

U.S. Commissioners
Philip Anderson
Charles Swanton
Robert Turner
McCoy Oatman

**UNITED STATES SECTION
of the
PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION**

Agenda Item E.4
Supplemental Attachment 9
Office of the U.S. Section
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Building 1, F/WCR2
Seattle, WA 98115
March 2016

March 4, 2016

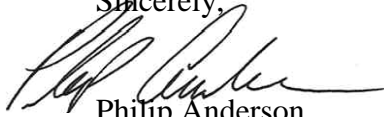
Mr. Robert Turner
Assistant Regional Administrator
Sustainable Fisheries Division, NOAA Fisheries
510 Desmond Drive S.E., Suite 103
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Mr. Turner:

I am writing on behalf of the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission (U.S. Section) to ask for your help to bring an important issue before the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council). As you know, the Pacific Salmon Commission has struggled for some time to provide timely information to the Council necessary for the preseason salmon management process. The Council, which itself has difficult time constraints in salmon season-setting, depends on the Commission's Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) to provide critical information needed to model northern fisheries. The CTC, in turn, is limited by the timely availability of necessary forecasts and model inputs. The U.S. Section is particularly concerned that the current schedule does not allow the CTC sufficient time to assure the quality of its technical advice. As a result, the U.S. Section is recommending consideration of annual season-setting schedule adjustments that would include a delay of the April Council meeting and a delay in the start of the regulatory year.

This issue has been discussed by the Council in the past. The Council considered changing the management year calendar in a proposed amendment to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan in 2012. For a variety of reasons, the Council decided not to proceed with the amendment at the time. However, given the systemic nature of the underlying problem, the U.S. Section believes it would be useful for the Council and state and tribal managers to again consider a plan amendment to adjust the management year calendar.

The U.S. Section understands that it will take some time to go through the plan amendment process and likely longer to actually make the change to a new schedule, should that be the final decision of the Council. In order to initiate consideration of the proposal, please take advantage in March of an appropriate Council agenda item of National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) to introduce the subject. The U.S. Section hopes that the Council would then have time to consider the proposal and schedule the issue for deliberations under the Council's Future Meeting and Workload Planning (Agenda item I.3). I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Philip Anderson
Pacific Salmon Commission Chair

Cc: Dr. Donald McIsaac, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Charles Swanton, U.S. Commissioner
Mr. McCoy Oatman, U.S. Commissioner