

The Honorable Howard W. Lutnick  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

[date]

**SUBJECT: Addendum to Pacific Fishery Management Council Response to Executive Order 14276**

Secretary Lutnick,

We appreciate the administration's willingness to engage with the Regional Fishery Management Councils, NOAA Fisheries, and fishing communities to advance the competitiveness of U.S. seafood in domestic and international markets through [Executive Order 14276](#).

U.S. fisheries should be supported to increase competitiveness. However, the Executive Order suggests a single solution: deregulation at NOAA. In reality, the full scope of federal government support for seafood competitiveness includes, among other things: funding the science that supports our nation's fisheries; addressing the threats of extreme and changing environmental conditions and Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; nurturing recreational fisheries; State Department engagement in bilateral and multilateral negotiations; meeting Tribal treaty obligations; and careful evaluation of other offshore ocean uses. Several of these items are the purview of federal agencies not traditionally associated with fishing or seafood production. Stripping back regulations at NOAA simply does not address it all.

In addition to the list of adjustments in direct response to Executive Order 14276, we offer a list of other actions that will address seafood competitiveness by stabilizing markets, improving access, enhancing economic profitability, ensuring a level playing field with other countries' seafood industries, and preventing closures. These ideas come from Pacific Fishery Management Council constituents, Council members, recent NOAA guidance documents (e.g., [NOAA's National Seafood Strategy](#)) and events (e.g., [outcomes from past Managing our Nation's Fisheries Conferences](#)).

We are ready to address any questions and provide further details as needed. We would appreciate a response about your planned actions that address our requests.

Thank you,

Chairman Peter Hassemer  
Pacific Fishery Management Council

- Expand fisheries data collection
  - Fund long-term data collection to support robust fisheries stock assessments
  - Fund novel and innovative data collection
  - Reform and collaborate with state agencies and inter-state commissions to generate more accurate and precise recreational fisheries data
  - Fund ecosystem data collection to understand impacts of a changing environment on target stocks and protected species
  - Create better pathways for commercial and recreational fishing community knowledge and experiences to be incorporated into stock assessments and management
- Support domestic infrastructure
  - Expand and update port infrastructure (e.g., ice houses, funding for port/harbor dredging)
  - Seafood processing infrastructure
  - Evaluate the impacts of the Jones Act on fishing fleet modernization
  - Create programs (education, loans) to bring young fishermen to fishing industry
  - Design coastal and marine spatial planning that supports U.S. fishermen
- Design Market/industry support mechanisms
  - Create access to USDA programs for food producers/farms for fishermen, such as grants, insurance and access to capital.
  - Strengthen NOAA Fisheries marketing of the primacy of U.S. fisheries management, and how that contributes to a sustainable, superior product
  - Support U.S. seafood commodity marketing at levels commensurate with the agricultural sector (for example, see the efforts of Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers)
  - Support product diversification and business incubator products (such as Hatch and Positively Groundfish's Catch+Create)
  - Enforce anti-monopoly and anti-monopsony regulations to support industry competitiveness
  - Develop and support U.S. seafood labeling
- Nurture recreational fisheries as a means to decrease American dependence on imported seafood
  - Fund programs to encourage and increase youth access to, and participation in, recreational saltwater fisheries
  - Increase and expand educational programs and materials on sustainable recreational fish harvesting
  - Create a campaign highlighting recreational fishing and all of its virtues in addition to sustenance (i.e. creating memories, careers, health and wellbeing), introduction to locally caught seafood, and economic benefits to coastal communities
- Support West Coast salmon recovery
  - Address water quality and quantity, pinniped, avian and invasive aquatic species predation
  - Increase hatchery production to provide more opportunity and access to socially, and culturally important fish
- Include fishery representatives from industry, government, Tribes, and conservation as part of all offshore energy development.

## *International*

- Ensure active engagement in bilateral and multilateral fora including all fishery and fishery-related treaties and conventions.
- Level the playing field for U.S. seafood when competing with imports
  - Ensure that imported seafood is from fisheries managed at a level comparable to U.S. fisheries, including ecosystem approach to fisheries
  - Equitable tariffs and trade quotas
  - Engagement with Seafood Trade Task Force
- Improve nation-wide communication with USDC Seafood Inspection Approved Establishments when there are seafood export changes