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MAR 25 2003

Mr. Don McIsaac
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

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MAR 31 2003

PFMC

Dear Mr. McIsaac and members of the Pacific Council:

The Coast Guard is currently revalidating our Fisheries Law Enforcement Strategic Plan, OCEAN GUARDIAN. The Plan provides a framework for implementing the Coast Guard's fisheries law enforcement program. When we originally developed OCEAN GUARDIAN, we sought to work closely with stakeholders to craft a plan that addressed a broad range of issues. To accomplish that end we sponsored listening sessions to gather input from all elements of the fishing industry. We produced an excellent Plan that now needs to be reassessed to reflect new challenges within the industry.

As leaders in the Pacific fishing industry, your knowledge and insight will be particularly valuable to us as we begin to formulate a plan that will guide our enforcement program for the next five years. I am sending this letter to members of all sectors of the fishing industry to invite comments and suggestions.

We plan to hold public listening sessions co-located with upcoming Fisheries Management Council meetings to facilitate receiving nationwide input from all sectors of the industry. We will be holding a listening session on Sunday, April 6th from 6-9 pm, at the Red Lion at the Quay Hotel in Vancouver, WA. I would sincerely appreciate your participation.

If you plan to attend our listening session, please contact LCDR Bob Hendrickson at 202/267-2872 or LTJG Anna Stamper at 202/267-6985. You may also reach them by e-mail at Rhendrickson@comdt.uscg.mil or Astamper@comdt.uscg.mil, respectively. Please visit our website: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-opl/mle/OceanG/OceanGuardian.html>. There you can view the OCEAN GUARDIAN Strategic Plan, read a report on the status of the 1998 revalidation task list, see the venues of all of our listening sessions and provide electronic comments.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Belz".

DAVID S. BELZ

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Operations