



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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July 15, 2021

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Via email: janet.coit@noaa.gov

Dear Ms. Coit:

On behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, I am pleased to congratulate you on being appointed to lead NOAA Fisheries as the Assistant Administrator, as well as serve as acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator. We look forward to working with you, and would like to invite you to attend any of our Council meetings in the upcoming year to learn more about the issues in the North Pacific.

The North Pacific Council works closely with NOAA Fisheries to develop fishery management plans and regulations for fisheries off Alaska using a precautionary ecosystem-based approach. This approach has proven successful in maintaining abundant fish stocks and providing sustainable fisheries for decades. Alaska leads all states in both volume and value of U.S. landings. Each year, vessels homeported in coastal communities in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon harvest over 2,200,000 metric tons of groundfish in the North Pacific, worth approximately \$2.5 billion first wholesale. These catches, together with fish harvests from State waters, annually account for more than 60% of the total U.S. catch, and thus are critical to ensuring food security for the nation. These fisheries support over 100,000 FTE jobs and create almost \$14 billion in economic activity, including in coastal communities that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Nearly all of the fisheries in the North Pacific are certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council and the Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program. In the past 40 plus years, no groundfish stocks have been overfished or have been subject to overfishing.

The Council system established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), with strong management and scientific support from NOAA Fisheries, provides an effective mechanism for ensuring that fisheries and protected resources are sustainable and resilient to climate change, based on science and using a public, collaborative process to engage State and Federal agencies, Tribal representatives, fishermen, and other key stakeholders. For the North Pacific, a region *currently* experiencing significant levels of climate change, we request that NOAA continue to support the North Pacific Council's proactive efforts to incorporate climate resiliency into our conservation and management process as part of our long-term sustainability objective, by providing consistent funding and support for our core fisheries surveys and ecosystem surveys that form the fundamental basis of fisheries management in the North Pacific. **As the leading producer of seafood in the U.S., maintaining our marine surveys is of utmost importance to the region and the nation as a whole.** Current efforts to make our fisheries more resilient to climate change as well as a general overview of our management system are discussed in the Council's recent letter to the acting NOAA Administrator Benjamin Friedman; see: https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/CM/2021/032421/032421_NPFMCcomment_EO14008Section216.pdf

We look forward to working with you, and hope you will be able to attend an upcoming council meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simon Kinneen".

Simon Kinneen
Council Chair