billion) in FY 2014. That figure includes a reduction of \$62 million to NOAA fisheries, for a total of \$764 million in FY 2014.

Of great interest to the Interstate Commissions is \$32 million for Regional Councils and Fishery Commissions (an increase of \$445 thousand over FY 2013) and \$2 million for IFA grants (level funding from FY 2013). This is actually quite remarkable, as the House has targeted Regional Councils and Fishery Commissions for major cuts and sought to zero out IFA grants in recent years. Nearly every account in NOAA Fisheries was reduced in the House bill, making our increase that much more notable. Thanks to all the Commissioners who weighed in with their elected officials this year it seems our efforts are paying off.

Senate Commerce Justice, Science Appropriations Details

The Senate approved overall FY 2014 CJS funding levels of \$52.272 billion, an increase of \$2.162 billion above FY 2013, not including \$363.25 million in emergency appropriations. The Senate FY 2014 CJS bill funds Regional Councils and Fishery Commissions at \$32.008 million (an increase of \$453 thousand over FY 2013) and \$2.5 million for IFA grants (an increase of \$500 thousand over FY 2013). The Senate bill provides for \$150 million to help alleviate the economic impacts associated with declared fishery disasters in 2012. The bill also includes a number of policy riders, namely:

- A requirement for NOAA to charter fishing boats to carry out some fish stock assessments
- A mandate for NOAA to cover the cost of all on-board monitors
- A rider barring NOAA from diverting Saltonstall-Kennedy Act money for internal management

President Obama's Budget Request Details

The budget for NOAA Fisheries contained \$31.1 million for Regional Fishery Management Councils, a decrease of \$731,000. Also notable was the inclusion of \$2.5 million for IFA grants, which the President and House had previously targeted for elimination. The IFA authorization expired on September 30, 2012 and was authorized for \$5 million per year. The President further recommended reauthorizing the program at \$3.09 million per year. Additionally, the Species Recovery Grant Program received a significant increase of \$15 million to \$17.8 million per year. These grants are used by states for the conservation and recovery of

marine and anadromous species under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction and listed under the Endangered Species Act. Fisheries Statistics and Fisheries Information Network funding for FY 2014 both received a slight bump as well, with increases of \$206,000 and \$20,000, respectively.

“Councils and Commissions” and “Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act” Historical Funding Levels (\$ thousands)		
Fiscal Year	Councils and Commissions	IFA
FY 2008	25,701	2,506
FY 2009	27,289	2,569
FY 2010	31,855	2,574
FY 2011	31,855	1,653
FY 2012	31,754	0
FY 2013 enacted	31,555	2,000
House FY 2014	32,000	2,000
Senate FY 2014	32,008	2,500
President FY 2014	31,000	2,500

The Budget Control Act and the Sequester:

Because the likelihood of Congress turning off the sequester is extremely low, all FY 2014 dollar amounts referenced in this section are expected to be reduced by approximately ten percent. For example, the enacted funding level for IFA grants in FY 2013 is \$2 million, but the actual amount available after the sequester cuts is in the neighborhood of \$1.8 million.

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization

The current authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) is set to expire on September 30, 2013. Both the House and Senate have begun the process of reauthorizing the law by holding hearings, but draft legislation has not yet been unveiled in either chamber. The House Committee on Natural Resources held its first Magnuson-Stevens Act hearing of the year on March 13th and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held its first hearing on March 18th. These hearings built on previous hearings from the 112th Congress and were intended to bring stakeholders together to identify the major issues that need to be addressed through reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Each chamber has held one additional hearing on Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization.

May 21st House Natural Resources Hearing

On behalf of the Commission, I was invited to testify as an expert witness at the May 21 House hearing, “Data collection issues in relation to the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.” I appeared on the first witness panel alongside Dr. Richard Merrick (Chief Science Advisor at NOAA Fisheries) and Randy Fisher and David Donaldson (Pacific and Gulf Commissions, respectively). Video of my testimony can be found on the House Natural Resources Committee website, or by clicking [here](#). My opening statement begins at 49:55. Issues of note include questions from Ranking Member Gregorio Sablan (D-MP) on seafood traceability (1:09:00) and by Rep Rob Wittman (R-VA) about the benefits of regulating recreational fisheries by harvest rates instead of quotas (1:11:40) and the benefits of collecting data from fishermen and academic institutions (1:11:40).

The hearing provided a great opportunity for the Commission to strengthen its relationships with committee staff and Members, particularly Rep Jon Runyan (R-NJ) and Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH) and their staff. Rep Shea-Porter referenced the reduction in New Hampshire’s commercial fishing fleet, which was discussed in a

meeting the day before with her staff and New Hampshire Commissioners Ritchie White, Doug Grout, and Sen. David Watters.

July 23rd Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Hearing

On July 23rd, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard held its first in a series of regional hearings on the Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization entitled "New England and Mid-Atlantic Perspectives on Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization." The first witness panel consisted of John Bullard (NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Administrator), Rip Cunningham (NEFMC Chairman), and Rick Robbins (MAFMC Chairman). The second panel was made up of industry and research stakeholders.

Flexibility in enforcing annual catch limits was the central theme of the hearing. The witnesses and Senators were divided on the need for including more flexibility in catch shares and removing the hard timelines for rebuilding stocks. There appeared to be unanimous support from Senators and witnesses for a NOAA Fisheries sustainability certification. There was also a general consensus in support of increased ecosystem management, the need for more accurate and timely science, more efficient data sharing, and more research on climate change.

A complete list of witnesses, their testimonies, Chairman Begich's (D-AK) opening statement, and a video of the hearing can be found at the Senate Commerce Committee's website or by clicking [here](#).

Moving forward

The House is attempting to complete its Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization bill before the current authorization expires at the end of September 2013. Prospects are less clear in the Senate. During his July 23rd opening statement, Chairman Mark Begich stated the Senate will be moving systematically to reauthorize Magnuson-Stevens, and not have "our hand forced by a deadline at the end of this year." Look for more hearings to be scheduled later this fall after Congress comes back from the August recess.

Increasing the Commission's Presence on Capitol Hill

In the second quarter of 2013, I was a frequent visitor to Capitol Hill, where I met with staffers from nearly every Atlantic coast office on the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee, as well as about two dozen other offices who either have been supportive of the Commission in the past or hold key committee assignments. We have been working hard to develop key relationships on the Hill, stressing to staffers that the Commission can be a valuable resource to them as fisheries issues arise in their states. We will continue to work the Hill and appreciate any input from Commissioners moving forward.

We had a strong showing from Commissioners during our Spring Meeting. In person visits with your Members of Congress/staffers are highly effective and we appreciate those who made the trek to visit their legislators. We plan on offering more opportunities like this at future Winter, Spring, and Summer Meetings.

2012 Fishery Disaster Declarations

In late 2012, the Department of Commerce assigned disaster designations for fisheries in a number of New England and Mid-Atlantic states due to an anticipated reduction in catch limits as well as damage sustained during Superstorm Sandy. The designation paves the way for federal assistance funds to repair or restore fishing equipment and infrastructure, compensate for losses, restore fisheries habitat, support workforce education, provide low-interest loans, and conduct monitoring and cooperative research focused on improving stock assessments.

While a disaster designation allows fishermen in the affected regions to qualify for federal aid, Congress must still appropriate the funds. A number of Members and Senators attempted to attach \$150 million in fisheries disaster assistance funding to the Superstorm Sandy Relief Bill. However, only \$5 million in fisheries aid was included in the final package, and was exclusively available for damage related to Superstorm Sandy in New York and New Jersey. Efforts to secure additional federal aid are ongoing in both the House and Senate, most notably in the aforementioned Senate FY 2014 CJS Appropriations bill.

2013 Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is typically authorized every five years, and represents the primary statute for agricultural and food policy, akin to the Magnuson-Stevens Act for fisheries. While fisheries issues are generally addressed through the Magnuson-Stevens Act, a few fisheries related amendments were offered during consideration of the House and Senate Farm Bills. Both chambers have passed a version of the 2013 Farm Bill and are awaiting a conference to iron out the differences between the two.

Senate Farm Bill: On June 10, 2013, the Senate passed its version of the 2013 Farm Bill, S. 954, the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, by a vote of 66 - 27. Senator Mo Cowan (D-MA) was successful in including two fisheries disaster related amendments to the Farm Bill.

- Fisheries Insurance Study: The first amendment directs the USDA to study and propose a mechanism for insuring seafood harvesters through a USDA crop insurance product.
- Fishermen as Eligible Recipients of Emergency Disaster Loans: The second amendment expands the Emergency Disaster Loan program to include fishermen. When a county has been declared a disaster area by either the President or the Secretary of Agriculture, agricultural producers in that county may become eligible for low-interest emergency disaster loans available through USDA's Farm Service Agency. The loans are used to help producers recover from production losses or from physical losses and would be administered by USDA.

House Farm Bill: On July 11, 2013, the House passed its version on the 2013 Farm Bill, H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, by a vote of 216 ó 208. Three amendments affecting fisheries were offered during consideration on the bill:

- Emergency Disaster Loan amendment: Authored by Rep John Tierney (D-MA), the amendment proposed allowing commercial fishermen to be eligible recipients of the Emergency Disaster Loan program. This mirrors the Senate amendment offered by Senator Cowan, but failed to gain enough support for passage.
- Seafood Mislabeling amendment: Authored by Rep Mark Takano (D-CA) and Ed Markey (D-MA), the amendment directs the Secretary of Agriculture to report to Congress on the economic implications for consumers, fishermen, and aquaculturists of fraud and mislabeling in wild and farmed seafood. The amendment was adopted to the House Farm Bill.
- Spiny Dogfish Market Analysis amendment: Authored by Rep William Keating (D-MA), the amendment directs the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an economic analysis of the existing market for U.S. Atlantic Spiny Dogfish. After the analysis, USDA could develop a foreign market development program to promote dogfish. The amendment was successfully adopted.

Key Bill	Highlights	Sponsor [Cosponsors]/Committee Status
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Priority I

S. 269	<p>International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act (IFSEA) http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s269</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends several existing laws to increase enforcement of fishing regulations by giving the Secretary of Commerce and the Coast Guard authority to enforce fishing-related policies. Creates an International Fisheries Enforcement Program within NOAA. 	<p>Rockefeller (D-WV) [11 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 2/11/2013 Introduced 2/11/2013 Referred to Senate Committee</p>
H.R. 69	<p>Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr69</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends several existing laws to increase enforcement of fishing regulations by giving the Secretary of Commerce and the Coast Guard authority to enforce fishing-related policies. Authorizes additional enforcement measures relating to search or inspection of facilities, records inspection, shipment detention, arrest, search and seizure, and service of civil or criminal process. 	<p>Bordallo (D-GU) [16 Cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 1/3/2013 Introduced 1/31/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee</p>
S. 221	<p>Saving Fishing Jobs Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s221</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the Secretary of Commerce to terminate new and existing catch share programs that result in a 15 percent or more reduction in the total number of fishermen in the program, and develop a new management plan within one year. 	<p>Ayotte (R-NH) [none] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 2/4/2013 Introduced 2/4/2013 Referred to Senate Committee</p>
S. 520	<p>Safety And Fraud Enforcement for Seafood (SAFE) Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s520</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires that detailed information accompany seafood through the supply chain to the point of sale, including scientific name, geographic catch area, date of catch, and catch method. Improves the FDA list of standardized names for seafood. Authorizes refusal of suspected or known violators of seafood mislabeling. 	<p>Begich (R-AK) [3 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 3/11/2013 Introduced 3/11/2013 Referred to Senate Committee</p>
H.R. 1012	<p>Safety And Fraud Enforcement for Seafood (SAFE) Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1012</p>	<p>Markey (D-MA) [25 cosponsors] House Committees on Energy and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House companion bill to S. 520, Safety And Fraud Enforcement for Seafood (SAFE) Act (see above). 	Commerce; Agriculture; Natural Resources; Ways and Means 3/6/2013 Introduced 3/6/2013 Referred to House Subcommittees
H.R. 739	<p>Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr739</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements crosscut budgeting and adaptive management to enhance coordination, flexibility, and efficiency of restoration efforts, similar to techniques used in the Everglades and the Great Lakes. Creates a Chesapeake Bay Program Independent Evaluator to review and report to Congress on restoration activities in the watershed. 	Wittman (R-VA) [6 cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 2/14/2013 Introduced 3/11/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee 4/24/2013 Mark-up held, reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by Unanimous Consent
H.R. 644	<p>Delaware River Basin Conservation Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr644</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Requires the Secretary to institute a new partnership to work in consultation with existing management structures to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and protection activities in the entire basin and adopt a basin-wide investment strategy for implementation of the program. 	Carney (D-DE) [18 cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 2/13/2013 Introduced 2/22/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee
S. 713	<p>Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s713</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would give Rhode Island a seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC). Squid catches are managed by the MAFMC, but Rhode Island has a large squid fishing fleet and currently sits only on the New England council. 	Reed (D-RI) [1 cosponsor] Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 4/11/2013 Introduced 4/11/2013 Referred to Senate Committee
H.R. 1504	<p>Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1504</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House companion bill to S. 713, Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act (see above). 	Rep Langevin (D-RI) [1 cosponsor] House Committee on Natural Resources. 4/11/2013 Introduced 4/11/2013 Referred to House Committee
H.R. 596	<p>Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr596</p>	Gosar (R-AZ) [44 cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlines permitting for renewable energy projects on public lands and waters. 	on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry. 2/8/2013 Introduced 2/25/2013 Referred to Subcommittees
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Priority II

H.R. 996	<p>Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthens the Fish and Wildlife Service's ability to designate animals as "injurious," meaning these animals could not be imported or shipped between states without a permit. 	Slaughter (D-NY) [30 cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, And Investigations 3/6/2013 Introduced 4/8/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee
H.R. 764	<p>Coastal State Climate Change Planning Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr764</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation planning and response program to provide assistance to coastal states to develop climate change adaptation plans and provide financial and technical assistance to implement such plans. Requires the Secretary of Commerce to promote the use of National Estuarine Research Reserves as sites for pilot projects. 	Capps (D-CA) [25 cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 2/15/2013 Introduced 3/1/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee
H.Con.Res. 13	<p>Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Fish and Wildlife Service should incorporate consideration of global warming and sea-level rise into the comprehensive conservation plans for coastal national wildlife refuges. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hconres13</p>	Christensen (D-VI) [none] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 2/13/2013 Introduced 2/13/2013 Referred to Senate Subcommittee
H.R. 1219	<p>Gulf Fisheries Fairness Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1219</p>	Bonner (R-AL) [12 cosponsors] House Committee on Natural Resources 3/15/2013 Introduced

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resets the state water boundaries for the purposes of reef fish management for all five Gulf states to an average depth of 20 fathoms (120 feet) or nine nautical miles, whichever is farthest. Currently, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi have three mile boundaries, while Florida and Texas are set at nine miles. 	3/15/2013 Referred to House Committee
S. 747	<p>A bill to grant exclusive fishery management authority over the red snapper fish in the Gulf of Mexico to certain States. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s747</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Gulf states exclusive fishery management authority over red snapper fish in the Gulf of Mexico in the area located between the coast line of each such state and the point that is 200 miles seaward of the coast line. 	Vitter (R-AL) [none] Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. 4/17/2013 Introduced 4/17/2013 Senate Committee
H.R. 1430	<p>Offshore Fairness Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1430</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extends the offshore jurisdictions of Gulf of Mexico states to three marine leagues from their respective coastlines. States would control the rights to energy resources and gain exclusive fishery management authority over reef fish within the new boundary. 	Cassidy (R-LA) [1 cosponsor] House Judiciary Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial And Antitrust Law; House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources 4/30/2013 Referred to House Subcommittees
S. 681	<p>Offshore Fairness Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s681</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate companion bill to H.R. 1430, the Offshore Fairness Act (see above). 	Vitter (R-LA) [none] Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 4/9/2013 Introduced 4/9/2013 Referred to Senate Committee
S. 1161	<p>Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Conservation Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s1161</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfers management responsibility of Gulf of Mexico red snapper to the Gulf states. 	Landrieu (D-LA) [1 cosponsor] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 6/13/2013 Introduced 6/13/2013 Referred to Senate Committee
S. 646	<p>National Endowment for the Oceans Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s646</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a National Endowment for the Oceans to fund activities intended to protect, conserve, restore, and understand the Nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes through a competitive grant process. 	Whitehouse (R-RI) [5 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 3/21/2013 Introduced 3/21/2013 Referred to Senate Committee

H.R. 1313	<p>To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1313</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminates the USDA catfish inspection program. • Currently the FDA and NFMS also have catfish inspection programs in place, and the Government Accountability Office singled out USDA's catfish inspection program as duplicative in a February 2013 report on government waste. • Three other bills (H.R. 1999, S. 632, and the House Farm Bill) also end USDA's catfish inspection program. 	<p>Hartzler (R-MO) [46 cosponsors] House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit 3/21/2013 Introduced 4/2/2013 Referred to Senate Subcommittee</p>
S. 421	<p>Freedom to Fish Act of 2013</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s421</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from taking any action to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam. 	<p>Alexander (R-TN) [3 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works 2/28/2013 Introduced 2/28/2013 Referred to Senate Committee</p>
H.R. 826	<p>Freedom to Fish Act of 2013</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr826</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House companion bill to S. 421, Freedom to Fish Act of 2013 (see above). 	<p>Whitfield (R-KY) [6 cosponsors] House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment 2/26/2013 Introduced 2/27/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee</p>
S. 982	<p>Freedom to Fish Act</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s982</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to H.R. 421 and S. 421 (above), but restricted to only the Cumberland River Basin. 	<p>Alexander (R-TN) [3 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works 2/28/2013 Introduced 5/16/2013 Passed in Senate 5/21/2013 Passed in House 6/3/2013 Became Public Law</p>
S. 327	<p>Good Neighbor Forestry Act</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s327</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to enter into cooperative agreements and contracts with state foresters to provide forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services that include activities to treat insect infected trees, reduce hazardous fuels, and any other 	<p>Barasso (R-WY) [10 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 2/14/2013 Introduced 2/14/2013 Referred to Senate Committee 6/18/2013 Mark-up held, reported out of Committee</p>

	activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.	
H.R. 2401	<p>Good Neighbor Forestry Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr2401</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House companion bill to S. 327, Good Neighbor Forestry Act. 	<p>Cotton (R-AR) [none] House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation; House Committee on Agriculture 6/17/2013 Introduced 6/25/2013 Referred to House Committees</p>
H.R. 1021	<p>Land Acquisition to Cut National Debt Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspends net federal land acquisitions under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service unless the Federal budget is balanced for the year in which the land would be purchased. 	<p>Stivers (R-OH) [none] House Natural Resources Committee; House Agriculture Committee 3/6/2013 Introduced 3/12/2013 Referred to House Committees 4/2/2013 Referred to House Subcommittees</p>
S. 542	<p>Maritime Lien Reform Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s542</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits maritime liens from being imposed on Alaskan limited entry commercial fishing permits. 	<p>Murkowski (R-AK) [2 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 3/13/2013 Introduced 3/13/2013 Referred to Senate Committee</p>
H.R. 262	<p>Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr262</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends the availability of the Save Vanishing Species stamp for four years. • The Postal Service gives the proceeds from stamp sales to the Fish and Wildlife Service to fund projects for endangered wildlife species including African and Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and marine sea turtles. 	<p>Grimm (R-NY) [51 cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 1/15/2013 Introduced 1/31/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee</p>
H.R. 263	<p>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr263</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes \$25 million for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for FY 2014 to 2019. • The bill would require a new 28-member board of directors including experts in freshwater, saltwater, coastal and land creatures, and would allow the foundation to accept gifts and bequests. The foundation could turn gifts over to federal agencies. 	<p>Grimm (R-NY) [1 cosponsor] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 1/15/2013 Introduced 1/31/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was created by Congress in 1984 to protect and restore fish and wildlife and their habitats. It directs public dollars to critical environmental needs and matches those investments with private contributions. 	
H.R. 638	<p>National Wildlife Refuge Review Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr638</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blocks the Fish and Wildlife Service from declaring any new refuges unless Congress passed legislation specifically allowing it. The bill would not affect any existing refuges. 	<p>Fleming (R-LA) [12 cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 2/13/2013 Introduced 2/21/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee 4/25/2013 Legislative hearing held</p>
S. 267	<p>Pirate Fishing Elimination Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s267</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codifies the Port States Measures Agreement into U.S. law, an international treaty aimed at prohibiting vessels that have engaged in illegal fishing from entering ports around the world. 	<p>Rockefeller (D-WV) [10 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 2/11/2013 Introduced 2/11/2013 Referred to Senate Committee</p>
H.R. 1300	<p>To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1300</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reauthorizes the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer, Community Partnership, and Education Programs for 2014 through 2018. 	<p>Runyon (R-NJ) [1 cosponsor] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. 3/20/2013 Introduced 3/28/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee 6/17/2013 Reported favorably out of the Natural Resources Committee</p>
H.R. 910	<p>Sikes Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr910</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reauthorizes the Sikes Act from 2015 through 2019 The Sikes Act requires the Department of Defense to develop and implement Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans for military installations across the United States. 	<p>Fleming (R-LA) [none] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness 2/28/2013 Introduced 3/21/2013 House Natural Resources Subcommittee hearing held 6/24/2013 Reported favorably out of the</p>

		Natural Resources Committee
H.R. 1080	<p>To amend the Sikes Act to promote the use of cooperative agreements under such Act for land management related to Department of Defense readiness activities and to facilitate interagency cooperation in conservation programs to reduce adverse impacts on military readiness activities.</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1080</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits the Department of Defense to extend a program reducing restrictions on training by finding and restoring habitat off base. 	<p>Bordallo (D-GU) [none] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs; House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness 3/12/2013 Introduced 3/21/2013 House Natural Resources Subcommittee hearing held 3/26/2013 Referred to the House Subcommittee on Readiness 5/15/2013 Natural Resources Committee mark-up held 6/17/2013 Reported favorably out of the Natural Resources Committee</p>
H.R. 277/H.R. 187/S. 533	<p>To revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI-04P, Easton Beach Unit RI-05P, Almy Pond Unit RI-06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI-07 in Rhode Island.</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr277 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr187 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s533</p>	<p>Cicilline (D-RI) [none] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 1/15/2013 Introduced 1/31/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee</p>
H.R. 753	<p>Prohibiting commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone.</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr753</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) unless specifically authorized by Congress. Congress has never authorized open ocean aquaculture or provided a legislative framework for managing finfish farms in the EEZ. 	<p>Young (R-AK) [none] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 2/15/2013 Introduced 3/1/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee</p>
H.R. 1808	<p>Maine Coastal Islands Wilderness Act of 2013</p> <p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1808</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designates specified lands in Maine within the Cross Island National Wildlife 	<p>Michaud (D-ME) [1 cosponsor] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation</p>

	Refuge, to be known as the Cross Island Wilderness, and within the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, to be known as the Maine Coastal Islands Wilderness, as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.	5/6/2013 Introduced 5/6/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee
H.R. 1825	Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1825 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates an "open until closed" policy for sportsmen's use of federal land. Would direct U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to facilitate use and access for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting activities on federal lands. 	Benishek (R-MI) [99 cosponsors] House Agriculture Committee, House Natural Resources Committee 6/12/2013 Reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 28-15
S. 839	Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s839 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. 	Nelson (D-FL) [3 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 4/25/2013 Introduced 4/25/2013 Referred to Senate Committee
H.R. 71	Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2013 http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d113:H.R.71:@@X <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. 	Bordallo (D-GU) [10 cosponsors] House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 1/3/2013 Introduced 1/31/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee
S. 1079	A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to promote the artificial reefs, and for other purposes. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s1079	Vitter (R-LA) [2 cosponsors] Senate 5/23/2013 Introduced 5/23/2013 Referred to Senate Committee
S. 1022	A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113s1022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends federal shipping law to extend through October 31, 2028, the exemption of certain vessels from the requirement that U.S. passenger vessels having berth or stateroom accommodations for at least 50 passengers be constructed of fire-retardant materials in order to be granted a certificate of 	Brown (D-OH) [3 cosponsors] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 5/22/2013 Introduced 5/22/2013 Referred to Senate Committee

	<p>inspection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues to apply this exemption only to vessels in operation before January 1, 1968, which operate only within the Boundary Line (the dividing point between inland waters and high seas). 	
H.R. 175	<p>To authorize a project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, West Onslow Beach and New River Inlet (Topsail Beach), North Carolina. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr157</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes the Secretary of the Army to carry out a project for hurricane and storm damage reduction at West Onslow Beach and New River Inlet (Topsail Beach), North Carolina. 	<p>Rep McIntyre, Mike (D-NC) [none] Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment 1/4/2013 introduced 1/7/2013 Referred to subcommittee</p>
H.R. 2174	<p>Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr2174</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlines the federal authorization process for the Long Island Sound Restoration Act (passed in 2000 & 2005) and the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act (passed in 2006). Improves coordination among federal, state and local agencies and requires reporting on the use of the funds. 	<p>Israel (D-NY) [14 cosponsors] Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 5/23/2013 introduced 6/3/2013 Referred to subcommittee</p>
H.R. 2219	<p>To reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (ICOOS) Act of 2009. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr2219</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reauthorizes the ICCOS Act of 2009, which expires in 2013. The 2009 law established a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems to promote better public awareness and scientific communication concerning ocean, coastal, and lake conservation. 	<p>Young (R-AK) [none] Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs 6/3/2013 introduced 6/4/2013 Referred to House subcommittee 6/13/2013 Subcommittee hearing held</p>
H.R. 2261	<p>National Mitigation Fisheries Coordination Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr2261</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs agencies with fishery mitigation activities on mandated federal water projects to reimburse the Fish and Wildlife Service for the cost of operating the hatcheries used in mitigation. 	<p>Crawford (R-AR) [2 cosponsors] Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment 6/5/2013 Introduced 6/6, 10/2013 Referred to House Subcommittees</p>
H.R. 1425	<p>Marine Debris Emergency Act of 2013</p>	<p>Bonamici (D-OR) [22 cosponsors]</p>

	<p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1425</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes improvements to the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act (2006) , by establishing a program within NOAA that complements the Environmental Protection Agency's marine debris program. • Requires NOAA to give preference to projects that address severe marine debris events especially in the event of potential threat of marine invasive species. • Requires speedier approval of applications and grant funding. 	<p>House 4/9/2013 Introduced 4/9/2013 Referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs; House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation 6/13/2013 Subcommittee hearing held in the Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs Subcommittee</p>
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Disaster Relief

<p>H.R. 152</p>	<p>Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr152</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster funding for Superstorm Sandy. • The initial Senate version of the bill contained \$150 in funding for New England and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries given disaster designation in 2012. The enacted version included on \$5 million for NY and NJ. • This bill was signed into law on January 29, 2013. 	<p>Hal Rogers (R-KY) [none] House Appropriations Committee 1/4/2013 Introduced 1/29/2013 Enacted into law</p>
<p>H.R. 799</p>	<p>Fisheries Disaster Relief and Research Investment Act http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr799</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates funds directed to the Department of Commerce under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act in FY 2014 to be used for assistance to those states affected by fishery disasters declared by the Secretary of Commerce in calendar year 2012. (in FY 2013 the amount was \$124 million and in Fiscal Year 2012, it was \$109 million). • Beginning in FY2015, the bill would direct those funds to research, and put fisheries research, monitoring, and data collection in the hands of regional management councils by requiring multi-stakeholder regional committees, authorized by the bill and appointed by the nation's eight fishery management councils, to develop plans to identify priorities for investment in each region. 	<p>Tierney (D-MA) [9 cosponsors] House Committee on Natural Resources 2/15/2013 Introduced 3/1/2013 Referred to House Subcommittee</p>
<p>H.R. 1445</p>	<p>Supplemental appropriations for fisheries disasters from Superstorm Sandy</p>	<p>Pallone (D-NJ) [none]</p>

	<p>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113hr1445</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides \$193 million for damages Superstorm Sandy inflicted on the fishing industry. • Roughly \$120 million would go to New Jersey and the remainder would go to New York. 	<p>House Committee on Appropriations House Committee on Budget 4/9/2013 Introduced 4/9/2013 Referred to House Committees</p>
Amendment 672	<p>Amendment to the Senate Budget, S.CON.RES.8 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.113sconres8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would allow an unspecified amount of disaster assistance to fishermen during regular FY 2014 appropriations. • Any federal assistance must maintain budget neutrality. 	<p>Warren (D-MA) No Committee 3/23/2013 Introduced 3/23/2013 Adopted, unanimous consent</p>