



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274

March 5, 2018

Mr. Phil Anderson, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97225

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) is proud of its long-standing positive and productive partnership with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in managing fisheries resources off the U.S. West Coast. As transitions occur, it is important to maintain this relationship.

The WCR is thankful for the many contributions of Mr. Stephen Freese, who served as the designee of the WCR Regional Administrator before the Council. We wish him and his family the best in retirement. The WCR requests that Mr. Ryan Wulff of the WCR's Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD) be recognized to replace Mr. Freese as the designee of the Regional Administrator before the Council. Mr. Wulff is currently the WCR's Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries and is responsible for the staff working closely with the Council to manage the marine and anadromous fisheries resources off the U.S. West Coast.

Ryan started with the WCR in 2012 as the Branch Chief for Delta Policy and Restoration in the Central Valley Area Office before accepting the SFD Assistant Regional Administrator's role in November 2017. Prior to that, Ryan was a Senior Policy Advisor in National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of the Under Secretary where he developed policy, managed staff, and made recommendations to NMFS, NOAA, and Department of Commerce leadership on domestic and international Federal fisheries management, marine mammal conservation, and living marine resource and habitat issues. Ryan also has extensive international experience as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas from 2007-2011 and as the U.S. Deputy Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission since 2012. During this time, he worked frequently with council chairs, commercial and recreational fishermen, and other stakeholders to obtain U.S. quotas for highly migratory species.

The WCR requests two additional changes to its designees at this time. The WCR requests that Ms. Aja Szumylo be recognized to replace Mr. Kevin Duffy as a designee for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) fisheries and that Ms. Kelly Ames be recognized as a designee of the Regional Administrator for all Council fisheries.



Ms. Szumylo is currently the Groundfish and CPS Branch Chief for WCR SFD. She comes to the WCR from NMFS' Greater Atlantic Region where she was a Fishery Policy Analyst with eight years of experience in planning, executing, and evaluating Federal marine fisheries policy. She has worked closely with staff at the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils to develop policies to address issues in Greater Atlantic Region fisheries and has expertise in the management of a diverse suite of Federal fisheries.

Ms. Ames is the WCR SFD Operations and Policy Branch Chief as of March 4, 2018. She has over twenty years of fisheries experience in Alaska and on the West Coast. As you are aware, she comes to us from the Council with experience in preparing comprehensive and detailed fishery management plans, plan amendments, and regulations for commercial and recreational fisheries. She has led and coordinated activities of the Council's Groundfish Management Team and facilitated development of consensus recommendations for Council consideration.

The other NMFS WCR designees for the following fisheries remain unchanged:

- Mr. Frank Lockhart: International Groundfish, CPS, and the Fishery Ecosystem Plan
- Ms. Heidi Taylor: Highly Migratory Species
- Dr. Peter Dygert: Pacific Salmon

Thank you for your strong partnership with the WCR. We look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,



Barry A. Thom  
Regional Administrator

cc: Chuck Tracy, Executive Director