



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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June 26, 2019

RADM Matthew Bell Jr.
17th Coast Guard District
MPO PO Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear RADM Bell,

Thank you for taking time from your very busy schedule to spend a few minutes with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council during the June 2019 meeting in Sitka, Alaska. The Council appreciates the dedication of the U.S. Coast Guard towards the continuing safety of the North Pacific fishing fleet. Commercial fishing operations in the North Pacific are often characterized by hazardous working conditions, strenuous labor, long work hours and harsh weather. As you noted in your presentation to the Council, "mission first, safety always" is fitting for the U.S. Coast Guard operating in the North Pacific.

In particular, the Council welcomes the increase in U.S. Coast Guard assets for the 17th District. Six years ago, the Council had expressed concern about the effects of declining major cutter days and decommissioning of several major U.S. Coast Guard cutters on the future of fisheries law enforcement and search and rescue in the North Pacific. With the additional capacity, the sustainability of the North Pacific fisheries and the safety of its fishing fleets looks significantly more positive.

The Council would also like to acknowledge the valuable contributions of CAPT Caputo and LCDR Yang to the Council process. Their participation has been extremely helpful and assist with the success of the Council.

Again, thank you for spending time with the Council, and we look forward to our continuing partnership with you, CAPT Caputo, and LCDR Yang.

Sincerely,

Simon Kinneen
Chairman, NPFMC

cc: CAPT Caputo
LCDR Yang