



7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384  
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)  
Herbert A. Pollard II, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

March 17, 2017

Ms. L. Kasey Sirkin  
San Francisco District, Regulatory Division, Eureka Field Office  
601 Startare Drive, Box 14  
Eureka, California 95501

**Re: Coast Seafoods Company Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture Permit  
Renewal and Expansion Project (2002-26912N)**

Dear Ms. Sirkin:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) would like to provide comments on the Permit Renewal and Expansion Project for the Coast Seafoods Company, Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture. The Council will be meeting next on April 6-11, 2017, and it is not possible for us to meet your April 6 comment deadline. Therefore, we would like to request an extension of the comment period to April 28.

If an extension is not possible, the Council asks that previous Council comments on the project be considered. These comments are contained in three letters to the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District dated August 22, 2016, December 3, 2015, and July 14, 2015<sup>1</sup>. To briefly summarize these comments, the Council is concerned that there be:

- No net loss of eelgrass
- Avoidance of existing eelgrass beds
- Long line spacing that minimizes eelgrass impacts
- Buffers between rack and bag aquaculture and eelgrass beds
- Mitigation activities
- Reduced impacts to fish resources, including salmon, groundfish, and herring.

Please contact Ms. Jennifer Gilden ([Jennifer.Gilden@noaa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Gilden@noaa.gov)) with your response, or if you have questions. We look forward to the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles A. Tracy".

Charles A. Tracy  
Executive Director

JDG:kma

Cc: Council Members  
Mr. Jack Crider, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District  
Habitat Committee

<sup>1</sup> The letters are available on the Council website at <http://tinyurl.com/7fk7qod>.