



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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October 25, 2022

Mr. Tim Sartwell
Office of Management and Budget
Via email: recreational.fisheries@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Sartwell,

On behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, I would like to thank you for attending the recent North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting. We appreciated your presentation on the initiative to update the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy as well as the invitation to comment on the policy.

We find the policy to be an important step in supporting and amplifying sustainable recreational fishing opportunities in the United States. We believe the policy statement, its scope, the goals and the six guiding principles continue to be appropriate, and we do not have suggestions for changes at this time.

One area of particular importance to our region, is in ensuring information is available to describe, and to the extent possible quantify, the social, cultural and financial importance of our recreational fishing opportunities to our communities and to the Nation. Under the current policy, this is represented under the guiding principles 2, 5 and 6.

Many metrics of value are not as readily available for the recreational sectors as they are for the commercial fishing sectors. Studies to improve this area of knowledge for recreational fishing in Alaska would benefit from engagement and participation from the recreational sector. The impacts of recreational fishing manifest in communities in many ways, and it is important to understand the many dimensions of value it contributes when fishery managers are making policy decisions. For example, as the barriers to entry grow in some commercial fisheries in coastal communities in Alaska, employment with a guided fishing operation can provide entry level opportunities into a fishing industry.

We were pleased to hear of efforts now underway to schedule a workshop on socioeconomic benefits of recreational fisheries. We look forward to hearing more about the updated Policy and efforts to continue to implement the policy through many avenues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simon Kinneen".

Simon Kinneen
Council Chair