

AN ACT TO REAUTHORIZE THE STRIPED BASS CONSERVATION ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. pdf

1: List of acts of the th United States Congress - Wikipedia

Stat. - An act to reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, and for other purposes.

Week of April 28, To amend the Endangered Species Act of to limit designation as critical habitat of areas owned or controlled by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Rep Ehlers, Vernon J. Referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To help protect the public against the threat of chemical attacks. Rep Pallone, Frank, Jr. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Rep Peterson, John E. House Resources Latest Major Action: Referred to the House Committee on Resources. To reinstate and transfer a hydroelectric license under the Federal Power Act to permit the redevelopment of a hydroelectric project located in the State of New York, and for other purposes. Rep Sweeney, John E. A bill to enhance national security, environmental quality, and economic stability by increasing the production of clean, domestically produced renewable energy as a fuel source for the national electric system. Sen Jeffords, James M. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Week of April 14, To provide for the establishment at the Department of Energy of a program for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and infrastructure, and for other purposes. Rep Boehlert, Sherwood L. Referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To ensure that exports of Alaskan North Slope crude oil are prohibited. Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. A bill to authorize the acquisition of interests in undeveloped coastal areas in order to better ensure their protection from development. Sen Hollings, Ernest F. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance competition among and between rail carriers in order to ensure efficient rail service and reasonable rail rates, and for other purposes. Sen Burns, Conrad R. Week of April 7, To improve homeland security, prevent tax increases, support education and health care, and strengthen the economy. Rep Boswell, Leonard L. Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To amend title 49, United States Code, to require phased increases in the fuel efficiency standards applicable to light trucks; to require fuel economy standards for automobiles up to 10, pounds gross vehicle weight; to increase the fuel economy of the Federal fleet of vehicles, and for other purposes. Rep Gilchrest, Wayne T. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes. Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. To establish a research, development, and demonstration program in genetics, protein science, and computational biology of microbes and plants to support the energy and environmental mission of the Department of Energy. House Science Latest Major Action: Referred to the House Committee on Science. To amend the Endangered Species Act of to require the Secretary of the Interior to give greater weight to scientific or commercial data that is empirical or has been field-tested or peer-reviewed, and for

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other purposes. A bill to enable the United States to maintain its leadership in aeronautics and aviation. Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the system for enhancing automobile fuel efficiency, and for other purposes. Sen Durbin, Richard J. A bill to accelerate the commercialization and widespread use of hydrogen energy and fuel cell technologies, and for other purposes. Week of March 31st, To authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish an Advanced Technology Incentives Program to fund the development and deployment of new advanced technologies such as fuel cells, turbines, hybrid, and storage system power technologies. To provide benefits for certain individuals with injuries resulting from administration of a smallpox vaccine, and for other purposes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Failed by the Yeas and Nays: To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to allow public water systems to avoid filtration requirements, and for other purposes. Rep Engel, Eliot L. To require the adoption and enforcement of regulations to prohibit the intentional feeding of bears on Federal public lands in order to end the hunting practice known as "bear baiting" and reduce the number of dangerous interactions between people and bears. To prohibit any Federal official from expending any Federal funds for any population control or population planning program or any family planning activity. Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to improve the commercial value of forest biomass for electric energy, useful heat, transportation fuels, petroleum-based product substitutes, and other commercial purposes. Rep Rehberg, Dennis R. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Resources, and Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To accelerate natural gas exploration, development, and production from oil and gas wells drilled to deep depths on existing lease tracts on the Outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes. To promote and coordinate global change research, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Week of March 10th, Rep Holt, Rush D. To accelerate the wilderness designation process by establishing a timetable for the completion of wilderness studies on Federal lands, and for other purposes. Rep Delahunt, William D. To amend the Endangered Species Act of to enable Federal agencies responsible for the preservation of threatened species and endangered species to rescue and relocate members of any of those species that would be taken in the course of certain reconstruction, maintenance, or repair of Federal or non-Federal manmade flood control levees. To facilitate the production and generation of coal-based power. Referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To provide for the stabilization of prices for gasoline, and for other purposes. Rep DeFazio, Peter A. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on International Relations, Ways and Means, and Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To provide for research, development, and demonstration on coal and related technologies, and for other purposes. Rep Costello, Jerry F. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of to provide tax incentives for the use of biodiesel as a fuel. Rep Hulshof, Kenny C. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To prohibit the commercial harvesting of Atlantic striped bass in the coastal waters and the exclusive economic zone. To authorize the Small Business Administration and the Department of Agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers

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seeking to develop and implement agricultural innovation plans in order to increase their profitability in ways that provide environmental benefits, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. A bill to provide for the protection of paleontological resources on Federal lands, and for other purposes. Sen Akaka, Daniel K. A bill to encourage energy conservation through bicycling. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for sewer overflow control grants. Sen Snowe, Olympia J. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Week of March 3rd, To amend the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, , to reinstate the requirement that a farm, in order to be certified as an organic farm with respect to livestock produced on the farm, feed the livestock with organically produced feed. House Agriculture Latest Major Action: Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. To improve the conservation and management of coastal and ocean resources by reenacting and clarifying provisions of a reorganization plan authorizing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. To direct the Secretary of Energy to develop and implement a strategy for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of distributed power hybrid energy systems, and for other purposes. To authorize collaborative forest restoration and wildland fire hazard mitigation projects on National Forest System lands and other public and private lands, to improve the implementation of the National Fire Plan, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Sen Feingold, Russell D. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish requirements concerning the operation of fossil fuel-fired electric utility steam generating units, commercial and industrial boiler units, solid waste incineration units, medical waste incinerators, hazardous waste combustors, chlor-alkali plants, and Portland cement plants to reduce emissions of mercury to the environment, and for other purposes. Sen Leahy, Patrick J. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce air pollution through expansion of cap and trade programs, to provide an alternative regulatory classification for units subject to the cap and trade program, and for other purposes. Sen Inhofe, James M.

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2: ONE ANGLER'S VOYAGE: February

H.R. (99 th): A bill to reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, and for other purposes. React to this bill with an emoji Save your opinion on this bill on a six-point scale from strongly oppose to strongly support.

Commercial and sport fishing are jointly managed by the federal government and individual states. Many laws and regulations guide the management of these resources by federal agencies. In the th Congress, P. Congressional Research Service Aquaculture “the farming of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic animals and plants in a controlled environment” is expanding rapidly, both in the United States and abroad. In the United States, important species cultured include catfish, salmon, shellfish, and trout. It addresses specific situations of concern, such as dolphin mortality, which is primarily associated with the eastern tropical Pacific tuna fishery. Commission on Ocean Policy. On December 10, , President Bush signed P. On December 8, , President Bush signed P. On December 3, , President Bush signed P. On November 21, , the Senate passed S. Members and staff may request e-mail notification of new CRS reports on marine and freshwater fisheries, aquaculture, and marine mammal issues by contacting Gene Buck at gbuck crs. On March 1, , marine fishery resources within miles of all U. Today, individual states manage marine fisheries in inshore and coastal waters generally within 3 miles of the coast. Interstate coordination occurs through three Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific interstate marine fishery commissions, created by congressionally-approved compacts. Beyond state waters, out to miles, the federal government manages living resources for which regional councils develop fishery management plans FMPs under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Individual states manage fishermen operating state-registered vessels under state regulations consistent with any existing federal FMP when fishing in inshore state waters and, in the absence of a federal FMP, wherever they fish. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Background. The amendments established fish conservation initiatives directing NOAA Fisheries and regional councils to protect essential fish habitat, minimize incidental fish bycatch, and restore overfished stocks. In addition, a host of modifications to regional council management procedures and federal management policy were enacted. At issue for the th Congress were the terms and conditions of provisions designed to reauthorize and amend the MSFCMA to address the concerns of various interests. No reauthorization bill was reported. Section Division B of P. Also included in P. Section of P. On May 19, , the Senate passed H. Section of H. On March 23, , the House passed H. On June 16, , the House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans held an oversight hearing on fishery data collection programs. Title I of H. Five salmon species spawn in Pacific drainages, after which juveniles migrate to North Pacific ocean waters where they mature. Since these fish may cross several state and national boundaries during their life span, management is complicated. Threats to salmon include hydropower dams blocking rivers and creating reservoirs, sport and commercial harvest, habitat modification by competing resource industries and human development, and hatcheries seeking to supplement natural production but sometimes unintentionally causing genetic or developmental concerns. In response to declining salmon populations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California, 27 discrete population units have been listed as endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. In the th Congress, provisions included in P. On June 4, , the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing on the impacts on tribal fish and wildlife management programs in the Pacific Northwest. Section of S. The Case of Pacific Salmon. Miscellaneous Issues Seafood Labeling. On October 1, , the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture held an oversight hearing to review mandatory country-of-origin labeling. Section 3 of S. On January 9, , S. On February 12, , the Senate passed S. Title II of S. Habitat on Military Lands. Section 12 of H. Section e of P. Indian Claims and Fishing Rights. Title III of P. Section 3 c of S. Section 4 of H. Section 4 of S. The committee reported H. On June 12, , the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a hearing on global overfishing and international fishery management. Section 12 of S. Section 5 of S. Section 2 of H. Section 4 c of H. Section a 1 of H. Section a of P. Code, including fishery endorsements for

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vessels and financial assistance; this bill was reported amended September 17, , by the House Committee on Judiciary H. Section 10 of H. Section a 3 H of H. On April 11, , the House passed H. On July 31, , the Senate passed H. The conference report on H. The House passed H. On September 15, , the Senate passed S. On November 14, , the Senate amended H. On May 13, , the language of H. On March 19, , the House passed H. On January 28, , the House passed S. Corals and Coral Reefs. Section 7 of S. Background and Issues Aquaculture is the farming or husbandry of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic animals and plants, usually in a controlled or selected environment. The diversity of aquaculture is typified by such activities as: With growth, aquaculture operations face increasing scrutiny for habitat destruction, pollution, and other concerns. The major statute affecting U. Miscellaneous Issues Oil Spill Damage. Section c 3 D Division B of P. Section 6 of S. Section 4 a 3 of H. Section 2 e of S. Background and Issues Due in part to dolphin mortality estimated at more than , animals per year in the eastern tropical Pacific tuna purse-seine fishery, Congress enacted the Marine Mammal Protection Act MMPA in Under the act, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through NOAA Fisheries, is responsible for the conservation and management of whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, and sea lions. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Fish and Wildlife Service FWS , is responsible for walrus, sea and marine otters, polar bears, manatees, and dugongs. The MMPA authorizes the taking of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing operations. The amendments indefinitely authorized the taking of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing operations and provided for assessment of marine mammal stocks in U. At issue for Congress were the terms and conditions of provisions designed to reauthorize and amend the MMPA to address the concerns of various interests. On August 19, , the House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans held an oversight field hearing in San Diego, California, on the increasing frequency of interactions between marine mammals and humans. On June 17, , the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held a hearing on the Agreement between the United States and Russia on the conservation and management of the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population. Authorization and Appropriations for FY On June 23, , the House passed H.

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3: US Congress Subject | New York State | LegiScan

To reauthorize the Striped Bass Conservation Act, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

Overview and creation of US policy – The fish off the coasts of the United States, the highly migratory species of the high seas, the species which dwell on or in the Continental Shelf appertaining to the United States, and the anadromous species which spawn in United States rivers or estuaries, constitute valuable and renewable natural resources. These fishery resources contribute to the food supply, economy, and health of the Nation and provide recreational opportunities. Many coastal areas are dependent upon fishing and related activities, and their economies have been badly damaged by the overfishing of fishery resources at an ever-increasing rate over the past decade. The activities of massive foreign fishing fleets in waters adjacent to such coastal areas have contributed to such damage, interfered with domestic fishing efforts, and caused destruction of the fishing gear of United States fishermen. There is danger that irreversible effects from overfishing will take place before an effective international agreement on fishery management jurisdiction can be negotiated, signed, ratified, and implemented. If placed under sound management before overfishing has caused irreversible effects, the fisheries can be conserved and maintained so as to provide optimum yields on a continuing basis. Habitat considerations should receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources of the United States. The New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico Councils may not submit a fishery management plan or amendment that creates a catch share program for a fishery, and the Secretary may not approve or implement such a plan or amendment submitted by such a Council or a secretarial plan or amendment under section c that creates such a program, unless the final program has been approved, in a referendum in accordance with this subparagraph, by a majority of the permit holders eligible to participate in the fishery. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, any permit holder with landings from within the sector of the fishery being considered for the catch share program within the 5-year period preceding the date of the referendum and still active in fishing in the fishery shall be eligible to participate in such a referendum. If a catch share program is not approved by the requisite number of permit holders, it may be revised and submitted for approval in a subsequent referendum. We oppose this legislation because it would roll back important elements of the law which are critical to making fisheries and the fishing industry in the United States economically and environmentally sustainable. Congress first enacted the Fishery Conservation and Management Act in with two main goals in mind: The law worked very well; foreign fishing was phased out, and investments in the domestic fleet were increased. Unfortunately, this capitalization worked so well that domestic fishing soon replaced foreign fleets in overexploiting U. In and , two MSA reauthorizations were enacted to end overfishing, promote rebuilding of overfished stocks, protect fish habitat, improve fisheries science, and minimize bycatch. But it was only in , a mere eight years ago, that Congress first required all eight Regional Fishery Management Councils to set science-based annual catch limits ACLs to prevent overfishing, and to put in place accountability measures ensuring that exceeding an ACL meant a reduction in harvest the following year. In addition, in cases where a fishery may still become overfished, Councils are now required to end overfishing immediately. These changes, coupled with the reforms, have succeeded in ending overfishing in nearly all fisheries, and putting overfished stocks on a path to rebuilding. Most important, they have helped insulate the Councils from pressure to make politically-driven management decisions that hurt fishing communities in the long run. It is important to note that the and reauthorizations were bipartisan bills worked on, and voted for, by Republicans and Democrats alike, because everybody recognized the need to address the number of declining and collapsed fish stocks. While the current MSA may not be perfect, members in both parties recognize the incredible sustainability and economic gains made since What is needed now are updates to the MSA that address specific issues and keep the law current, not a weakening of the law and roll-back of conservation measures as is found in H. Contrary to the two

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previous reauthorizations, H. The fishery-related provisions of H. These rollbacks in particular are job-killers. Rebuilding overfished stocks is the key to improving fishing economies, and we must not delay that process; once fish stocks are gone, they cannot be rebuilt. Of further concern, the bill would eliminate the requirement to set ACLs for dozens of vulnerable stocks, and shield fisheries data not just from public view, but also from use by federal agencies that manage other ocean resources. Because weakening fisheries policy is apparently not enough, H. The inclusion of these provisions shows clearly that Republicans are only concerned with advancing an extreme agenda to undermine our core conservation statutes and not with improving the management of our fisheries. Further, Republicans have used this bill to continue their crusade to give away as many public lands and waters as possible to private interests or the states. The proposal in this bill to extend state management of red snapper out to 9 miles in the Gulf of Mexico ignores the fact that these waters and the fish in them belong to all Americans, and the fact that states have set unsustainable catch limits in their own waters which, in turn, forces NOAA to shorten the season in federal waters. The result of this provision will likely be the elimination of any red snapper fishery in federal waters and severe localized depletion of red snapper between 0 and 9 miles from shore. These changes are not sound fishery management policy, and would certainly lead to overfishing of red snapper. As if the bill as introduced was not detrimental enough to our fisheries, the Republicans forced through several amendments at Committee markup without reaching out for any Democrat support. For example, one amendment adopted at mark-up further erodes protections that NEPA offers to individuals and communities. Giving Councils the authority to curtail NEPA oversight removes the shield that all Americans, and particularly communities without deep pockets, depend on to protect them from government overreach, including fishery management actions that take away access to a resource they depend on for their livelihoods. Another Republican amendment severely inhibits local control over fisheries management by dictating to Councils how to do their jobs when considering allocation of fishery resources. One of the key elements of the MSA is that regional Councils have broad latitude to work with stakeholders on many issues, including resource allocation. But this amendment removes that ability and lets Washington impose its timeline on allocation review, taking local control of fisheries away from the Councils. At the same time, not a single one of the five democratic amendments was adopted, despite being simple, incremental improvements that would not substantially change the nature of the bill. This is indicative of the lack of motivation on the part of the Majority to work with us to produce a bipartisan bill that can help our fisheries, like the and reauthorizations. We were disappointed that they rejected a commonsense proposal sponsored by Representative Dingell D-MI to harmonize environmental review of fishing activities without weakening NEPA. In the face of this lack of bipartisan cooperation, two Democratic members of the Committee, Mr. Huffman, have introduced an alternate bill, H. There are still many things about our fisheries that we do not know, but that should not stop us from moving toward incorporating new data and new scientific understanding of ocean ecosystems into fisheries management. While we have many healthy fisheries in the United States, we also have many that remain in dangerously depleted states or are only beginning their recovery. We have heard consistently from commercial and recreational fishermen, fishery managers, and the conservation community that the Magnuson-Stevens Act is working, and that the massive overhaul envisioned by this bill is not warranted. Without keeping strong conservation measures in place and continuing to improve management through better science, we will never realize the full potential of our fishery resources for sustainable economic development. For these reasons, we oppose H.

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4: ONE ANGLER'S VOYAGE: MAGNUSON ACT REAUTHORIZATION: FIRST, DO NO HARM

Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act and the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, and for other purposes", having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment in the nature.

The first try, in the late s, was largely spurred by fishermen in Massachusetts who wanted to fish productive waters off southern Cape Cod, which lay in federal waters. It never got real legs, and failed without reaching the rulemaking stage. That proposal went to formal rulemaking, with hearings held up and down the coast, before overwhelming opposition from recreational fishermen convinced the agency to take no action. The most recent example of such legislation is H. That argument was pretty much put to bed in , when then-President George H. Bush issued an executive order that prohibited commercial striped bass fishing in federal waters , but left the door open, should NMFS agree, to recreational harvest. There has also been generalized recreational concern about the higher overall landings that would result should the EEZ be opened. Much of that concern focused on the recreational fishery off Virginia and North Carolina; opening the EEZ would allow anglers to target the large, female striped bass that spend most of the winter in federal waters off those two states before moving into Chesapeake Bay to spawn. But what anglers have largely been unable to articulate is why it would do any more harm to catch such big fish in the EEZ off Virginia, rather than, say, when they were sucking down bunker inside state waters as they migrated along the coast. The answer lies in how striped bass are managed. Unlike federal fisheries managers, who are required to establish an annual catch limit for all managed species , ASMFC does not impose hard poundage quotas on the recreational sector, but only on commercial fishermen. Such an approach makes it extremely difficult to regulate landings and prevent overfishing. Under the federal management system, biologists begin by establishing an Overfishing Limit, generally based on maximum sustainable yield, which sets an absolute poundage cap on landings. The Science and Statistics Committee of the relevant regional fishery management council then revises the Overfishing Limit downward, to allow for inevitable scientific uncertainty, to arrive at the Acceptable Biological Catch. The ABC then goes to the council itself, which often reduces it a bit more—usually by 20 or 25 percent—to account for management uncertainty read the court decision in *Guindon v. Pritzger* to learn what can happen when such a reduction does not take place , to ultimately establish an Annual Catch Limit, denoted in pounds. At that point, regulations are crafted to constrain harvest to the Annual Catch Limit; if landings exceed such Annual Catch Limit in any year, regulations are revised to prevent such overfishing from occurring; if the Overfishing Limit is breached, Accountability Measures will be imposed to avoid further damage to the stock. A new Annual Catch Limit is usually calculated each year to respond to changes in the size of the fish population. ASMFC works very differently. They persist until the fishery management plan itself is changed, a process that can take years. That benchmark assessment ultimately revealed that the stock had been subject to overfishing for six out of the previous ten years, and that harvest reductions were needed. They are difficult to monitor and easy to ignore. If the EEZ were opened to striped bass harvest, striped bass would be targeted on their summer feeding grounds in federal waters off Massachusetts. And all throughout the winter, the big female bass that stage off Virginia and North Carolina ahead of the spring spawning run would be hammered by anglers. Landings could only increase substantially. Around February 15, managers receive an estimate of recreational landings for the previous year but, unless ASMFC chose to update its stock assessment, it would be impossible for managers to use that information to figure out whether the fishing mortality cap had been exceeded. ASMFC only conducts benchmark striped bass assessments every five years, although a couple of updates are normally performed in between. And unlike harvest estimates, which are available less than two months after the close of the year, assessment updates take far longer to compile, and are normally not available until October or November. Full benchmark assessments take even longer. If no such update occurred, the overfishing could drag out for a couple more years. That would be a bad thing, because as Pandora herself would explain, opening a box is easy. But keeping the various evils contained is a hard thing

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to do.

5: Fishery, Aquaculture, and Marine Mammal Legislation in the th Congress - www.enganchecubano.com

11 Calendar No. THCONGRESS 1STSESSION S. [Report No.] To reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act and the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, and for other purposes.

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