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September 9, 2016

Agenda Item G.1  
Supplemental Attachment 10  
September 2016

Chuck Tracy  
Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

**Re: Joint Jurisdiction of Secretaries of Commerce and Interior over Proposed Seamount Conservation Area**

Dear Mr. Tracy,

I am very appreciative that the Council will comment on H.R.5797, the California Seamounts and Ridges National Marine Conservation Area Designation and Management Act, at your September meeting.

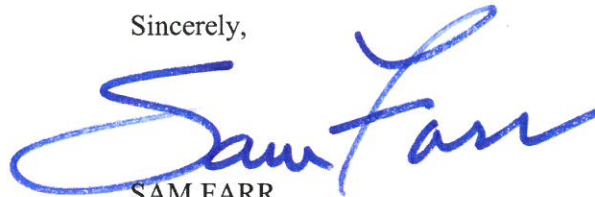
In drafting the bill, I worked with the fishing community to ensure their concerns were addressed. As a direct result of those negotiations, Cortes and Tanner Banks, and a portion of Mendocino Ridge have been withdrawn from the final version of the bill for commercial leasing for oil and gas production, energy projects, and cable laying. Additionally, the troll albacore fishery, recreational and charter fisheries are explicitly exempted from the prohibitions, as are certain military, emergency, and scientific activities.

I strongly believe in the consultative process of the PFMC and included language in the final version of the bill that mandates direct and thorough consultation with the PFMC, stakeholders, and other key fishery groups before the establishment of any Conservation Area.

Finally, I would like to clarify the joint authority of the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior over management of the proposed Conservation Area. Both the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior were included because both agencies have jurisdiction over certain fisheries that may be affected by the proposed Conservation Area. The order of the Secretaries as they appear in the bill was written with the intention that the Secretary of Commerce has greater jurisdiction over issues concerning the proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional comment on H.R.5797 that I hope you will share with all the PFMC members.

Sincerely,



SAM FARR  
Member of Congress