

July 28, 2006

Nancy Balcom  
Chair, Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Program Leaders  
Connecticut Sea Grant College Program  
University of Connecticut - Avery Point  
Marine Science Building  
1080 Shennecossett Road  
Groton, Connecticut 06340-6048

RE: Authorization Information for Major Ocean and Coastal Statutes

Dear Nancy,

During the May 2006 Sea Grant Assembly meeting in Puerto Rico there was a lively discussion about increasing Sea Grant's visibility on the Hill through Congressional briefings and other activities. At one point, a participant indicated that information was needed on when key statutes were due for reauthorization. I have compiled the reauthorization information for the statutes most relevant to Sea Grant and its work. If you or other extension agents would like information about additional statutes, please let me know.

Congress typically authorizes funding in environmental statutes for only a few years. In theory, this practice allows legislators to update programs and respond to new issues which have developed in the interim. Unfortunately, few environmental statutes have been reauthorized in a timely manner. Congress instead provides yearly funding to key programs through the appropriation process. For the Assembly's planning purposes, however, any statute with expired funding authorizations is fair game for Congressional action. Over the years, many reauthorizations bills have been introduced for the statutes listed below. The Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Act bills have recently gained momentum and may actually be reauthorized by the current Congress.

### **Statutes in Need of Reauthorization**

#### *Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act*

P.L. 104-332 (Oct. 26, 1996) authorized appropriations through **FY 2002** (16 U.S.C. § 4741)

#### *Coastal Zone Management Act*

P.L. 104-150 (June 3, 1996) authorized appropriations through **FY 1999** (16 U.S.C. § 1464)

#### *Clean Water Act*

P.L. 100-4 (Feb. 4, 1987) authorized appropriations through **FY 1990** (33 U.S.C. § 1376)

#### *Endangered Species Act*

P.L. 100-478 (Oct. 7, 1988) authorized appropriations through **FY 1992** (16 U.S.C. §1542)

#### *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*

P.L. 104-297 (Oct. 11, 1996) authorized appropriations through **FY 1999** (16 U.S.C. § 1803)

*Marine Mammal Protection Act*

P.L. 103-238 (April 30, 1994) authorized appropriations through **FY 1999** (16 U.S.C. § 1384)

*National Marine Sanctuaries Act*

P.L. 106-513 (Nov. 13, 2000) authorized appropriations through **FY 2005** (16 U.S.C. § 1444)

*Ocean Dumping Act*

P.L. 102-580 (Oct. 31, 1992) authorized appropriations through **FY 1997** (33 U.S.C. § 1420)

**Upcoming Reauthorizations**

*Coastal Barrier Resources Act*

P.L. 109-226 (May 25, 2006) authorized appropriations through **FY 2010** (16 U.S.C. § 3510)

*National Sea Grant College Program*

P.L. 107-299 (Nov. 26, 2002) authorized appropriations through **FY 2008** (33 U.S.C. § 1131).

*Oceans and Human Health Act*

P.L. 108-447 (Dec. 8, 2004) authorized appropriations through **FY 2008** (33 U.S.C. § 3104)

I hope you find this information useful. Feel free to distribute this letter to all interested persons. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Showalter  
Director, National Sea Grant Law Center