

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



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February 14, 2017

Lieutenant General Kenneth Wilsbach
Commander, Alaskan Command
9480 Pease Ave., Suite 110, JBER
Alaska, 99506-2101

Dear General Wilsbach,

On behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Colonel Christopher Reifel from the Alaskan Command, and Ms. Amy Burt and Ms. Andrea Balla-Holden from the U.S. Navy, for taking the time to thoroughly explain plans for the NORTHERN EDGE 2017 joint training exercise scheduled for May 1 - 12, 2017 in the Gulf of Alaska. This presentation was not only helpful for the Council, but also to the many stakeholders in the fishing industry present at our meeting and listening in on our webcast. One of the functions of the regional fishery management council system is to conduct outreach to the fishing industry, so having the Colonel come to our meeting and taking the time to engage the fishing industry was greatly appreciated.

During the presentation, a few concerns were raised by stakeholders regarding potential environmental impacts of the training exercise. To address their concerns, it would be very helpful for the Council to receive a brief update regarding Northern Edge 2017 after it has been completed. In this report, we request that the Alaskan Command confirm that the organizational plan and level of activity as presented to the Council was followed, and if not, how it may have differed. Additionally, given the positive feedback we received on the 2017 Northern Edge preparations report, the Council would like to receive updates prior to future Northern Edge exercises.

Again, we thank you for taking the time to come to our meeting, and for your continued service to our great Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Oliver". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chris Oliver
Executive Director

Cc:

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