



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)
Headquarters
8484 Georgia Avenue
Suite 415
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Agenda Item H.1.b
NMFS Report
November 2012

October 15, 2012

Donald McIssac
Executive Director Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 98220-1384

Dear Director McIssac,

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

The priorities adopted will support NOAA's statutory mandates to manage marine resources and Department of Commerce and NOAA strategic goals. We intent to utilize stakeholder recommendations, emphasize partnerships with State and Federal partners, work to increase compliance⁴ 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.

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

- The potential effective 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;
- Catch share programs;
- Opportunities for deterrence
- Efforts on cases outside specific priorities;
- Available resources, and
- Other considerations, as warranted

I request this letter be included in the November 2012 briefing book for the upcoming Council Meeting. Acting Special Agents in Charge Martina Sagapolu and Todd Dubois will attend the

Costa Mesa Council Meeting and they will also be available to schedule meeting with interested parties. If the Council or any interested party wishes to provide recommendations after the Council meeting, written comments may be forwarded to the Regional NOAA Acting Special Agents in Charge (contact information listed below) no later than December 13, 2012. Agenda Item H.1.b

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Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Bruce Buckson
Director
Office of Law Enforcement

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cc: Martina Sagapolu
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