

**United States Department of State**



*Bureau of Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific Affairs*

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

Mr. Phil Anderson  
Chairman  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220

November 1, 2019

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am writing to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to provide information with regard to the U.S.-Canada North Pacific Albacore Treaty. I also wish to apologize for the inconvenience to any Council Members or participants by the change in the schedule for the Council to consider matters related to the Treaty due to a change in my availability to participate. I am grateful for the flexibility of the Council to make time available at the March 2020 meeting to take up this issue.

As the Council is aware, at the end of calendar year 2019 the current reciprocal fishing regime established in Annexes A and C of the Treaty expires. In order for a reciprocal fishing regime to be in place for 2020 and beyond, the United States and Canada would need to agree on that regime before the summer of 2020 when the North Pacific albacore fishery for that year commences. As with the establishment of the 2017-2019 reciprocal fishing regime, the bilateral discussions between the United States and Canada can be straightforward and concise if there are no significant changes to the terms of the reciprocal fishing regime, i.e., if we are changing only the dates, and can be conducted via correspondence and tele-conference. A bilateral teleconference could be held in April, 2020, followed by an initial exchange of diplomatic notes which would allow any agreed regime to be effective for the start of fishing in the 2020 season.

In addition to seeking the views of the Council, the Department of State will again engage directly with the harvesters and other sectoral stakeholders in the interim before the March 2020 Council Meeting to solicit input and views on the Treaty, with the intent of having as informed a discussion as possible in March. In the event that any discussions at the November Council meeting result in questions for the Department of State, I would be more than happy to provide answers or any other information the Council deems relevant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David F. Hogan".

David F. Hogan, Acting  
Director  
Office of Marine Conservation

Cc: Mr. Chuck Tracy