

HR 1826 – Fishing Economy Improvement Act**Sponsor – Congressman Sablan (D- CNMI)***Note – information in bold indicates a provision that would affect Council operations or affect Gulf fisheries.*

Section	Summary	Impacts/Concerns	Relation to Other Bills
Sec 3. Definitions	Would add new definitions for “artisanal fishing” and “marine aquaculture”		
Sec 4. Highly migratory species in the Western and Central Pacific	Would amend the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act		
Sec 5. Regional Council Appointments	<p>Would require that voting members of Councils be knowledgeable about artisanal fishing as well as commercial and recreational fishing.</p> <p>Would require each Council reflect the interests of any Indian tribes, Alaskan Natives, Pacific Insular Areas who are engaged in artisanal fishing within the Council’s jurisdiction.</p> <p>Would require that each Council minimize the amount and cost of Council member and staff travel by the use of remote electronic participation in Council meetings – including voting.</p> <p>Would add liaison seats to the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils.</p> <p>Would require an additional requirement for the Governor of Alaska in making Council nominations.</p> <p>Would require an investigation of the Western Pacific Council.</p>	<p>The requirement that Councils minimize costs and allow the use of electronic participation and voting could lessen the transparency of Council meetings.</p> <p>The requirement to reflect the interest of ANY Indian tribe that has artisanal fishing activities does not limit this to Federally-recognized tribes. This could be a problem in some regions.</p>	<p>Similar language regarding liaison seats for the Mid-Atlantic and New England seats is included in H.R. 1335.</p> <p>Similar language regarding the nominations by the Governor of Alaska are included in H.R. 1335.</p>
Sec 6. Council and SSC Transparency	Would require that SSCs to develop the scientific advice that in a transparent manner and to allow	Most Councils already do this but those Councils which hold	Similar language is included in H.R.

	<p>for public involvement in the process.</p> <p>Would require each Council, to the extent practicable, provide a Webcast or other broadcast, and a transcript on the website of each Council meeting and the Council Coordination Committee meetings.</p> <p>Would require that the Secretary maintain these audios, videos and transcripts and make them available to the public.</p>	<p>meetings in remote areas might have trouble complying or the costs may be high.</p>	<p>1335 and S. 1403. In addition, H.R. 3521 contains provisions dealing with transparency.</p>
<p>Sec 7. Artisanal Fishing, Dungeness Crab authority</p>	<p>Would require that each fishery management plan or plan amendment include a description of artisanal fishing sectors that participate in the fishery in addition to description of the commercial and recreational sectors.</p> <p>Would extend the authorization for the State management of the Dungeness crab fishery</p>	<p>The definition of “artisanal fishing” is rather broad and could require additional review by Council staff in preparing analyses and could potentially lead to additional litigation if Council review of artisanal fishing is viewed as inadequate.</p>	
<p>Sec 8. Data Collection and Electronic Monitoring</p>	<p>Would require the Secretary to issue guidance on the use of electronic monitoring.</p> <p>Would allow Councils to initiate pilot projects using electronic monitoring for data collection and enforcement purposes and to replace on-board observers in certain cases.</p>		<p>Similar language regarding electronic monitoring is included in H.R. 1335.</p>
<p>Sec 9. Cooperative Research</p>	<p>Would require the Secretary, within one year of the enactment of this Act to publish a plan for implementing and conducting a cooperative research and management program.</p> <p>Would require the plan to identify and describe critical regional fishery management and research needs.</p> <p>Would require each Council to</p>	<p>Concern has been raised that allowing non-governmental entities to contribute to the Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund and then request the Secretary to fund specific projects even if the projects are not on a Council’s critical research needs list could</p>	<p>Similar language is included in H.R. 1335 – except for the provisions dealing with the Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund.</p>

	<p>provide a list of research needs and a prioritization of those needs to the Secretary on an annual basis.</p> <p>Would rename the Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund and would allow the Secretary to allocate funds for specific project or region if the entity that provided the funds to the Fund.</p>	<p>lessen the availability of funds for critical research needs.</p>	
<p>Sec 10. Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Cooperative Research and Red Snapper Management</p>	<p>Would require the Secretary of Commerce - in conjunction with the Gulf States, the Gulf of Mexico Council, and the charter and recreational fishing sectors - to develop and implement a real-time reporting and data collection program for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery using available technology.</p> <p>Would require the Secretary to make this a priority for funds received by NOAA through the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act.</p> <p>Would require the Secretary, acting through the NMFS Regional Administrator of the Southeast Region to develop a schedule of stock surveys and stock assessments for the Gulf of Mexico region and the Southeast region for the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment and for every 5-year period thereafter giving priority to those stocks that are commercially or recreationally important and ensuring that each important stock is surveyed at least once every five years.</p> <p>Would require the Secretary to direct the Science Center Director of the Southeast region to implement the schedule of stock surveys and stock assessments.</p>		<p>Similar language is included in H.R. 1335.</p>

	<p>Would require that the Science Center Director of the Southeast region ensure that the information gathered as a result of research funded through the RESTORE Act be incorporated as soon as possible into any stock assessments conducted after the date of enactment.</p>		
<p>Sec 11. Recreational Fishing Data Collection and NRC study</p>	<p>Would require the Secretary to establish partnerships with States and guidance for the development of best practices for implementing State recreational fisheries programs.</p> <p>Would require a grant program to States to improve implementation of State recreational data collection programs</p> <p>Would require the Secretary, within 60 days, to enter into an agreement with the National Research Council (NRC) to study the implementation of the existing recreational data collection programs.</p> <p>Would require the Secretary to submit a report to Congress on the result of the NRC study within one year.</p>		<p>Similar language is included in H.R. 1335.</p> <p>Additional provisions regarding recreational data collection are included in H.R. 981, H.R. 3094, and S. 1403.</p>
<p>Sec 12. Marine Aquaculture</p>	<p>Would require the Secretary of Commerce, within one year to submit a report to Congress detailing a comprehensive framework for permitting and regulating marine aquaculture operations and include recommendations for prohibiting adverse impacts and making the program self-sustaining.</p>		
<p>Sec 13. Shoreside Commercial Fishing Support Grants</p>	<p>Would authorize a new grant program to allow the Secretary of Commerce to make competitive grants to support programs that address the needs of fishing</p>		

	<p>communities</p> <p>Would require the Secretary to conduct demographic surveys of commercial fishermen and their families to identify community needs.</p> <p>Would authorize \$8 million per year for 10 years beginning in Fiscal Year 2016.</p>		
Sec 14. S-K Grants	<p>Would require that funds collected by the Secretary of Agriculture from customs duties on fishery products be used for fisheries research and development projects.</p>	<p>This would reduce funds currently used by NOAA for research programs including stock surveys and assessments.</p>	<p>Language regarding the use of duties collected under the S-K Act are included in H.R. 1335 and S. 1403.</p>
Sec 15. Disaster Requests	<p>Would require the Secretary of Commerce to make a decision regarding a disaster assistance request - submitted under the provisions of section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act - within 90 days of receiving a request seeking the disaster declaration.</p> <p>Would deem a California EO as a disaster request.</p>		<p>Similar language regarding the treatment of disaster assistance requests are included in H.R. 1335 and S. 1403.</p>
Sec 16. Data Collection Modernization	<p>Would require the Secretary of Commerce, within 90 days, to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Digital Service to modernize and streamline the fishery data collection, processing, analysis, and storage systems of NMFS</p>		
Sec 17. Appropriations	<p>Would reauthorize the Act for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2021 at the currently authorized level.</p>		<p>Similar language is included in H.R. 1335.</p>