August 2, 2023

Mr. David Witherell  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 400  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Witherell:

Thank you for your letter requesting we extend the comment period on our Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to consider revising the guidelines for National Standards 4, 8, and 9. While we understand the importance of the National Standard Guidelines to you and your constituents, we do not feel the need to extend the comment period at this time. The ANPR is equivalent to a scoping process and we are looking for initial input on areas where the Guidelines could benefit from some revisions. If we decide revisions to the Guidelines are warranted, there will be additional opportunity to provide comments on the subsequent proposed rule.

We look forward to receiving your comments by September 12, 2023, either via regulations.gov or via mail to Wendy Morrison, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13436, Silver Spring, MD 20910. We appreciate your interest in this topic. If you have further questions, please contact Kelly Denit at (301) 427-8517 or at Kelly.Denit@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Janet Coit  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries