

Scope of Work

(Currently being drafted by the Councils)

1. Identify, analyze, and track authorization legislation before Congress (House and Senate) dealing with issues of interest identified by any of the eight regional fishery management councils (*see potential list below*)
2. Notify Councils of Congressional hearings on fisheries-related issues or other issues identified by any of the eight regional fishery management councils (*with the caveat that many Committees only require a 48-hour notice of upcoming hearings so timely notification may not be possible*)
3. Notify Councils of upcoming mark-ups of legislation identified by any of the eight regional fishery management councils (*with the caveat that Congress has become somewhat less transparent than in the past – ex: the Senate Commerce Committee markup of S.1403 (Rubio) was not formally noticed – even to Committee Members – until after COB on a Friday for a Tuesday markup*)
4. Review and track appropriation legislation for fisheries or other issues of interest identified by any of the eight regional fishery management councils
5. Provide regular reports to Chair of the CCC (or all Council EDs?) – biweekly, monthly?
6. Provide timely notification of events (hearings, markups, etc.) of interest to specific Councils (through the Chair of the CCC or the appropriate Council ED?) (*with above noted caveat on Congressional transparency*)

Congressional Committees to be tracked

(Based on list of potential issues listed below)

- House Natural Resources Committee
- House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
- House Science, Space and Technology Committee
- House Appropriations Committee
- Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
- Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
- Senate Appropriations Committee

Potential Issues for Legislation and/or Hearings

- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act - reauthorization and other amendments
- IUU / Port States Measures legislation
- National Marine Sanctuaries, Antiquities Act/Marine Monuments, Marine Protected Areas legislation and oversight activities

- National Ocean Policy legislation
- International Fishery Agreement implementing legislation
- NEPA amendments
- Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Act amendments
- Seabird protection legislation
- Marine Aquaculture legislation
- Artificial Reefs / Idle Iron legislation
- Fishery Vessel Buyout program amendments/Capital Construction Fund amendments
- Misc. Fisheries laws reauthorizations - Atlantic Coastal, Striped Bass, etc.
- Fishery Disaster Program amendments
- Seafood Fraud, Seafood Traceability legislation
- Coral Reef Conservation Act amendments
- Shark Finning amendments
- Ecosystem Management legislation
- Forage fish protection legislation
- Ocean Acidification legislation
- Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act amendments
- Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (Grant Program) amendments
- RESTORE Act amendments
- Aquatic Nuisance Species legislation
- American Fisheries Act amendments
- Arctic Fisheries legislation

Appropriations Issues

- Council line item
- Stock Assessment line item
- Red snapper policy riders
- National Ocean Policy riders
- Others???

Additional Items that could be added to the scope of work

(Entails more time and may involve registration fees to attend some Administration events)

- Review Council letters to/from Members of Congress
- Attend Congressional hearings and report on Member participation and issues raised by specific Members during hearings
- Identify and track Administration activities (initiatives, task forces, policies)
- Attend meetings of Administration task forces, etc. (Ex: IUU Task Force, 2014 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit, Marine Protected Area Advisory Committee)