"Damn ye, you are a sneaking puppy, and so are all of those who will submit to be governed by laws which rich men have made for their own security."

----- Black Sam Bellamy

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20:08/01: MAGNUSON-STEVE N ACT REAUTHORIZATION HEADED FOR HOUSE FLOOR MONDAY; SPONSOR UNDAUNTED BY VETO THREAT: Representative Don Young's (R-AK) controversial Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) reauthorization bill, H.R. 1335, is scheduled to be debated Monday, 1 June in the House of Representatives. A vote is expected by Tuesday. The bill, which rolls back environmental and conservation measures intended to facilitate the rebuilding of depleted fish stocks and allows fishery managers to base management decisions on political and economic considerations rather than hard science, is expected to pass through the house on a party line vote. PCFFA and IFR, along with allies at the Marine Fish Conservation Network, are campaigning against the bill, which favors short-term profiteering for well-capitalized corporate fishing interests, at the expense of long-term fishery sustainability.

H.R. 1335 also contains a controversial provision to transfer Gulf Coast red snapper management and stock assessment responsibilities to an as-yet nonexistent coalition of gulf
states. The move is seen as a largely political attempt by the recreational snapper sector to usurp snapper quota allocation decisions.

President Obama last week threatened to veto the H.R. 1335 if it makes it through both chambers, citing the substitution of politics for science in fishery management decisions, subversion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provisions, and the short-sightedness of the snapper management transfer plan. Young dismissed the veto threat as premature, an acknowledgement that MSA reauthorization will be a drawn out process because of the controversial nature of H.R. 1335 and the fact that the Senate has no companion bill.

To get involved, follow this link to tell your Representative to support sustainable fishing by opposing HR 1335. See also the Marine Fish Conservation Network website, which includes PCFFA board member and Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishermen’s Association President Don Marshall's comments on the future of fisheries management.

For more information, see this 27 May Alaska Journal of Commerce article on Don Young’s dismissal of the veto threat. See also Sublegals 20:07/06.

20:08/02: 13 COMPANIES CONTROL 40% OF THE WORLD’S FISHERIES, STUDY FINDS: Swedish researchers at the Stockholm Resilience Centre have found that only thirteen corporations control 11-16% of the world’s seafood catches, and as much as 40% of commercial seafood stocks, through extensive vertical networks of subsidiaries, as well as deep involvement in fishery management decisions making. The companies, which are listed in the source article linked below, include one North American concern, Trident Seafood. The study found that these companies are more able to produce higher revenue, influence fishery management policy, and dictate fishing practices, as compared to the rest of the industry. The study considered corporate control of both farmed and wild fish stocks in coming to its conclusions. Although the companies represent only 0.5% of registered seafood companies internationally, their annual revenue constituted 18% of the total global value of seafood in 2012. One author of the study suggested that this concentration of control could facilitate large-scale adaption of fishing and marketing practices toward sustainability.

Increased concentration of control of fisheries by large multi-national fishing corporations is expected to increase with nations, including the U.S., pushing individual fishing quotas (also referred to as “catch shares”) which have the effect of privatizing publicly-owned fish stocks. Without strong measures in place, of which there are few right now, to limit ownership of fish quotas or “shares” and to limit possession of quotas to only those engaged in fishing onboard a vessel (as opposed to third parties, such as fish processors, financial investors, and banks owning quota) the trend toward fewer and fewer controlling more and more fisheries will continue, leaving the “independent” fisherman little more than a seafaring sharecropper.

For more information, see this 28 May Seafood News article, which lists the thirteen captains of the seafood industry. See also study author Henrik Osterblom’s commentary on the study in this 28 May Guardian article. The Stockholm Resilience Centre’s study is available from PLOS One here.

20:08/03: 100,000 SIGN PETITION TO END CANADIAN OPEN-OCEAN SALMON AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS: A petition presented to the British Columbia (BC) parliament on Wednesday, 27 May, requesting a halt to federal government and industry plans to expand open-ocean salmon farming operations, has been signed by over 100,000 people and over 100 conservation groups and businesses. Despite the petition, and a $37 million governmental
inquiry to the issue, the federal government wants to move aquaculture expansion forward. The Provincial BC government has the power to stop the expansion plans by withholding approval for new farms and for amendments to existing farm operating plans that would permit expansion. BC salmon farming has been the subject of much criticism lately, owing to sea lice infestations and disease outbreaks that are affecting both farmed and wild salmon stocks. PCFFA and IFR have long advocated for responsible aquaculture, which would not take the form of open ocean net pens. Rather, onshore aquaculture operations utilizing recycled water supplies and renewable energy would eliminate the risk of disease cross-contamination, and of escapes of farmed fish and the attendant dilution of the wild gene pool.

For more information, see this 27 May Living Oceans press release which includes a good background on the problems with BC salmon farming. See also this 28 May World Fishing & Aquaculture article.

20:08/04: SANTA BARBARA OIL SPILL AFTERMATH: FISHING CLOSURE EXPANDED; OPERATOR HAD HISTORY OF VIOLATIONS: In the aftermath of the 20 May oil spill, Santa Barbara’s worst since 1969, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife expanded a no-fishing zone from one to seven miles offshore, effectively shutting down the mainland sea urchin fishery. “That was one of my predominant fishing spots, so I just have to think of a Plan B,” said Stephanie Mutz, PCFFA secretary and member of the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara. The closure could further expand due to ocean and weather conditions. Mutz intends to avoid tainted urchins by relocating her fishing activity to the Channel Islands, where there is less of a chance of oil-contaminated seafood.

Also coming to light is that Plains All-American Pipeline, the operator of the ruptured pipeline running along a Santa Barbara beach, had 175 “incidents,” mostly oil spills, in the past decade, including eleven in California. Moreover, Plains was not subject to state or county oversight of the Santa Barbara pipeline operation because of 20-year old litigation that exempted the company from all-but federal regulations because it delivers oil across state lines. Meanwhile, litigation is likely in the works to bring Plain All-American to account for the effects of the spill.

For more information, see this 23 May Reuters article on the oil spill’s effects on Santa Barbara’s seafood market; this 26 May New Yorker article on the aftermath of the spill; and this 25 May Daily Kos article suggesting the inevitability of the spill. See also this 26 May Legal Planet article discussing the suite of enforcement actions available to federal regulators who could prosecute Plains All-American.

20:08/05: VICTORY FOR FISHERMEN IN APPELLATE COURT DECISION ON PEBBLE MINE: On Thursday, 28 May, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of
Appeals threw out a lawsuit, brought by the developers of the proposed Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed, challenging the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency’s permitting authority over the construction and operation of the mine. Bristol Bay is home to the world’s largest salmon run.

“At issue is whether EPA has the authority under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to restrict Army Corps of Engineers dredge-and-fill approvals before the permitting process, as the agency has proposed to do in this case, the proposed Pebble copper-and-gold mine, wrote Manuel Quiñones in Greenwire. “Last year, Alaska U.S. District Court Judge Russel Holland tossed the case because EPA had yet to make a final decision, so he said he lacked jurisdiction to review the issue.”

For more information, see the 29 May Greenwire article (requires subscription).

20:08/06: BETTER HANDLING, IMPROVED FISH QUALITY, WOULD LEAD TO MILLIONS MORE FOR THE COD INDUSTRY: One of the greatest preventable monetary losses to the fishing industry is catching injuries and fish mishandling. In Norway, the filleting industry is the worst offender, losing around 13% of its catch, or $13 million USD in 2013. Line and jig caught cod are of the highest quality fish, while trawl and seine operations produce the largest share of poor quality fish. The Norwegian Seafood Research Fund estimated that the cod industry could save and earn millions if all fish caught were delivered to markets in optimal quality. Their estimates cover the fillet industry, salted fish, fresh fish, and dried fish products. The Norwegian Seafood Research Fund found that as organizations and authorities have put stronger focuses on quality in recent years, the loss to the fisheries industry has been greater, as fish have been delivered in substandard conditions. Researcher Sjurdur Joenson concluded that the problem did not lie with the gear used to catch fish, but the size of the catch. His advice was to keep catches smaller to preserve quality. Quality can be affected at many stages of fishing, such as during catching, handling, slaughtering, and bleeding.

For more information see this 27 May 2015 FIS article.

20:08/07: OVER A THOUSAND HONOR MIKE THOMPSON FOR 25 YEARS OF ELECTED PUBLIC SERVICE: On hand Sunday, 24 May, at a Napa Valley winery were House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, other dignitaries and over a thousand constituents and well-wishers celebrating Congressman Mike Thompson’s 25 years in elected office. Thompson, whose district encompassed California’s north coast until 2012, when redistricting changes the state’s congressional and state legislature boundaries, has been a longtime friend of the state’s commercial and recreational fisheries. In his eight years in the California Senate, he was a member of the Joint Committee on Fisheries & Aquaculture and carried a number of fishery bills. In the Congress, he was former co-chair of the House’s Wild Salmon Caucus and has spoken out forcefully for salmon protections and better management of water resources.

For more information on the celebration of Mike Thompson’s quarter century in office, see this 24 May article in the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat.

20:08/08: STUDY CALLS FOR BETTER ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR FISHERIES: A University of Washington study is calling for more comprehensive fishery performance indicators (FPIs) as to better understand the overlap between marine resource conservation and fishery economic health. Traditional FPIs, such as stock assessments, fleet sizes, and profit margins, do not paint a full picture of the
impact of conservation efforts on a fishery. The study proposes a much broader range of FPIs, including access rights to fish stock, governance, community participation and local power structures, women’s roles and rights in the fishery, local technology updates and social cohesion in fishing communities. Preliminary use of the expanded FPIs showed a correlation between high performance on ecological indicators, and high economic and social benefits from the fishery. The study illuminates the need for additional research on all aspects of fisheries, including traditional FPIs such as abundance estimates and habitat status on which fishery management decisions are currently based.

For more information, see this [27 May SciDev.net article](http://www.sci.develop.org) discussing the study and the use of expanded FPIs. The study is [available here via PLOS](http://www.plos.org).

20:08/09: PERUVIAN ANCHOVY FISHERMEN COMPLETE QUOTA: Fishermen along the Peruvian coast managed to capture the first season’s full quota of 2 million tons, according to president of the National Fisheries Society (NFS) Elena Conterno. The number is significant as last year’s catch was 27.9% lower than 2013’s catch. This year’s season had an advance start in the south of the country, which helped lead to the completion of the quota on Sunday, 24 May. The advance start, decided by the Ministry of Production, allowed fishermen to hit the water on 9 April, rather than early May as in other years. The second anchovy season will take place in November, when summer juveniles have grown into adults. If the El Nino weather pattern is not too severe this year, it will allow the second season to possibly exceed 2014’s second season figures, according to Conterno. 2014 saw one of the worst years of anchovy fishing in the last 15 season, therefore NFS is hoping to up the numbers.

For more information see this [26 May 2015 FIS article](http://www.fisheries.org).

20:08/10: SHRIMP PRICES SINK IN THE BAYOU: Louisiana fishermen have reported that shrimp prices have completely sunk this year, going from $2.00 per pound last year, to just 55 cents per pound since the shrimp season opened this year on 18 May. Fishermen in the area have reported that the new low prices are making it difficult to make ends meets, as each fishing trip usually only brings about 4,000 to 4,500 pounds of shrimp. The new low prices come after a few years of steady shrimp prices in Louisiana. Whether the prices stay the same for the rest of the season is yet to be determined.

For more information see this [26 May 2015 Times-Picayune article](http://www.times-pica.com).

20:08/11: SLAVERY PRACTICES FOUND ON FOREIGN CHARTERED VESSELS IN NEW ZEALAND: A new report from Auckland University found the “slave-like labour” and abuse practiced by foreign crew members on boats in New Zealand’s waters. The report came from interviews with around 300 fishermen who worked on mostly Korean company vessels chartered by New Zealand firms. The fishermen interviewed claimed to be forced to work for days on end, their shifts ranging from 16 to 53 hours at a time with as little as 49 cents an hour pay. They also reported facing physical violence and debt entrapment. Ships sailing in New Zealand’s water are subject to local employment laws, but none of the fishermen in the study cited receiving New Zealand’s minimum wage. The researchers stated that over 500 fishermen have escaped work ships in New Zealand and attempted legal action in the past five years, but have not been granted any wage settlements or compensation. Damien O’Connor, says there are loopholes in the laws of employment because the Department of Labour in New Zealand was stretched too thin to enforce their legislation.
These findings illustrate one of the problems with managing fisheries with Individual Fishing Quotas, or “catchshares,” which are transferable allocations of a total allowable catch. Since the imposition of catchshares in New Zealand, nearly all fishing quota has been centralized in the hands of a few corporate fishing enterprises, which in turn lease the quota to foreign boats operating in the shadows of fishery and labor regulation. PCFFA and IFR advocate for more sensi ble implementation of catchshare programs, that includes quota allocation to all historical participants in the fishery, and limitations on the transferability of quota in order to keep local fishing communities alive and healthy.

For more information see this 27 May 2015 FIS article.

20:08/12: LIFE AND WORK OF FISHERMAN CHARLIE WHITE CELEBRATED: On Saturday, 16 May, a celebration was held at Noyo Harbor in Fort Bragg to honor the life and long-time dedication to fisheries and the local community by the late Charlie White. White, who died in the spring of 2014, was best known as the owner/captain of the F/V Gayle, the 54-foot Makela Brothers-built troller-crabber that he fished out of Fort Bragg for decades.

White was not only renowned as a highline fisherman, but for his nearly lifelong work in the community helping others. On hand for the celebration were his sons Mike and Mitch.

For more, see this article in the 21 May issue of the Fort Bragg-Advocate News.

YOUR NEWS, COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS: Submit your news items, comments or any corrections to Editor at: tsloane@ifrfish.org, or call the IFR/PCFFA office with the news and a source at either: (415) 561-FISH (Southwest Office) or (541) 689-2000 (Northwest Office). If you have any trouble subscribing or unsubscribing, contact IFR/PCFFA directly at: tsloane@ifrfish.org. Sublegals is a weekly fisheries new bulletin service of Fishlink. “Fishlink” and “Sublegals” are registered trademarks of the Institute for Fisheries Resources. All rights to the use of these trademarks are reserved to IFR. All photos by IFR unless otherwise accredited. This publication, however, may be freely reproduced and circulated without copyright restriction. Articles taken from Fishlink Sublegals may be freely reposted or reprinted with attribution to “Fishlink Sublegals.” If you are receiving this as a subscriber, please feel free to pass it on to your colleagues.

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