



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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](https://www.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

