

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 2023

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

SINCE WE LAST MET...

- DEBT LIMIT SHOWDOWN RESOLVED
- CONTINUING RESOLUTION PASSED (SHUTDOWN AVERTED...FOR NOW)
- SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE VOTED OUT
- SENATOR FEINSTEIN (D-CALIFORNIA) PASSED AWAY (AND ALREADY REPLACED)
- SENATOR MENENDEZ (D-NEW JERSEY) UNDER INDICTMENT
- TWO REPRESENTATIVES RESIGNED (SEATS UNFILLED) – UTAH, RHODE ISLAND

CIVICS 101 – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

435 VOTING MEMBERS* – BASED ON POPULATION

2-YEAR TERMS*

221 REPUBLICANS, 212 DEMOCRATS, 2 VACANCIES

ALL 435 ARE UP FOR ELECTION IN 2024*

KEY COMMITTEE – NATURAL RESOURCES*

ALL REVENUE MEASURES MUST ORIGINATE IN THE HOUSE

CIVICS 101- SENATE

U.S. SENATE

100 MEMBERS – 2 FROM EACH STATE

6-YEAR TERMS

51 DEMOCRAT (*ACTUALLY 48 + 3 INDEPENDENTS*) – 49 REPUBLICAN

ONE THIRD OF SENATE UP FOR ELECTION EVERY 2 YEARS

KEY COMMITTEE – COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

117TH CONGRESS – WRAP UP

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR 2023 (NDAA)

PUBLIC LAW 117-263

- SHARK FINNING BAN
- REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000
- BLUE ECONOMY VALUATION STUDY
- REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS
- NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION
- MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH & RESPONSE, MARINE MAMMAL HEALTH MAP, MARINE MAMMAL MORTALITY STUDY, LARGE CETACEANS PROTECTION/MONITORING
- OCEAN SOUNDSCAPE MONITORING PROGRAM
- U.S. COAST GUARD FISHING PROVISIONS
- RED SNAPPER

117TH CONGRESS – WRAP UP

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

PUBLIC LAW 117-328

- WEST COAST DRIFTNET BAN
- FISHERY RESOURCE DISASTERS IMPROVEMENT ACT
- ALASKA SALMON RESEARCH TASK FORCE ACT
- NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE PROTECTION LIMITATION

117TH CONGRESS – WRAP UP

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022

PUBLIC LAW 117-169

- COASTAL COMMUNITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE
 - CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, PROTECTION OF COASTAL HABITAT
 - PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT NATURAL RESOURCES FOR DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES
 - MARINE FISHERY/MARINE MAMMAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS
- NOAA, SANCTUARIES FACILITIES
- NOAA PLANNING, PERMITTING REVIEW EFFICIENCY
- OAR CLIMATE AND WEATHER FORECASTING
- OFFSHORE WIND MODELING AND ANALYSIS
- OFFSHORE WIND FOR TERRITORIES

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

118TH CONGRESS

- HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
 - CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN (R-ARKANSAS) – WAS RANKING REPUBLICAN IN 117TH
 - RANKING DEMOCRAT RAUL GRIJALVA (D-ARIZONA) – WAS CHAIR IN 117TH
- SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES (*PREVIOUS NAME - WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE*)
 - SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR - REP. CLIFF BENTZ (R-OREGON)
 - SUBCOMMITTEE RANKING - REP. JARED HUFFMAN (D-CALIFORNIA)

SENATE COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – 118TH CONGRESS

- SENATE COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
 - CHAIR – SEN. CANTWELL (D-WASHINGTON)
 - NEW RANKING REPUBLICAN – SEN. CRUZ (R-TEXAS)

- SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, FISHERIES, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND MANUFACTURING
 - CHAIR - SEN. BALDWIN (D-WISCONSIN)
 - RANKING REPUBLICAN - SEN. SULLIVAN (R-ALASKA)

118TH CONGRESS – HEARINGS OR MARKUPS OF INTEREST SINCE WE LAST MET

- JUNE 6TH - HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES - OVERSIGHT HEARING TITLED "EXAMINING THE IMPACTS OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE VESSEL STRIKE REDUCTION RULE."
- JUNE 26TH - HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES - OVERSIGHT FIELD HEARING TITLED "THE NORTHWEST AT RISK: THE ENVIRONMENTALIST'S EFFORT TO DESTROY NAVIGATION, TRANSPORTATION, AND ACCESS TO RELIABLE POWER."
- JULY 18TH - HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES - OVERSIGHT HEARING TITLED "ESA AT 50: THE DESTRUCTIVE COST OF THE ESA."
- JULY 27TH - SENATE COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - BUSINESS MEETING TO CONSIDER: S.2086, THE "SEA TURTLE RESCUE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2023", (SEN. MARKEY, D-MASSACHUSETTS), AND S.1421, THE "COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING ONLINE ACT" OR THE "COOL ONLINE ACT", (SEN. BALDWIN, D-WISCONSIN).
- JULY 27TH - HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES - LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON: H.R. 1792, THE "SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA TREATY ACT OF 2023", (REP. RADEWAGEN, R-AMERICAN SAMOA), H.R. 2950 THE "COASTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION ACT OF 2023", (REP. HUFFMAN, D-CALIFORNIA), H.R. 4051, THE "SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF AQUATIC SYSTEMS THROUGH RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCED DIALOGUE ACT" OR "SHARKED ACT", (REP. WITTMAN, R-VIRGINIA), AND H.R. 4587, THE "RED SNAPPER ACT".

118TH CONGRESS – HEARINGS OR MARKUPS OF INTEREST SINCE WE LAST MET (*CONTINUED*)

- AUGUST 24TH - HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE - OVERSIGHT FIELD HEARING TITLED “PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH: THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS TO U.S.-LED GLOBAL SECURITY.”
- SEPTEMBER 13TH - HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE - OVERSIGHT HEARING TITLED “UNSUITABLE LITIGATION: OVERSIGHT OF THIRD-PARTY LITIGATION FUNDING”.
- SEPTEMBER 14TH - HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE’S SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS - OVERSIGHT HEARING TITLED “EXAMINING SYSTEMIC GOVERNMENT OVERREACH AT CEQ”.
- SEPTEMBER 19TH - HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE’S SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS - OVERSIGHT HEARING TITLED “EXAMINING BARRIERS TO ACCESS IN FEDERAL WATERS: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MARINE SANCTUARY AND MONUMENT SYSTEM.”
- SEPTEMBER 20TH – HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MARKED UP H.R. 4051, THE “SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF AQUATIC SYSTEMS THROUGH RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCED DIALOGUE ACT” OR “SHARKED ACT”, (REP. WITTMAN, R-VIRGINIA), AND H.R. 4596, THE “UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

118TH CONGRESS – BILLS THAT HAVE BEEN MARKED UP

- **H.R. 4051, THE “SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF AQUATIC SYSTEMS THROUGH RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCED DIALOGUE ACT” OR “SHARKED ACT”**, (REP. WITTMAN, R-VIRGINIA), A BILL TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE REGARDING SHARK DEPREDATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES – ORDERED TO BE REPORTED.
- **H.R. 676, THE “COASTAL COMMUNITIES OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ACT OF 2023”**, (REP. PINGREE, D-MAINE), A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL OCEAN ACIDIFICATION RESEARCH AND MONITORING ACT OF 2009 TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, ACTING THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, TO COLLABORATE WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND INDIAN TRIBES ON VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS RELATED TO OCEAN ACIDIFICATION, RESEARCH PLANNING, AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES - PASSED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
- **H.R. 886, THE “SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 AMENDMENTS ACT”**, (REP. BONAMICI, D-OREGON), AND **S. 318**, (SEN. SULLIVAN, R-ALASKA), A BILL TO AMEND THE SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION, TO AMEND THE MARINE DEBRIS ACT TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES – REPORTED OUT OF BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES.
- **S. 1381, THE “COASTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION ACT OF 2023”**, (SEN. CARDIN, D-MARYLAND), A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THROUGH THE COASTAL PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, TO WORK WITH WILLING PARTNERS AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO EFFORTS TO ASSESS, PROTECT, RESTORE, AND ENHANCE IMPORTANT COASTAL LANDSCAPES THAT PROVIDE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ON WHICH CERTAIN FEDERAL TRUST SPECIES DEPEND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES – ORDERED TO BE REPORTED.

118TH CONGRESS – BILLS THAT HAVE HAD HEARINGS HELD

- **H.R. 4587, THE “RED SNAPPER ACT”**, (REP. RUTHERFORD, R-FLORIDA), A BILL TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION SHALL NOT ISSUE AN INTERIM OR FINAL RULE THAT INCLUDES AN AREA CLOSURE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FOR SPECIES MANAGED UNDER THE SNAPPER-GROUPER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN UNTIL THE SOUTH ATLANTIC GREAT RED SNAPPER COUNT STUDY IS COMPLETE AND THE DATA RELATED TO THAT STUDY IS INTEGRATED INTO THE STOCK ASSESSMENT.
- **H.R. 1792, THE “SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA TREATY ACT OF 2023”**, (REP. RADEWAGEN, R-AMERICAN SAMOA), A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA ACT OF 1988, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
- **H.R. 1213, THE “RESTORING EFFECTIVE SCIENCE-BASED CONSERVATION UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS PROTECTING WHALES ACT OF 2023” OR THE “RESCUE WHALES ACT OF 2023”**, (REP. GRIJALVA, D-ARIZONA), A BILL TO AMEND THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023 BY REPEALING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES. INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2023, AND REFERRED TO THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. ON APRIL 18, 2023, THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE’S SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES HELD A HEARING ON THE LEGISLATION.
- **H.R. 2950, THE “COASTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION ACT OF 2023”**, (REP. HUFFMAN, D-CALIFORNIA), A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THROUGH THE COASTAL PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, TO WORK WITH WILLING PARTNERS AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO EFFORTS TO ASSESS, PROTECT, RESTORE, AND ENHANCE IMPORTANT COASTAL LANDSCAPES THAT PROVIDE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ON WHICH CERTAIN FEDERAL TRUST SPECIES DEPEND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
- **H.R. 872, THE “FEDERALLY INTEGRATED SPECIES HEALTH ACT” OR THE “FISH ACT”**, (REP. CALVERT, R-CALIFORNIA), A BILL TO AMEND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 TO VEST IN THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FUNCTIONS UNDER THAT ACT WITH RESPECT TO SPECIES OF FISH THAT SPAWN IN FRESH OR ESTUARINE WATERS AND MIGRATE TO OCEAN WATERS AND SPECIES OF FISH THAT SPAWN IN OCEAN WATERS AND MIGRATE TO FRESH OR ESTUARINE WATERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
- * **H.R. 3980, THE “NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2023”**, (REP. LUCAS, R-OKLAHOMA), A BILL TO FORMALLY ESTABLISH WITHIN STATUTE AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. * *HEARING HELD ON DRAFT LEGISLATION PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION*

OTHER ISSUES/LEGISLATION POSSIBLE

- MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT REAUTHORIZATION? HUFFMAN DRAFT BILL CIRCULATING
- AQUACULTURE? – BILLS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE AND SENATE, KELP
- OFFSHORE WIND?
- ENDANGERED WHALE SHIP STRIKE MITIGATION? – EAST COAST, GULF OF MEXICO, WEST COAST
- MARINE SANCTUARIES/MARINE MONUMENTS? ANTIQUITIES ACT?
- NOAA ORGANIC ACT OR AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY?
- CHANGE IN PROTECTED SPECIES AUTHORITY – WEST COAST SALMON?

NOAA AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY / CHANGE IN PROTECTED SPECIES AUTHORITY

NOAA ORGANIC ACT/INDEPENDENT AGENCY

- APRIL 18TH - HOUSE SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE HEARING ON A DISCUSSION DRAFT OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH NOAA AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY.
- HOUSE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED ON JUNE 9, 2023 – H.R. 3980 (REP. LUCAS, R-OKLAHOMA), THE “NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2023.”
- DISCUSSION DRAFT LEGISLATION FOR NOAA ORGANIC ACT CIRCULATED BY SENATOR CANTWELL (D-WASHINGTON)

PROTECTED SPECIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

- APRIL 11TH – HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE’S SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES HEARING – CALIFORNIA WATER ISSUES
- H.R. 872 (REP. CALVERT, R-CALIFORNIA) TO TRANSFER OF ALL ANADROMOUS AND CATADROMOUS SPECIES TO U.S. FWS
- H.R. 3980 (REP. LUCAS, R-OKLAHOMA), THE “NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2023.” - INCLUDES LANGUAGE TO STUDY THE TRANSFER OF ESA AND MMPA DUTIES FROM NOAA TO FWS

APPROPRIATIONS – FISCAL YEAR 2024

- THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
 - 4 OF THE 12 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS HAVE PASSED THE HOUSE,
 - 6 BILLS HAVE BEEN REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE (1 FAILED ON THE HOUSE FLOOR),
 - 2 HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED BY THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE – COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED OUT YET
- THE SENATE:
 - 0 OF THE 12 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS HAVE PASSED THE SENATE,
 - ALL 12 HAVE BEEN REPORTED OUT BY THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

- FUNDS ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES THROUGH NOVEMBER 17TH
- EXTENDS FAA AUTHORIZATION THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST
- PROVIDES EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF
- FROM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 UNTIL NOVEMBER 17 – ONLY 28 POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE DAYS (*NOT INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND THIS ASSUMES 5 DAYS OF SESSION PER WEEK*)
- THE SENATE IS CURRENTLY OUT OF SESSION
- THE HOUSE CANNOT ACT ON ANY LEGISLATION UNTIL A NEW SPEAKER IS ELECTED – FIRST POSSIBLE VOTE IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 – NOT LIKELY TO BE BROUGHT UP FOR A VOTE UNLESS 218 VOTES ARE GUARANTEED – SECRET VOTE TAKEN BY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS
- ONE OF THE BIG ISSUES HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IS CONSIDERING EACH APPROPRIATION BILL SEPARATELY AND WITH OPEN AMENDMENT PROCESS

OTHER BIG PICTURE ISSUES COMPLICATING SPEAKER ELECTION

- APPROPRIATIONS FLOOR PROCEDURE, SPENDING CUTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE AGREED IN DEBT LIMIT LEGISLATION
- MOTION TO VACATE
- AUTOMATIC ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUTS IF THERE IS ANOTHER LONG-TERM CR
- BORDER SECURITY
- UKRAINE FUNDING
- ISRAEL
- FAA AUTHORIZATION – CR EXTENDED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

QUESTIONS?