



Received 12-29-17 VIA email

United States Department of State

*Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Hull,

Thank you very much for your letter of December 15, 2017, on the successful negotiation of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

We recognize and acknowledge the steps taken by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone through the 2009 Arctic fisheries management plan and we are pleased that we were able to negotiate an international agreement that reflects a comparable approach. We look forward to continuing to work and share information with the Council as we move forward with review and implementation of the new Agreement.

We also look forward to seeing the Council's discussion paper on best practices for exploratory fishing to inform a precautionary approach to opening commercial fisheries in the U.S. Arctic EEZ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Balton".

David Balton
Deputy Assistant Secretary