



APR 13 2018

April 10, 2018

PFMC

Mr. Philip Anderson
Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for your co-signed letter regarding the success of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and for providing the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) white paper outlining a number of issues being considered through the MSA reauthorization process.

For forty years, the MSA has provided a dynamic science-based fisheries management construct that been integral to the economic, environmental, and recreational sustainability of U.S. fisheries. Driven by the MSA, and in partnership with the eight regional fishery management councils, international fishery management bodies, interstate fishery commissions, and our stakeholders, U.S. fisheries are now among the world's largest and most sustainable.

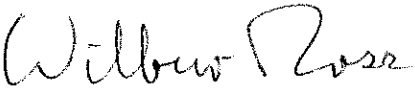
As we look to the future, we must continue seeking opportunities to further improve our management systems. I agree that any changes to the MSA intended to address region-specific problems should be tailored such that they do not impact or constrain fisheries management in other regions of the United States. In addition, the Department of Commerce is already engaged in efforts internally to improve stock assessments and data collection, and I support modifications that better enable fisheries management decisions and fulfill the MSA's statutory requirement to use the best scientific information available. As the Department continues to make progress on our commitment to streamline the regulatory processes under which we operate, I also encourage legislative opportunities to create more efficiency and consistency in how the MSA interacts with other Federal statutes, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

I look forward to continuing to work with our council partners as well as Congress on these important issues through the MSA reauthorization process. If you have any further

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questions, please contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Wilbur Ross