



NATIONAL AQUARIUM.

501 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3194

410-576-3800
410-576-8238 fax

aqua.org

Chris Oliver, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th
Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Oliver,

I hope all is well. I know things have been busy there. After leaving NOAA to join the team at the National Aquarium, I agreed to lead a science panel looking at uncertainty issues in fisheries science and management. This week we are releasing our report, "Addressing Uncertainty in Fisheries Science and Management." It contains the results from a year-long investigation into fisheries science and management practices by a group of scientists and managers you know well. I am attaching copies of the report for your review and use. Feel free to let us know if you need more.

The report process used a panel of scientists and fisheries managers to review case studies, conduct consultations and internal deliberations to produce this set of findings, best practices and recommendations. You will note many Council examples highlighted through various case studies and best practices. The report, along with full examination of case studies and appendices, can also be found at www.aqua.org/fisheries.

We recognize the many concerns that you deal with around uncertainty in both the science and management processes. The panel recognized early in its deliberations that much confusion exists about various sources of uncertainty. One valuable aspect of the report includes a broad characterization of these various sources, and recommendations related to clear communication of roles and responsibilities in the management process. I hope you will find the report useful in helping to understand and communicate these issues to stakeholders. We also focused on areas you might find useful in better addressing uncertainties from various sources. Key aspects of the report focus on specific steps that can be taken to reduce uncertainty and ways to enhance adaptive management as stock and ocean conditions change.

This project was undertaken as a part of the National Aquarium's growing conservation efforts and was made possible by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. We are incredibly grateful to our team of scientists who made this report possible. They include Dr. Steven Cadrin, John Henderschedt, Dr. Pamela Mace, Dr. Steven Murawski, Dr. Joseph Powers and Dr. Andre Punt, and assisted by Dr. Richard Methot, who served as a special consultant to the process.

We are working now on additional communication of our findings. I or a member of our team would be happy to come to the Council and provide an overview if you would find that of interest. Please let me know. We would also welcome any constructive feedback that we could use going forward. Thanks again. I miss working with you guys on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Eric Schwaab

