

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman
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April 25, 2017

Mr. Samuel Rauch
Acting Assistant Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Rauch:

We are contacting you on behalf of the three Regional Fishery Management Councils (North Pacific, Pacific, and Western Pacific) who were identified in the implementing legislation for the North Pacific Fisheries Convention (NPFC). Given the Commissioner status bestowed by that legislation for the Chairs (or designees) of the three Councils, and the pending meeting of the NPFC in mid-July, we are writing to request clarification, and hopefully expeditious resolution, regarding the appointment process for the Commissioners. We realize that there was some concern regarding the legislation, and particularly the issue of 'binding' the President in terms of specifically named appointees, and we are inquiring as to whether NOAA, or the Department of State, has gained any further resolution regarding this appointment process.

We hope that this can be resolved in time for the upcoming NPFC meeting, but if not we certainly appreciate the opportunity to remain as part of the U.S. delegation, with or without Commissioner status. We are also interested in the process for nominations and appointments for the Advisory Committee identified in the implementing legislation, but realize that this may take longer to effect than the Commissioner appointments.

We appreciate anything you can do to expedite this process, and hopefully we can have more information in time for our upcoming Council Coordination Committee meeting in May.

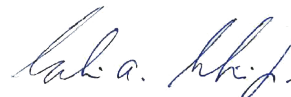
Sincerely,



Dan Hull
Chairman, NPFMC



Herbert A. Pollard II
Chairman, PFMC



Edwin A. Ebisui Jr.
Chairman, WPFMC

CC: Ambassador David Balton, U.S. DOS
Mr. Bill Gibbons-Fly, U.S. DOS
Mr. Colin Brinkman, U.S. DOS