



Fwd: NOAA Fisheries West Coast Transitions

1 message

Bob Turner - NOAA Federal <bob.turner@noaa.gov>
To: Chuck Tracy - NOAA Affiliate <Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>

Wed, Feb 24, 2016 at 7:54 AM

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From: **Will Stelle - NOAA Federal** <will.stelle@noaa.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 19, 2016 at 11:37 AM
Subject: Fwd: NOAA Fisheries West Coast Transitions
To: _NMFS WCR <nmfs.wcr@noaa.gov>
Cc: Joan R Langhans <Joan.R.Langhans@noaa.gov>

Dear friends and colleagues:

As many of you may know, the West Coast Regional Leadership Team has been discussing our “succession planning,” anticipating departures from amongst our midst over the foreseeable future. For starters and as a political appointee, my tenure will end no later than the end of 2016, making my departure easy to predict. The purpose of my email today to you is to describe to you the steps we’re taking in anticipation of my departure to achieve a smooth and effective transition.

I have advised Eileen Sobeck and the NMFS/NOAA leadership of my intentions to vacate the position of Regional Administrator of the West Coast Region after NOAA completes the selection and hiring of a new RA. I have also asked that they commence the hiring process now so we have a good chance of completing it before we get too far into 2016. We, the regional leadership team, have also recommended that the new position be advertised as a career position, like all of the other RAs and Science Directors. We have made this recommendation based upon our collective judgement that the increased certainty and stability provided by this change will contribute to the long-term strength and productivity of the WCR and the mission of NOAA Fisheries here on the west coast. We are pleased to report that NOAA will be taking this approach, and we should expect to see a recruitment announcement for a new RA in the next several weeks. We expect that the advertisement will remain open for 30 days, and the process will progress as normal. I will not be applying, but will stay in my current position until the new RA is selected.

We can’t predict the exact date of this transition, but it is likely to occur sometime in the spring of 2016. At that time, I am expecting to move to a new non-career position in NOAA, reporting to Dr. Sullivan. My portfolio will consist of a number of topics upon which I have been focusing over the last several years as RA, including California water, tribal treaty rights and associated western Washington/Puget Sound conservation issues, and an assortment of other topics that we will decide upon over the next several months. Dr. Sullivan has also asked that I become involved with a larger NOAA “Water Initiative” which seeks to strengthen the cross-line capabilities at enhancing our predictive capabilities and services around the global/regional water budget across multiple spatial and temporal scales – obviously related to the execution of our work around conserving living marine, coastal and riverine resources. Fascinating stuff.

This may generate some questions which we'd be happy to try to answer. We will therefore schedule a conference call for internal NOAA Fisheries employees tomorrow, Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 am pacific time. This is by no means mandatory, but if you have questions or otherwise wish to join in, please do so. Barry Thom, Donna Darm and Nicole Hill will join me on the call.

Wednesday, January 20, 9:00 - 10:00 am

Conference Line: [888-790-6085](tel:888-790-6085)

Participant Passcode: 1730793

Finally, we will keep you apprised of both this process and other organizational changes as things progress. We also completely encourage further discussion and good ideas for improving what is already a great WCR. Transitions are a wonderful opportunity to further energize both ourselves and the organization.

Many thanks.

WS

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