



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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April 27, 2007

Mr. Bill Robinson, Regional Administrator
Pacific Islands Region
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Ste 1110
Honolulu, HI 96814-4700

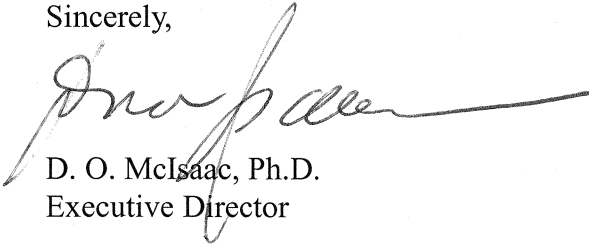
Dear Mr. Robinson:

With the implementation of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council's) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and §503(a) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act, we must become more involved in the activities of the Western and Central Pacific Commission (WCPFC). The troll fishery for North Pacific albacore is the largest fishery we manage under our HMS FMP and a significant component of the stock occurs in waters west of 150° W longitude and under the jurisdiction of the WCPFC. As you know, the Convention establishes a Northern Committee to make recommendations to the Commission on the implementation of conservation and management measures for the area north of the 20° N latitude and for stocks which occur mostly in this area. Thus, participation in the annual meetings of the Northern Committee is of especial interest to us, because it is in that venue where detailed consideration of measures related to North Pacific albacore will occur. However, we note with dismay that in 2007, the Northern Committee meeting is scheduled for September 11–13, which coincides with our September 9–14 Council meeting, thus precluding meaningful participation by advisors, staff, or members of the Council. As the principal NMFS member of the U.S. delegation to the WCPFC, we ask you to request the WCPFC to reschedule the Northern Committee meeting to a time in October. I realize that rescheduling the 2007 meeting may not be possible at this time.

However, even if this year's meeting cannot be rescheduled, we request you make every effort to ensure that Northern Committee meetings in 2008 and beyond are not scheduled to conflict with our September Council meeting. Our current preference would be that they be scheduled for the mid-month of October. We schedule Council meetings several years in advance and the meetings occur during the same general time periods each year. I am enclosing the current schedule of Council meetings, through 2010.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. O. McIsaac", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director

KRD:rdd

Enclosure (1): Council Meeting Schedule



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4733
(808) 944-2200 • Fax: (808) 973-2941

June 12, 2007

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D.O. McIsaac, PhD, Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Dr. McIsaac, *Don*

Thank you for your letter of April 27, 2007, regarding the timing of the meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's Northern Committee. I recognize that the deliberations of the Northern Committee are especially important to the Pacific Fishery Management Council and its constituents and I agree that it is crucial that one or more representatives of the Council be able to participate in the Committee's meetings. In order to facilitate such participation, I will do my best to see that future meetings of the Northern Committee do not conflict with the meetings of the Council. However, as I am sure you can appreciate, it may be difficult to identify meeting dates that are agreeable to all the members of the Northern Committee, as well as all the members of the U.S. delegation. As far as this year's meeting of the Northern Committee, set for September 11-13, I am afraid it is too late to ask the Committee to consider changing the dates, as its members agreed to it some time ago. I am hopeful, however, that even if the Council's participation in the meeting itself is limited, the Council and its staff will be able to provide meaningful input to the U.S. delegation.

Sincerely,

William L. Robinson
Regional Administrator

cc: Rodney McInnis, SWRO
William Gibbons-Fly, Department of State

