



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

November 8, 2010

Donald McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Director McIsaac:

The NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) and the NOAA Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation (GCEL) are seeking comment from the public and other interested stakeholders on setting annual priorities at the national and regional level.

The priorities adopted will support NOAA's statutory mandates to manage marine resources and Department of Commerce and NOAA strategic goals. We intend to utilize stakeholder recommendations, emphasize partnerships with State and Federal partners, work to increase compliance, and implement the priorities in a manner that will result in effective and fair enforcement programs.

Regional enforcement proposals will be reviewed annually and national priorities every two years.

This request for recommendations follows the August 2010 NOAA National Enforcement Summit that brought together more than 60 stakeholders from the commercial and recreational fishing industries, non-governmental organizations, and state and federal enforcement officials to focus on how NOAA can better manage marine resources through consistent and transparent enforcement of natural resource laws.

NOAA is particularly interested in recommendations from all interested parties on how the agency can develop national and regional priorities that reflect:

- The potential effect and/or threat of non-compliance to the resource (high, medium, low);
- The status of the resource (e.g., endangered, threatened, depleted, overfished, overfishing occurring, etc.);
- Efforts to improve compliance;
- Opportunities for deterrence;
- Catch share programs;
- Efforts on cases outside specific priorities;
- Available resources; and
- Other considerations as warranted.

NOAA will be seeking recommendations during a number of meetings this fall. If the Council or any interested party wishes to provide recommendations, please forward them to the Regional NOAA OLE Special Agent in Charge (listed below) no later than December 15, 2010.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Alan Risenhoover
Acting Director



Office of Law Enforcement

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cc: Vicki Nomura
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