



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Angel Drobica, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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November 1, 2023

Rear Admiral Megan M. Dean
Commander 17th District
U.S. Coast Guard
PO Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Rear Admiral Dean:

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) met October 5 through October 11, 2023. During the meeting, LCDR Jed Raskie of 17th Coast Guard District provided a briefing of a Russian Naval Missile Exercise HYDIROPAC navigational warning for missile operations in the Bering Sea beginning on September 14.

The Council very much appreciated this report and commends the U.S. Coast Guard for the actions taken by the Coast Guard in response to these operations, including wide notification and communication with the domestic fishing fleet throughout the operation. Further, the Council appreciates that the Coast Guard Cutter KIMBALL was repositioned from the northern Bering Sea to ensure there were no disruptions to U.S. interests or commerce in the maritime environment in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Bering Sea.

From the Council's perspective, this event is a prime example of why the presence of the Coast Guard on the fishing grounds is necessary and is extremely vital for ensuring the safety of the U.S. domestic fishing fleet operating in the U.S. EEZ. The Council strongly supports the efforts of the Coast Guard to provide a presence on the fishing grounds and encourages the Coast Guard to continue this practice.

The Council supports and encourages the continued engagement with U.S. fishing fleets to improve immediate and vital communication between the U.S. Coast Guard and the fishing fleet regarding future events. A commitment to ongoing government coordination and industry engagement appears critical to keeping U.S. fishermen safe and minimizing future disruptions to our fisheries.

Finally, the Council would like to recognize LCDR Jed Raskie for his thorough briefing on the Russian Naval Missile Exercise and I would like to personally thank both LCDR Raskie and CAPT Jason Brennell for their U.S. Coast Guard 17th District presentations and ongoing participation at Council meetings.

Sincerely,

David Witherell
Executive Director

Cc:
Captain Jason Brennell
LCDR Jed Raskie