



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

February 12, 2015

Dear Dr. McIsaac,

On behalf of the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) team, we would like to acknowledge and thank the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Ecosystem Subcommittee's assistance in the development of the IEA materials that we will present at the March 2015 PFMC meeting. With the objective that our future contributions provide greater support to the Council in its decisions, the Ecosystem Subcommittee met with the IEA team on December 15-16, 2014 in Seattle and provided important feedback on the ecosystem indicators that we have presented in past reports to the PFMC.

To date, the IEA team has had one opportunity each year to formally interact with the SSC, and those meetings have always been informative. However, based on our own experiences and those of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center staff who work with the NPFMC, we believe that more than one meeting per year would greatly enhance the relationship between the IEA and the Council. Additional meetings would accelerate our ability to provide a timely ecosystem status report that is more in step and responsive to the PFMC's current and future needs.

We request your consideration of an expanded meeting/workshop schedule between the SSC and the IEA team. It will likely take a few cycles to determine the ideal format; thus, we propose an initial additional one-day workshop associated with the September PFMC meeting, followed by a half-day or full-day meeting with the SSC prior to our annual presentation at the March Council meeting. We anticipate jointly revisiting this schedule depending on our mutual assessment of our progress and the evolution of our respective needs.

Thank you for your consideration, and again we thank the SSC for their valuable input on our work.

Sincerely,

John E. Stein
Director, Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Francisco E. Werner
Director, Southwest Fisheries Science Center