

Legislative and Governor's Appointee Commissioner Workshop with Blank Rome Government Relations, LLC

*February 6, 2012
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Alexandria, Virginia*

Agenda

The order in which these items will be taken is subject to change and other items may be added as necessary.

This workshop responds to the Legislative and Governor Appointed Commissioners' decision at the 2011 Annual Meeting to increase their effectiveness in interactions with federal partners, both legislative and executive.

1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda (*5 min*)
2. Introductions (*30 min*)
 - Commissioners
 - Blank Rome
3. Discussion of Desired Workshop Outcomes (*20 min*)
 - Relay a consistent ASMFC message to their state Congressional delegation
 - Motivate, coordinate, activate Member's constituents
 - Be a resource for information to their Congressional delegation
 - Past Commissioner efforts and experiences with Congressional delegations
 - Additional suggestions from Commissioners
4. Capitol Hill (*30 min*)
 - Legislative and Appropriations processes
5. Past Efforts by ASMFC and Blank Rome (*30 min*)
 - Letters
 - Capitol Hill Visits
6. Messaging (*60 min*)
 - What constitutes an effective message
 - How to build the message
 - What's in the message
 - How to deliver the message
 - Following up
7. Discussion (*60 min*)
 - Potential Commissioner visits to Capitol Hill
 - Personal contacts and other key Congressional members
 - ASMFC Talking Points, as time permits
8. Adjournment (*5 min*)

ASMFC FY2011 and FY2012 Appropriations Efforts

NOAA

We sent a letter to Dr. Lubchenco asking her to consider increasing the ACFCMA line item in the FY11 Spending Plan, suggesting NOAA may have difficulty obligating all of their funds this year. The letter (handout) was dated 19 May 2011 and delivered through Andrew Winer of NOAA's Office of Public and Constituent Affairs.

On 18 November 2011, President Obama signed the "Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act" into law, establishing the budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for FY 2012. Under NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Service was allocated \$794 million for FY 2012, of which \$31.855 million was directed towards Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions where the Atlantic Coastal Act receives funding. The funding level is equal to that received for FY 2010, when the NMFS budget was \$928 million. The change in the NMFS budget between FY 2010 and FY 2012 represents an approximate 14% decrease, whereas Commission and Council funding remained level.

Legislative

We wrote to the House and Senate CJS sub-committee chairs in February of this year asking them to increase the President's FY2012 budget request from \$7.2M to the \$10M authorized under ACFCMA.

In June, we worked with our government relations firm, Blank and Rome, and met with staff of selected House CJS Appropriations sub-committee members, as well as sub-committee staff (listed below). Typically the House deals with Appropriations first, so we started there. We will focus on the Senate next.

For the meetings, we provided briefing sheets (handout), as well as copies of our 2010 Annual Report. In general, they were polite and interested, but non-committal. We have said these funds would enable us to improve our stock assessment capacity at the Commission, as well as help the marine fisheries programs of our 15 member states through our established sharing formula previously approved by the states. ASMFC has a proven track record of rebuilding stocks, which is good for fishermen, jobs, and coastal communities. We have the flexibility to tailor regulations to accommodate individual state concerns.

On 10 November 2011, we sent a memo to Leslie Albright, following up on earlier correspondence and requests to the House Appropriations Committee that the Atlantic Coastal Act be funded at its full authorized amount of \$10 million. We attached proposed amendment language supporting this request and letters from Congressmen Wittman, Frank, and others advocating for sound science, which would be possible with the proposed appropriations increase.

House CJS Meetings

Monday, June 20

Cong. Jim Moran (D-VA, 8th)
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Contact: Barry Londeree (Legislative Assistant), 202.225.4376

Cong. Jack Kingston (R-GA, 1st)
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Contact: Mike Donnal (Legislative Assistant), 202.225.5831

Cong. Frank Wolf (R-VA, 10th)
241 Cannon House Office Building
Contact: Tom Culligan (Appropriations Legislative Assistant), 202.225.5136

Cong. Jose Serrano (D-NY, 16th)
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Contact: Jheanelle Brown (Legislative Assistant), 202.225.4361

Friday, June 24

Cong. Tom Graves (R-GA, 9th)
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Contact: Jason Murphy (Legislative Aide), 202.225.5211

Cong. Chaka Fattah (D-PA, 2nd)
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Contact: Michelle Anderson (Appropriations Legislative Assistant); 202.225.4001

Monday, June 27

House CJS Approps Staff (Majority)
House CJS Approps Staff (Minority)
Capitol Building, H-309
Contact: Leslie Albright, 202.225.3351
Robert Bonner, 202.225.3481

Senate CJS Meetings

Monday, August 1

Senate CJS Approps Staff (Majority)
Capitol Building, S-128
Contact: Jeremy Weirich, 202.224.7231