

Staff Summary of HR 1207 – Sections in bold would affect all Councils or specifically affect the Gulf Council

<b>HR 1207 – Healthy Fisheries Through Better Science Act</b>			
<b>Sponsor - Congressman Wittman (R-VA)</b>			
<i>Note – information in bold indicates a provision that would affect Council operations or affect Gulf fisheries.</i>			
Section	Summary	Impacts/Concerns	Relation to Other Bills
Sec 2. Definition of Stock Assessment	Assessment of past, present, and future status based on life history characteristics and fishing effects	Stock assessments may differ region to region. Requiring one definition for everyone may lead to changes in the way assessments are performed.	Almost identical language was included in H.R. 1335 as an amendment. H.R. 1335 has passed the House.
<b>Sec 3. Stock Assessment Plan</b>	<b>Would require new assessments for all species covered by an FMP – including minor stocks; establish a schedule with 5-year goal and reduce uncertainty.</b>	For every stock covered by an FMP to be assessed at least once every 5 years will require significant funding and may not be possible.	Almost identical language was included in H.R. 1335 as an amendment. H.R. 1335 has passed the House.  Similar language is included in S. 1403.
<b>Sec 4. Improving Science</b>	<b>In conjunction with SSCs, Councils would be required to use data and assessments from a wide range of sources, including fishermen, communities, universities, etc. Would require the Secretary to establish a registry of non-governmental entities providing such data. Would require the Secretary or Councils to detail what information they used from these outside sources and detail what information they did not use when making management decisions.</b>	The addition of a requirement to detail what data a Council has used in making management decisions and which information it did not use will be burdensome to Councils and could lead to additional litigation by those entities whose information was not used.	Almost identical language was included in H.R. 1335 as an amendment - except that the requirement for a registry of non-governmental entities who submit data was not included.  Similar language is included in S. 1403 – except that the bill would ask the Secretary to examine the feasibility of creating a registry.
<b>Sec 5. Cost Reduction Report</b>	<b>Would require the Secretary &amp; Councils to identify the most effective means of monitoring and enforcing of fishing</b>		Almost identical language was included in H.R. 1335.

Sec 6. Cost Sharing	No fees enacted without analysis of the costs covered or not covered by the fee		
---------------------	---	--	--