



## North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director  
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November 18, 2022

Ms. Jennifer Dopkowski  
Competition manager  
Climate and Fisheries Adaptation Program (CAFA)  
NOAA OAR Climate Program Office  
1315 East-West Highway, Suite 1100  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
VIA EMAIL: [jennifer.dopkowski@noaa.gov](mailto:jennifer.dopkowski@noaa.gov)

Dear Ms. Dopkowski:

On behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), I am providing this letter in support of a research proposal submitted to NOAA's Climate Program Office competition 6: "CAFA - Promoting resilience and adaptation of U.S. marine fisheries and fishing communities." The research proposal is for the The Alaska Climate Integrated Modeling project phase 3-A: Development and delivery of climate-integrated decision support systems for EBFM in the Bering Sea, Alaska.

Since 2015, the Council has been providing input to the Alaska Climate Integrated Modeling (ACLIM) project, which is a comprehensive, multi-year, interdisciplinary effort to characterize and project climate-driven changes to the Eastern Bering Sea ecosystem. Council members, advisors, staff, and stakeholders have participated in numerous workshops and presentations on the research project. We are excited to support this third phase of the ACLIM project which is aimed at delivery of climate-integrated decision support tools and advice to advance climate-ready fisheries and support climate adaptation in coastal communities in Alaska.

Climate change has already caused widespread changes to the Bering Sea ecosystem and mounting challenges to resource management in the region. Climate shocks have been unprecedented and have profoundly impacted stocks and livelihoods. While people and fisheries have tried to adjust, adaptation has been largely reactive. There is an immediate need for information and tools to help fisheries and fishing communities plan for climate-driven changes and respond effectively to climate shocks. The proposal for this third phase of ACLIM includes advancement of projections, models and advice that have helped inform management planning to date as well as activities that will deliver transparent and comprehensive climate-integrated tools and advice to inform tradeoff analysis and decision making in the region. The Council fully supports this timely proposal to deliver climate-integrated decision support tools and advice to advance climate-ready fisheries in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Witherell".

David Witherell  
Executive Director

cc: Simon Kinneen, Council Chair, [simon@nsedc.com](mailto:simon@nsedc.com)  
Kirstin Holsman, NOAA Fisheries, [kirstin.holsman@noaa.gov](mailto:kirstin.holsman@noaa.gov)