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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries | West Coast Region  
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F  
Monterey, CA 93940

Agenda Item I.4.a  
ONMS Report 1  
November 2018

October 3, 2018

Mr. Chuck Tracy  
Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Agenda item I.4 - Membership Appointments - Ad Hoc Ecosystem Work Group

Dear Mr. Tracy:

The ad hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) submitted a report at the September 2018 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting regarding updating the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The report included a recommendation for the Council to consider whether and when to supplement EWG membership with additional resources in anticipation of an upcoming FEP review. The EWG identified that previously one representative from West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries was on the Ecosystem Plan Development Team, and that their expertise can complement that of the existing EWG, should the Council choose a comprehensive FEP update or expand upon a candidate initiative.

The Council is now considering a review and update of the FEP and in September 2018 directed the EWG to review the goals and objectives and determine ways for improvement. The Council also requested an outline of FEP revisions to reflect updated science and results of both completed and candidate initiatives in preparation for the March 2019 Council meeting. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries would welcome an opportunity to join the EWG and provide expertise related to potential updates. We are committed to supporting this important work to incorporate ecosystem considerations into fisheries management, within our California Current Ecosystem.

Thank you for considering the inclusion of a representative from West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries. If the Council determines that adding sanctuary staff to the EWG is appropriate, I will work with Council staff to identify the expertise needed and thus determine the best ONMS resource for this role.

Sincerely,

William J. Douros, Regional Director  
ONMS West Coast Region

Olympic Coast  
National Marine Sanctuary  
115 E. Railroad Avenue  
Suite 301  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Cordell Bank  
National Marine Sanctuary  
P.O. Box 159  
Olema, CA 94950

Greater Farallones  
National Marine Sanctuary  
The Presidio  
991 Marine Drive  
San Francisco, CA 94129

Monterey Bay  
National Marine Sanctuary  
99 Pacific Street  
Suite 455A  
Monterey, CA 93940

Channel Islands  
National Marine Sanctuary  
U.C. Santa Barbara  
Ocean Science Bldg 514, MC 6155  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

