



September 12, 2017

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA
U.S. Department of Commerce
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chris:

Now that you have settled in, we want to officially congratulate you on your new position. We are looking forward to working with you as we continue building on our strong record of sustainable fisheries management. While we recognize that your long involvement with the Council Coordination Committee has given you a broad and highly welcomed understanding of our nation's fisheries, we still would appreciate the opportunity to spend time with you on a Council-by-Council basis to discuss in more detail the regional fisheries issues and challenges we face. To that end, we invite you to visit each of our Councils over the next few months. Attached is a list of our scheduled meetings to facilitate planning.

We also would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of adequately funding Council operations. As you are well aware, the Councils play a critical role in fisheries management. Since 2010, total Council funding has not increased. During this eight-year period, the agency placed additional demands on our time in order to implement numerous initiatives related to climate change, recreational fishing, limited access privilege programs, and ecosystem-based fishery management. At the same time, our administrative costs continue to rise. The ability to manage our budgets is made even more difficult because we are often uncertain when funds will be released to our accounts.

The Councils will not be able to operate successfully if level-funding continues into the future. We urge you to support our operations with sufficient resources to complete our mission. Our nation's fishery resources are too valuable to risk their future through a shortsighted effort to achieve minor cost savings.



New England
Fishery Management
Council



Once again, we congratulate you on your new leadership role, and we stand ready to assist you in the days ahead.

Respectfully,

Carlos Farchette, Chair
Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Leann Bosarge, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Phillip Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council

Mike Luisi, Chair
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Michelle Duval, Chair
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

John Quinn, Chair
New England Fishery Management Council

Edwin Ebisui, Jr., Chair
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council

Upcoming Regional Fishery Management Council Meetings		
Date	Council	Location
9/25/2017 – 9/29/2017	SAFMC	Charleston, SC **
9/13/2017 – 9/18/2017	PFMC	Boise, ID
9/26/2017 – 9/28/2017	NEFMC	Gloucester, MA
10/2/2017 – 10/6/2017	GMFMC	Biloxi, MS
10/2/2017 – 10/9/2017	NPFMC	Anchorage, AK
10/10/2017 – 10/12/2017	MAFMC	Riverhead, NY
10/17/2017 – 10/19/2017	WPFMC	American Samoa
11/15/2017 – 11/20/2017	PFMC	Costa Mesa, CA
12/5/2017 – 12/7/2017	NEFMC	Newport, RI
12/4/2017 – 12/8/2017	SAFMC	Atlantic Beach, NC
12/4/2017 – 12/11/2017	NPFMC	Anchorage, AK
12/12/2017 – 12/13/2017	CFMC	St. Thomas, USVI
12/11/2017 – 12/14/2017	MAFMC	Annapolis, MD
1/29/2018 – 2/1/2018	GMFMC	New Orleans, LA
1/30/2018 – 2/1/2018	NEFMC	Portsmouth, NH
2/5/2018 – 2/13/2018	NPFMC	Seattle, WA
2/13/2018 – 2/15/2018	MAFMC	Raleigh, NC
3/7/2018 – 3/14/2018	PFMC	Rohnert Park, CA
3/5/2018 – 3/9/2018	SAFMC	Jekyll Island, GA
4/2/2018 – 4/10/2018	NPFMC	Anchorage, AK
4/6/2018 – 4/11/2018	PFMC	Portland, OR
4/16/2018 – 4/19/2018	GMFMC	Gulfport, MS
4/17/2018 – 4/19/2018	NEFMC	Mystic, CT

**postponed due to Hurricane Irma