



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

October 12, 2011

Donald McIsaac
Executive Director Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 98220-1384

Dear Director McIsaac:

The NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) and the NOAA Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation (GCEL) are seeking comment from the public and other interested stakeholders on setting annual priorities at the national and regional level.

The priorities adopted will support NOAA's statutory mandates to manage marine resources and Department of Commerce and NOAA strategic goals. We intend to utilize stakeholder recommendations, emphasize partnerships with State and Federal partners, work to increase compliance and implement the priorities in a manner that will result in effective and fair enforcement programs.

Regional enforcement proposals will be reviewed annually and national priorities every two years.

NOAA is particularly interested in recommendations from all interested parties on how the agency can develop national and regional priorities that reflect:

- The potential effective and/or threat of non-compliance to the resource (high, medium, low);
- The status of the resource (e.g. endangered, threatened, depleted, overfished, overfishing occurring, etc.)
- Efforts to improve compliance;
- Opportunities for deterrence;
- Catch share programs;
- Efforts on cases outside specific priorities;
- Available resources, and
- Other considerations as warranted.

I request that this letter be included in the November 2011 briefing book for the upcoming Council meeting. Special Agents in Charge Vicki Nomura and Don Masters will be in attendance at the Costa Mesa Council meeting and they will be available to schedule meeting with interested parties. As well, if the Council or any interested party wishes to provide recommendations after the Council meeting, comments can be forwarded to the Regional NOAA



OLE Special Agents in Charge (contact information listed below) no later than December 15, 2011.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter,

Sincerely,


for 
Bruce Buckson
Director
Office of Law Enforcement

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cc: Vicki Nomura
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