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| **Short Title and Bill Number** | **Administration Bill** | **Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act (H.R. 1335)** | **Florida Fisheries Improvement Act (S.1403)** | **Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority Act of 2015** | **Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority Act (H.R. 3094)** | **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2014 (S. 2991)** | **NS1 Guidelines** |  |
| Introduced by: |  | **Representative Young** | **Senator Rubio** | **Senator Vitter** | **Representative Graves** | **Senator Begich** | (NMFS) |  |
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| Topics: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New definitions | Defines: forage fish, inner boundary of the EEZ, highly migratory species (technical amendment), and ecosystem. Also clarifies Maine pocket waters (technical amendment to Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act) | Defines: catch share, confidential information, subsistence fishing, ecosystem components, depleted stocks, stock assessment | Defines (for the amendment to the Capitol Construction Fund): agreement fishery facility, eligible fishery facility, qualified fishery facility | N/A | Defines: coastal waters, Gulf coastal state, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper, Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority, Red Snapper Fishery Management Plan, Reef Fish Federal Fishery Management Plan, State territorial waters | Defines: depleted, subsistence fishing, tribal, tribe. (For the amendment to the Capitol Construction Fund: agreement fishery facility, eligible fishery facility, qualified fishery facility) | N/A |  |
| Data-poor definition | Not addressed. (Note: the agency's National Standard (NS) 1 proposal includes a regulatory solution to improving the management of 'data-limited' stocks). | Only applies to the section on the Asset Forfeiture Fund. The term "data-poor fishery" means a fishery: i) that has not been surveyed in the preceding 5 years; ii) for which a fishery stock assessment has not been performed within the preceding 5 years; or iii) for which limited information on the status of the fishery is available for management purposes. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |  |

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| Ecosystem components (ECs) definition | The term is not defined by this bill. ECs are mentioned as part of an amendment to section 405 (c) to add ecosystems research to the fisheries research authority in the MSA. (Note: the agency's NS1 proposal includes clarification of which stocks are in need of conservation and management.  Stocks that are not in need of conservation and management can still be added into an FMP and be characterized as EC species). | EC species means a stock of fish that is a nontarget, incidentally harvested stock of fish in a fishery, or a nontarget, incidentally harvested stock of fish that a Council or the Secretary has determined is not subject to overfishing, approaching depleted condition or depleted, and is not likely to become so in the absence of conservation and management. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | The proposed guidelines state that councils may choose to identify stocks within their FMPs as EC species if they do not require conservation and management. EC species may be identified at the species or stock level, and may be grouped into complexes. |
| Depleted stocks definition | Bill does not use the term depleted except in an international context. (Note: the agency's NS1 proposal includes a regulatory solution to identifying depleted stocks). | Depleted means the stock or stock complex has a biomass that has declined below a level that jeopardizes the capacity of the stock or stock complex to produce maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis. Changed the term overfished to depleted in all cases where overfished occurs in the MSA and requires that the Status of the Stocks report should differentiate stocks that are depleted due to overfishing versus those depleted as a result of other factors. | Bill uses the term "depleted fisheries" in the title of bill section 103. However, the bill does not define or use the term in the bill text. | N/A | N/A | In section 304(e) strikes "overfished" and inserts "overfished or otherwise depleted fisheries." | The proposed  revision to the guidelines state that an overfished stock or stock complex is considered depleted when it has not experienced overfishing at any point over a period of two generation times of the stock and its biomass has declined below MSST, or when a rebuilding  stock or stock complex has reached its targeted time to rebuild and the stock’s biomass has shown no significant signs of growth despite being fished at or below catch levels that are consistent with the rebuilding plan throughout that period |
| Stock Assessment definition | N/A | Defines the term 'stock assessment' to mean an evaluation of the past, present, and future status of a stock of fish that includes a range of life history characteristics for the stock including: 1) the geographical boundaries of such stock, 2) information on age, growth, natural mortality, sexual maturity and reproduction, feeding habits, and habitat preferences, and 3) fishing for the stock | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Ecosystems | Encourages, but does not mandate, use of ecosystem planning by: 1) giving the Councils, and the Secretary in the case of HMS, authority to develop Fishery Ecosystem plans (FEPs); 2) updating the stated purposes of the MSA to clarify that the Act promotes protection of essential fish habitat; 3) updating the stated policy of the MSA to highlight habitat conservation; 4) giving the scientific and statistical committees authority to provide advice on forage fish; 5) giving the Councils discretionary authority to identify stocks whose productivity may be limited due to habitat issues and comment on Federal and State action that may prevent stocks from reaching habitat conservation targets; 6) updating the fisheries research authority in the MSA to add ecosystems research and creating a platform for a centralized habitat science research program; 7) providing authority for NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology program to include sponges and to clarify that the focus of the provision is on areas where deep-sea corals form aggregations. | Gives Councils authority to consider changes in an ecosystem and the economic needs of the fishing community when establishing ACLs. | N/A | N/A | N/A | Inserts "marine ecosystems" in Section 2 - Findings, establishing that ecosystems are critical to realizing the full potential of the Nation's fishery resources. Includes EBFM as a potential topic during Council member training | The proposed revisions address ecosystem approaches to management in three ways:  1) clarifies the concept of aggregate MSY and how it can be used as an optimal tool in fisheries management; 2) clarifies the guidance on OY and better describes the relationship between OY and ACLs; 3) clarifies that qualitative analysis of economic, ecological & social factors are permissible when quantitative analysis is not possible. |
| Subsistence Fishing | Adds a new finding to the MSA to emphasize the importance of subsistence fishing.  Findings and purposes of the MSA would be updated to include the consideration of subsistence fishing where commercial and recreational fishing are mentioned. Amends the MSA to explicitly state that the Secretary can appoint individuals who are knowledgeable about subsistence fishing to the Councils and to require that subsistence interests, if any, in a fishery be included in the description of the fishery in a FMP. | Defines subsistence fishing as "fishing in which the fish harvested are intended for customary and traditional uses, including for direct personal or family consumption as food or clothing; for the making or selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts taken for personal or family consumption, for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade." | N/A | N/A | N/A | Proposes the following definition: "The term subsistence fishing means fishing in which the fish harvested are intended for customary and traditional uses, including for direct personal or family consumption as food or clothing; for the making or selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts taken for personal or family consumption, for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary exchange or trade." Also adds a paragraph in the Findings section addressing subsistence fishing. | N/A |
| Electronic Monitoring | Electronic monitoring is a component of a new Integrated Data Collection section, which would require the Councils, and the Secretary in the case of the Atlantic HMS fisheries, to develop integrated data collection programs that may include observers and technologies, including but not limited to electronic monitoring and reporting. The new section includes a Standardized Bycatch Reporting Mechanism provision, which is moved from Sec 303 of the Act. Provides that programs shall set priorities for program development and implementation and specifies that Secretarial approval of the programs would be required. Also requires Councils to establish a regular review process. Lastly, gives Councils and the Secretary authority to establish fee systems to support observer coverage and use of technologies under the programs. | Requires the Secretary to issue regulations to govern the use of electronic monitoring within one year. | N/A | N/A | N/A | Establishes an Integrated Data Collection program that requres the councils to develop integrated data collection programs that may include observers and technologies, including but not limited to electronic monitoring and reporting. Gives Councils and the Secretary authority to establish fee systems to support observer coverage and use of technologies under the programs. Also amends Section 313 - North Pacific Fisheries Conservation - to include electronic technologies in addition to observers to sample fishing vessels. Establishes a system of fees to pay for the cost of implementing the plan for any integrated data collection program, including electronic technology requirements, established by the Council. | N/A |
| Allocations | Requires FMPs to regularly include an evaluation of the economic, social, and ecological conditions of the fisheries to determine if adjustments are needed, including allocation among user groups in the fishery. (Note: the agency's NS1 proposal also includes a regulatory solution to improving the routine review of FMPs, including allocation decisions). | Amends the MSA to address allocations in mixed- use fisheries in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico by developing a process for allocation review and establishment for the SAFMC and the GMFMC. Also specifies that a catch share allocation in a Gulf of Mexico fishery can only be traded by sale or lease within the same commercial fishing sector | Amends section 313 to require the GMFMC and SAFMC to review any allocation of fishing privileges among the commercial, recreational, and charter components of a fishery managed under a FMP. The Council may delay action for not more than 3 additional 1 year periods if necessary. Also requires the NAS to conduct a study to give councils guidance on criteria to be used in allocation decisions in mixed-use fisheries | N/A | N/A | Requires SAFMC and GMFMC to review any allocation of fishing privileges under their FMPs at least once every 5 years. Both councils may delay action for not more than 3 additional 1- year periods if necessary. Requires the NAS to provide a report on allocation guidance to the councils within 1 year. | The proposed revisions to the guidelines include recommendations that councils regularly review the goals and objectives of their FMPs. A review of allocation decisions should be included as part of the regular review process. |
| Limited Access Privilege Programs | Adds 'redistribution of inactive privileges' to the list of measures that may be considered in the development of a LAPP. Deletes the Central Lien Registry requirement, and maintains the Limited Access System Administration Fund. Also clarifies that funds collected through an auction under section 303A(d)(2) of the MSA would be used in the fishery from which the fees were collected. | Requires the Secretary and Councils to report regularly (at least once every 7 years) on the progress of an LAPP, its economic effects, and any necessary modifications to the program. Any necessary modifications must include a formal schedule for action to be taken within 2 years. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Report on Fee | N/A | Requires the Secretary to report annually to Congress and the Councils on the amount collected from fees on LAPPs and community development quota programs and detail how the funds were spent on a fishery-by-fishery basis. | N/A | N/A | N/A | Authorizes the Secretary to collect a fee to recover costs associated with "management program that allocates a percentage of the TAC to individuals who have formed a sector" (in addition to LAPPs and CDQs). Requires the Secretary to identify the costs that will (and will not) be recovered by a fee in the applicable FMP. | N/A |
| Considerations for modifications to ACL requirements | N/A | Amends requirements for establishing ACLs to include: 1) Councils may consider changes in an ecosystem and the economic needs of the fishing community; 2) The following stocks are exempt from ACLs: i) ecosystem component species; ii) life cycle of 1 year; and iii) half of a single-year class will complete their life cycle in 18 months and fishing mortality will have little impact on the stock. 3) Can take into account management measures under international agreements and informal transboundary agreements; 4) Councils may establish ACLs for multispecies stock complexes; 5) Councils may establish multiyear ACLs where each year in any continuous period is not more than three years. | Exempts fisheries with a mean life cycle of 1.5 years or with spawning areas outside the U.S. EEZ (such as spiny lobster) from FMPs with ACL/AM requirements, unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing | N/A | N/A | Amends requirements for establishing ACLs to exempt species with a life cycle of 18 months or less, or species where all spawning and recruitment occurs beyond U.S. waters (such as spiny lobster) unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species. | The proposed revisions to the guidelines maintains requirement that stocks in need of conservation and management must have ACLs. However, the proposed revisions include provisions that will allow managers to use alternative approaches to set MSY/ABC/ACL thresholds for data-limited stocks. The revisions also propose allowing carry-over of all or some unused portion of the ACL to a subsequent year as long as overfishing is prevented. |
| Rebuilding Timeline | Seeks to improve the functionality of fish  stock rebuilding plans by: 1) changing the time frame from "be as short as possible" to "be as short as practicable"; 2) replacing the ten-year rebuilding provision with three science-based options that would allow fishery managers to factor in the available information on the biology of the stock in determining appropriate rebuilding timelines. These are the same as the options in the NS1 proposed rule. Fish stocks would be required to be rebuilt as soon as practicable under any of these three options: i) Tmin + 1 Generation time ii) the minimum time required to rebuild the overfished stocks to maximum sustainable yield biomass level in the absence of any fishing mortality multiplied by two or iii) the amount of time required to rebuild the overfished stocks of fish to its maximum sustainable yield biomass level if it is fished at 75% of the maximum fishing mortality threshold. (Note: the agency's NS1 proposal also includes regulatory solutions to improve the flexibility and functionality of rebuilding timelines. For instance, the NS1 proposal includes two additional methods for calculating the maximum time stocks have to rebuild (for stocks requiring more | Seeks to improve the functionality of fish stock plans by: 1) changing the time frame from "be as short as possible" to "be as short as practicable.";  2) deleting the 10 year rebuilding requirement and replacing it with "Tmin + 1 Generation time", except in a case in which i) the biology of the stock, other environmental conditions, or international management measures dictate otherwise; ii) the Secretary determines that the cause of the stock being depleted is outside the jurisdiction of the Council or the rebuilding program cannot be effective only by limiting fishing activities; iii) the Secretary determines that one or more components of a mixed-stock fishery is depleted but cannot be rebuilt within that time frame without significant economic harm to the fishery, or cannot be rebuilt without causing another component of the mixed-stock fishery to approach a depleted status; iv) the Secretary determines that the life history of the stock is affected by informal transboundary agreements, and v) the Secretary determines that the stock has been affected by unusual events that make rebuilding within the specified time period improbable without significant economic harm. | Amends 304(e)(4)(A) to give councils the option of either using the 10 year rebuilding requirement or using Tmin + 1 Generation time. | If a (red snapper fishery) is subject to overfishing or is subject to rebuilding plan, each Gulf state will submit materials to the GSRSMA showing that the state implemented necessary measures to end overfishing/rebuild. If state does not implement the measures, GSRSMA votes on whether to recommend closure to the Secretary; then Secretary may declare closure. | If a Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery is experiencing overfishing or is subject to a rebuilding plan, the Gulf coastal State responsible must submit a certification to the GSRSMA showing that it is implementing the necessary measures to end overfishing or to rebuild the fishery and is in consultation with NOAA to implement a program to provide the data to adequately monitor the harvest of red snapper. | Amends 304(e)(4)(A) to give councils the option of either using the 10 year rebuilding requirement or using Tmin + 1 Generation time. | The proposed revisions provide two additional methods for determining rebuilding time calculations for stocks requiring more than 10 years to rebuild, which may be preferable based on the quality of available data for the stock: 1) 2\*Tmin and 2) Time needed to rebuild to Bmsy when fished at 75% of MFMT (Fmsy) |
| Discontinuing Rebuilding Plans | N/A | A Council may terminate a rebuilding plan if the Council's SSC determines, and the Secretary concurs, that the original determination that the fishery was depleted was erroneous either within the first two years of being notified of depleted status or within 90 days after the completion of the next stock assessment after such determination. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Proposes that a rebuilding plan may be discontinued if both of the following criteria:  1) The Secretary determines the stock was never overfished, as originally thought; 2) The biomass of the stock is above the MSST (it is not currently overfished). |
| Alternative management (i.e., rebuilding) strategies | Not addressed. (Note: NOAA Fisheries already uses alternative rebuilding strategies and the agency's NS1 proposal includes regulatory clarifications and improvements to using such strategies). | A FMP, amendment, or proposed regulation may use alternative rebuilding strategies, including harvest control rules and fishing mortality-rate targets to the extent they are in compliance with the requirements of this Act. | Gives councils authority to use alternative fishery management measures in a recreational fishery (or the recreational component of a mixed-use fishery,) including extraction rates, fishing mortality, and harvest control rules, to the extent they are in accordance with the requirements of the MSA | N/A | N/A | Gives the councils authority to "use alternative fishery management measures in a recreational fishery (or the recreational component of a mixed-use fishery), including extraction rates, fishing mortality, and harvest control rules, to the extent they are in accordance with the requirements of this Act" | The proposed revisions propose two additional methods for calculating rebuilding timelines for stocks requiring more than 10 years to rebuild, which may be preferable based on the quality of the available data for the stock: 1) 2\*Tmin and 2) Time needed to rebuild to Bmsy when fished at 75% of MFMT (Fmsy) |
| Stock Assessment Requirements & Stock Assessment Plans | N/A | Requires the Secretary to develop a "Stock Assessment Plan" that establishes a schedule for conducting and updating stock assessments.  Further, amends the findings of the MSA to specify that what is considered the "best scientific information available" should incorporate information from government, nongovernment, fishermen, communities, universities and research institutions. Requires the Secretary to develop guidelines that reinforce this approach. | Requires the Secretary to develop "Stock Assessment Plans" for stocks under a federal FMP that establishes a schedule for conducting and updating stock assessments. Further, amends the fisheries research section of the MSA to require the Secretary to submit a report on facilitating greater incorporation of data, analysis, stock assessments, and surveys from nongovernmental sources, including fishermen, fishing communities, universities, and research institutions, into management decisions | GSMFC "shall conduct all fishery stock assessments used for management purposes by the [Council] for the fisheries managed under the Council's Reef Fish Management Plan." However, this Act will revoke such management authority of red snapper from the Council, so this stock assessment requirement doesn't seem to be applicable to red snapper. No other mention of Stock Assessments except that red snapper quota must be based on stock assessment, suggesting it is still the Commission that performs the stock assessment. Requires assessments to:  1) Incorporate information collected by university researchers (use state, university, and private assets to the extent practicable); 2) Incorporate fishery survey conducted on and around natural and artificial reefs; 3) constituent and stakeholder participation | N/A | Requires the Secretary to develop a "Stock Assessment Plan" that establishes a schedule for conducting and updating stock assessments. Further, requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress on how to better incorporate information from government, nongovernment, fishermen, communities, universities and research institutions. | N/A |
| Emergency Regulations and Interim Measures | Does not change the 180 days, but makes a technical correction to make the effectiveness of an emergency regulation or interim measure 180 days from the effective date of the regulation or measure, rather than the date of publication of the regulation or measure, and retains language allowing for a 186 day extension. This aligns the emergency rules and interim measures provision with the Administrative Procedure Act and allows an emergency or interim measure to be effective for a full year (180 days plus an 186 day extension), as long as it is extended. It cannot be extended beyond a year. | Extends 180 days to 1 year, and can be renewed once. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | MSA 304(e)(6) provides that under certain circumstances, interim measures may be implemented to reduce, but not necessarily end, overfishing. The proposed guidance clarifies that these interim measures should rarely be used and that all three of the following criteria should be met: 1) Unanticipated and significantly changed understanding of stock status; 2) Ending overfishing immediately would result in severe social and/or economic impacts; 3) Biomass must increase during the interim measure |
| Cooperative Research and Management | Amends the Cooperative Research and Management Program to include explicitly projects to advance ecosystem based fishery management. | Within one year of publication of the Act, the Secretary shall publish a plan for implementing and conducting a cooperative research and management program. The plan shall be updated every 5 years. Priorities: acoustic technology; electronic catch reporting; electronic monitoring. Subject to availability, the Secretary shall use funds received by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act to implement the cooperative research program. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Recreational Fishing Data | N/A | 1) Federal-State partnerships: Gives the Secretary authority to: i) establish a Fed-State partnership to develop best management practices for implementing State-based rec. registry programs;  ii) submit a biennial report to Congress on the programs; iii) make grants available to States to improve implementation of their registry program.  2) Study on Rec. Fisheries Data: the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Research Council to study the implementation of the registry program and catch statistics. 3) Preference for Students: the Secretary is required to give hiring preference to students studying fisheries conservation and management to conduct marine recreational fishing data collection | N/A | N/A | If a red snapper fishery is subject to overfishing or is in a rebuilding plan, the State must consult with NOAA to implement a program to provide for data collection adequate to monitor the harvest of Gulf of Mexico red snapper by such State. | The Secretary is required to compile a report on how to better incorporate diverse source of fishing data. The report shall identify types of data and analysis, especially concerning recreational fishing, that can be sued for establishing conservation and management measures. | While the proposed revisions do not highlight recreational fishing data in a specific section, the revisions do address recreational fishing data in various sections. For example, the rule acknowledges that many recreational species do not have life history data to calculate MSY or timely information on catch levels. The proposed guidelines clarify that when data is not available, alternative SDCs can be used. |
| Asset Forfeiture Fund | N/A | Gives the Secretary authority, subject to appropriations, to use funds from the Asset Forfeiture Fund for fishery independent data collection. | N/A | N/A | N/A | Gives the Secretary authority, subject to appropriations, to use funds from the Asset Forfeiture Fund for stock assessments, surveys and data collection. | N/A |
| Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund | Amends the requirements and authorities of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund. Adds to the list of authorized uses of the Fund efforts to improve fishery dependent and independent data collection, the development and implementation of FEPs, and for habitat research, protection, and restoration. Allows funds received as restitution for criminal violations of the MSA or any other marine resource law enforced by the Secretary to be deposited into the fund and allocated for use in the geographic area in which the violation occurred. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Seafood Traceability | Provides the Secretary authorities related to two traceability programs. One program - a voluntary, fee-for-service program - would facilitate the marketing, distribution, and utilization of seafood products and be implemented by NMFS's Seafood Inspection Program. Authorizes the Secretary to assess and collect fees to establish and implement a mandatory program for tracking seafood products entering U.S. commerce. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Prohibits seafood fraud under Section 105 - Prohibited Acts. Establishes a "sustainability standard" under Section 305 - Consumer Information Regarding Sustainably Caught Fish. Requires the Secretary to analyze the costs and benefits of a seafood marketing program that includes traceability mechanisms | N/A |
| Authority to Accept Funding | Clarifies NOAA's ability to receive and expend funds from, use land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities made available by, and engage in agreements with external entities and individuals, in support of activities related to MSA. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Enforcement Mechanisms | Includes a number of amendments to  enforcement mechanisms under the MSA, including: 1) making explicit that MSA provisions apply to the Great Lakes; 2) adding a new prohibition that would be subject to criminal prosecution on particular areas of concern such as hidden compartments, gear requirement violations, disposing of fish to prevent inspection, and tampering with vessel monitoring systems;  3) Amending an existing violation to import/export/transport/sell in violation of a treaty or binding conservation measure to which the U.S. is a party; 4) Make it unlawful to fish in the waters of another country without authorization; 5) Increasing maximum amounts for civil administrative and civil judicial penalties; 6) Clarifying that review of civil penalties and permit sanctions occurs within 30 days of a final agency action; 7) Adding an investigative subpoena authority to the MSA; 8) Criminalizing some of the prohibitions of the MSA (i.e., using large scale driftnets); 9) Clarifying existing forfeiture authority and addressing the increasingly frequent use by Congress of cross-references to the MSA enforcement provision; 10) providing additional powers for authorized officers | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1) Amends Section 311(d) to establish that U.S. district courts have exclusive jurisdiction over any case arising under the provisions of the MSA. Gives the courts authority to: a) enter restraining orders or prohibitions; b) issue warrants; and c) prescribe and accept satisfactory bonds or other security. 2) Clarifies jurisdictional issues for Hawaii and its Pacific Insular Areas. 3) Increases civil and criminal penalties as well as permit sanctions. 4) Establishes the Fisheries Enforcement Fund. | N/A |
| Fisheries Disaster Relief | Clarifies that the Secretary will begin the evaluation of a disaster request only when a complete package of information is received, and to continue to provide for a 75% federal share of costs, unless Congress explicitly waives the non-federal match of funds. Amends the MSA to give the Secretary four months (instead of two months) to deliver a regional impact evaluation analysis after a fishery disaster. | Amends two timeframes with regard to fisheries disaster relief: (1) The Secretary shall publish the estimated cost of recovery from a fishery resource disaster no later than 30 days after the Secretary makes the determination with respect to such disaster; (2) the Secretary shall make a decision regarding a request from a Governor within 90 days after receiving an estimate of the economic impact of the fishery resource disaster from the entity requesting relief. | Amends one timeline with regard to fisheries disaster relief,: (1) the Secretary shall make a decision regarding a request under paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the date the Secretary receives a complete estimate of the economic impact of the fishery resource disaster from the affected State, tribal government, or fishing community. | N/A | N/A | Amends one timeline regarding fisheries disaster relief: "The Secretary shall make a decision regarding a request under paragraph  (1) not later than 90 days after the date the Secretary receives a complete estimate of the economic impact of the fishery resource disaster from the affected State, tribal government, or fishing community. | N/A |
| Confidentiality of Information | The section of the bill on confidentiality of information has many different components. Some highlights include: 1) Broadening the confidentiality exception under section 402(b)(1)(A) of the MSA to authorize disclosure of information to employees of other federal agencies if necessary to further the purposes of the MSA or any other federal authority; 2) Providing access to confidential information to SSC members, subject to confidentiality agreements prohibiting public disclosure of the information; 3) Clarifying the scope and level of detail of information that can be released under the limited access program (LAP) exception; 4) Allowing a permit holder to authorize written release of information related to his or her permit, even if it was submitted by prior holders of the permit; 5) Allowing disclosure of information that is submitted by entities that are comprised of other entities (e.g. cooperatives, groundfish sectors, etc.); 6) Allowing for release of information on the catch in a fishery in the aggregate or summary form in which it was used. | Made several changes and clarifications to MSA section 402(b). Some highlights include: 1) restricting the use of information submitted to the Secretary, States, or Commission to fisheries management and monitoring purposes only; 2) authorizing the Secretary to enter into a memorandum of understanding with other Federal agencies to share confidential data to ensure safety of life at sea; 3) prohibiting the Secretary from providing data collected for monitoring and enforcement for the purposes of coastal or marine spatial planning unless the data is important for national security or ensuring fishermen continued access to fishing grounds. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| MSA Interactions with other statutes (ESA, NEPA, etc.) | N/A | Established a new set of standards for environmental analysis that are similar to the requirement under NEPA. Establishes that the MSA has priority over the Marine Sanctuaries Act and Antiquities Act. Also requires ESA recovery plans that effect fisheries be implemented using the authority and time schedules under the MSA. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Voting Members on the Council | N/A | Increases New England voting members from 17 to 19 (MAFMC representative). Increases Mid-Atlantic voting members from 21 to 22 (NEFMC representative). Recognizes subsistence fishermen a group that should be represented in the NPFMC. | N/A | N/A | N/A | Adds Rhode Island to the MAFMC, increasing its voting members to 23 and those members appointed by the Secretary to 14. Adds SAFMC to Section 302(b)(2)(D) | N/A |
| SSC Public Involvement | N/A | Each SSC shall develop such advice in a transparent manner and allow for public involvement in the process. | Each SSC shall develop such advice in a transparent manner and allow for public involvement in the process. | N/A | The GSRSMA must, to the maximum extent practicable, make scientific data, stock assessments and other scientific information upon which FMPs are based on available to the public for inspection prior to meetings | Includes guidance that the SSC must be transparent (i.e., webcastings) | N/A |
| Webcasting of Council and CCC Meetings | N/A | To the extent practicable, a Webcast, an audio recording, or a live broadcast of each meeting held by the Councils or the CCC no later than 30 days after the conclusion of the meeting. | Amended to say "(e)ach Council shall, where practicable, make available on the Internet website of the Council a video or audio webcast of each meeting of the Council SSC of the Council not later than 30 days after the date of the conclusion of such meeting." | N/A | N/A | Amended to say "each Council shall, where practicable, make available on the Internet website of the Council a video or audio webcast of each meeting of the Council and each meeting of the scientific and statistical committee of the Council not later than 30 days after the date of the conclusion of such meeting." | N/A |
| Fishery Impact Statements & Review Periods | N/A |  | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Catch Share Referendum Pilot Program | N/A |  | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other unique taxa/species-specific features | ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES  (HMS): authorize, but not require, the Secretary to establish SSCs for HMS species, as appropriate. Expands list of functions that the HMS advisory panels are authorized to perform to include the collection and evaluation of scientific and other information relevant to FMPs, plan amendments, or scientific reports.  SEABIRDS: require that seabird interactions in U.S. fisheries be minimized to the extent practicable. | RED SNAPPER: Oil rig-related amendments - 1) Red snapper mortality during removal of any offshore oil rig in the Gulf and any fish seized from foreign illegal fishing activities will not be considered in determining whether TAC has been reached; 2) The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Interior, acting through BOEM, must enter into a cooperative agreement for funding red snapper stock assessments that are necessitated by any action by the Bureau with respect to offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico that adversely impacts red snapper. Other red snapper-related amendments are outlined in rows 31-34. | N/A | RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL  FISHERIES: Maintain IFQ system, but leave with Secretary for first 3 years; after 3 years, if GSRSMA decides to reduce commercial quota by more than 10%, Council must approve reduction. | RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL  FISHERIES: Maintain IFQ system, but leave with Secretary for first 3 years; after 3 years, if GSRSMA decides to reduce commercial quota by more than 10%, Council must approve reduction. | SUMMER FLOUNDER MANAGEMENT: Requires  MAFMC to submit a modified summer flounder FMP to the Secretary that reflects changes in distribution, abundance, and location of summer flounder and prohibits allocations based on outdated landings data. | N/A |
| Change Gulf states water boundary? | No, but the inner limit of the EEZ is defined (nationwide) to clarify that the line is as defined in the Submerged Lands Act. | Yes, to 9 nautical miles from baseline for recreational red snapper fisheries management purposes in the Gulf of Mexico | No | To 9 nautical miles from baseline for fisheries management purposes | 3 geographical miles to 3 marine leagues | No | No |
| Convey red snapper management authority to states? | No | Yes | No | Yes, through Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority (consisting of principal fisheries managers of each Gulf state) approving each state's fishery management plan by majority vote. If failure to approve plans within 1 year of enactment of the Act, management authority remains with the Secretary | Yes, through Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority (consisting of principal fisheries managers of each Gulf state) approving each state's fishery management plan by majority vote. If failure to approve plans within the deadline established by GSRSMA | No | No |
| Explicitly repeals MSA 407 (Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Research) | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| GSMFC responsible for all stock assessments used for stocks managed under the GMFMC's Reef Fish FMP? | N/A | Yes, GSMFC shall conduct stock assessments used for management under the GMFMC Reef Fish Management Plan by: 1) incorporating information collected by university researches; 2) using State, university, and private assets to conduct fisheries surveys; 3) constituent/stakeholder participation;  4) independent scientific review and independent experts review assessment to recommendations; 5) collecting data on and around natural artificial reefs | No | [Yes? Unconfirmed] | Yes - the Secretary shall provide all Federal funding to the GSMFC for all necessary stock assessments, research and management for the red snapper fishery. | None. | N/A |
| Other Amendments | 1) Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund - allowing contributions to be designated for a specific Territory's marine conservation plan; 2) Atlantic Herring Transshipment - clarifying that the Secretary shall issue permits for herring transshipments only if there is a transfer allocation under the Atlantic Herring FMP;  3) International Compliance - authorizing fees to be collected in order to cover the expenses of implementing international fishery tracking programs such as the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program. The bill also includes an expansion of federal compensation coverage to all observers, including observers carried solely under the ESA | 1) Establishing Arctic Community Development Quotas (CDQs); 2) Prohibition on considering fish seized from foreign fishing. Any fish that are seized from a foreign vessel engaged in illegal fishing activities in the EEZ shall not be considered part of the total allowable catch (TAC) for that fishery; 3) Technical clarifications to North Pacific Fishery Management section of the MSA | N/A | N/A | N/A | Highlights include: 1) Requires the Secretary to submit an "Annual Report On Special Funds" to Congress. 2) Establishes an Arctic Community Development Quota 3) Requires the Secretary to submit a "North Pacific Bycatch Report" to Congress 4) Establishes a secretarial representative for international fisheries | N/A |
| Amendments to statutes other than the MSA: | 1) High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act - amended to allow a full two- year period to complete the biennial report to Congress and expand timeframes for IUU fishing data collection, as well as other technical corrections; 2) Authorize or secure implementing legislation for the Antigua Convention, North Pacific Fisheries Resources Convention, South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing, and the Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act. 3) amendments to the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (for Maine pocket waters) and the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act (for ALJs) mentioned above. | American Fisheries Act - amended so that no entity may harvest more than 24% of the directed pollock fishery quota | 1) Amendments to Capitol Construction Fund to "resolve inconsistencies" with the Fisheries Finance Program | N/A | N/A | 1) Amends the Capitol Construction Fund; 2)Whale Conservation and Protection Study Act  - proposed to redefine the study whale study area to include all of the U.S. EEZ. 3) Reauthorizes other fishery statutes including the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act; Interjursidictional Fisheries Act of 1986; Atlantic Fisheries Cooperative Management Act; Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act; Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000; and the State Authority for Dungeness Crab Fishery Management and 4) Proposes minor editorial changes to the: Marine Mammal Protection Act, Lacey Act, Atlantic Salmon Convention Act, Atlantic Stripped Bass Conservation Act, and the Compact of Free Association Act, among others. | N/A |
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