

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard**



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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Simon Kinneen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 W. 3rd. Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chairman Kinneen:

I would like to thank you for your letter dated October 27, 2020 regarding the events on 26 August where several United States flagged fishing vessels were directed by Russian naval vessels and aircraft to leave an area for a Russian military exercise while legally fishing in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

While the United States recognizes the rights of foreign navies to conduct exercises in international waters, the U.S. domestic fishing fleet retains the legal right to fish within the boundaries of the U.S. EEZ. As such, I acknowledge the concerns in your letter and those same concerns have been communicated through the U.S. Department of State to the Russian Ministry of Defense.

The Coast Guard will continue to work closely with the Department of Defense to monitor foreign military activity in and around the U.S. EEZ. When that activity is deemed to potentially affect the U.S. domestic fishing fleet, we will endeavor to communicate such activities to the U.S. fishing fleet through established industry communication channels. As already demonstrated, we will continue to communicate with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on this concern.

We appreciate the safe actions and reporting of this incident by the fishing fleet and industry and ask that they continue to keep local Coast Guard units aware of these type of interactions. The Coast Guard remains dedicated to the safety and well-being of our Bering Sea fishing fleet and will continue to work with industry and agency partners to ensure the safety of our mariners at sea.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. L. Fagan".

L. L. FAGAN
Vice Admiral
U. S. Coast Guard