



August 12, 2010

Mr. Eric Schwaab
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway, Building SSMC3
Silver Spring, MD 20910



Re: Regional Fishery Management Councils Funding Request for Dedicated Outreach Activities

Dear Mr. Schwaab:

At the annual Council Coordination Committee meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, the need for Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) to enhance information and education outreach activities associated with Council activities was discussed as a specific agenda item, and current outreach activities, capabilities, and opportunities were reviewed. As a result, the Councils forward for your consideration this request for dedicated additional funding for outreach activities.



We believe that an additional \$2 million is needed to achieve reasonable outreach goals for the collective Councils. It is important to note that this funding is for new, additional purposes, and is not recommended as a reprioritization of funding the Councils currently receive. It is well known that the Council baseline item funding is inadequate to accomplish the core responsibilities. Specialized funding for such purposes as National Environmental Protection Act compliance, regulatory streamlining, limited access privilege programs, and compliance with new Magnuson-Stevens Act mandates such as establishing annual catch limits go a long way towards meeting the analytical necessities of informing final Council decision-making on routine matters, but fall short of providing for necessary outreach capabilities. There is general agreement that additional dedicated funding is needed to accomplish reasonable information and education outreach goals.



The \$2 million request includes two categories: (1) funding for collective Council efforts, such as a major conference on domestic fishery management status (2) and funding for individual Councils. In addition to a major national conference, collective Council efforts can include educational documents and videos for national distribution, presentations at national conferences such as Capitol Hill Ocean Week, presentations at key high traffic aquariums across the country, and joint website design. We request \$440 thousand specifically for the national conference on domestic fishery status and opportunities, noting that chronicling successful partnership achievements between the Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service will be a primary feature of the conference. The three Pacific Ocean Councils will take the lead as a steering committee for this effort. The Councils will collectively decide on an appropriate distribution of the remaining funding.



Gulf of Mexico
Fishery
Management
Council

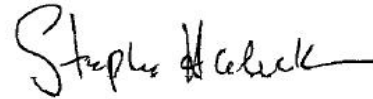
In Anchorage, you made mention of the possibility that part of the funding might be able to be provided from FY 2010 year end monies for the national conference. If there is applicability of this possibility, please advise as we would like to begin serious planning efforts for a national conference as soon as possible.

We look forward to your consideration and response. Please respond to Dr. Donald McIsaac at the Pacific Council as the point of contact on this matter.

Thank you for your support of Council activities,



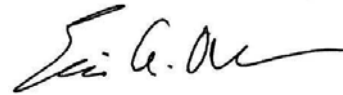
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Pacific Fishery Management
Council Chair



Mr. Stephen Haleck
Western Pacific Fishery Management
Council Chair



Mr. Duane Harris
South Atlantic Fishery Management
Council Chair



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Mr. Sam Rauch
Mr. Gary Reisner
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Regional Fishery Management Council Executive Directors