

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

THE DIRECTOR



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PFMC

D.O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place
Portland, OR 97220

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns about the impact of proposed furlough dates on the upcoming stock assessment review panel.

The proposed furlough dates are tentative and will not be finalized until after NOAA completes required consultation with labor unions and provides 30 days official notice to employees. We may be able to work with employees to schedule alternate furlough days to cover mission-critical activities. Guidance on this has not yet been provided, but we will keep your request in mind as we work through the logistics of this situation.

If you have further questions, please contact Kristen Koch, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, at (858) 546-7081.

Sincerely,

Samuel D. Rauch III
Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Regulatory Programs,
performing the functions and duties of the
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

