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March 2017  
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March 3, 2017

Mr. Herb Pollard, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, #101  
Portland, OR 97220

RE: Agenda Item F.3: Review of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

Dear Chair Pollard and Council Members:

In November 2016, The Nature Conservancy (the "Conservancy") received funding to sponsor a two-day workshop focused on providing information to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) on the third initiative selected through the process defined in the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP).

While the next initiative has yet to be selected, we hope to support the Council by hosting a workshop to gather experts and provide an opportunity to engage the public and broader stakeholder community in whichever initiative is chosen. In hosting the workshop, we have basic principles to deploy to make the workshop as useful as possible. Those tenants include: hosting an open and creative forum; facilitated by a neutral party to provide transparency and credible outcomes; and produce a product or white paper that helps the Council tackle the third FEP initiative, with a particular focus on the aspects related to a changing ocean and climate change.

The bulk of the workshop planning, including setting goals, speaker lists, invitees, and dates will occur quickly following the March Council meeting and is dependent on the Council discussion and action. Ideally, the workshop will be held in July in Portland, Oregon and will consist of presentations, break-out sessions, and opportunities for networking and exchanging ideas.

Flexibility in workshop planning will be key in providing a truly useful product to the Council; however, due to the Conservancy's funding source, we will need to focus most of the workshop dialogue on the climate change aspects of whatever initiative is selected. To that end, we have explored three illustrative scenarios of the Council's discussion/action under this agenda item and how those outcomes may affect the structure of the workshop.

The first scenario is that the Council selects A.2.8 Cross-FMP Effects of Climate Shifts (Climate Initiative) as the next FEP initiative to be completed. If this is selected, the workshop would be structured around one or more of the identified climate priorities with the goal of providing the Council with the information needed to successfully complete the initiative.

The second scenario is that the Council selects a different initiative (i.e., not the Climate

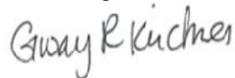
Initiative). In this scenario, the workshop would be structured to specifically focus on the climate-related aspects of the chosen initiative. For example, if a social science initiative were chosen, a workshop looking at the impacts of changing ocean conditions on coastal economics and culture would be extremely significant to the discussion. It is important to bring climate considerations into all ecosystem discussions, as it is a primary driver of biological systems and human communities.

The third scenario we have considered is one where the Council delays action on selection of a third FEP initiative and requests additional information for a later decision. In this scenario, a workshop can be structured to provide the missing information specific to the Climate Initiative. Examples of the information a workshop could provide include an evaluation of available information, identification of data gaps and key areas of risk, and/or an assessment of decision making in an environment of great climate uncertainty.

In closing, regardless of the scenario that ultimately occurs, the Conservancy hopes the funding and resources will improve the success of the initiative. We will work closely with Council staff and representatives of the Ecosystem Working Group following the March Council meeting discussion to structure the workshop to provide the greatest benefit to the Council in future decision making.

I will be attending the ecosystem agenda items at the March Council meeting and am available to answer any questions related to this letter or the workshop concept. Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact me at [gway.kirchner@tnc.org](mailto:gway.kirchner@tnc.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gway Kirchner  
Marine Fisheries Project Director, Oregon Chapter  
The Nature Conservancy