



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

May 8, 2024

Mr. David Witherell  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th  
Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Witherell:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern over funding challenges associated with carrying out the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in our constrained budget environment.

As noted in your letter, our work to prevent overfishing and rebuild stocks faces numerous complex and compounding challenges, including the need to increase climate resiliency as environmental conditions are shifting to advance more equitable outcomes for communities. While we have the unique opportunity under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to advance climate-ready fisheries together over the next few years, these growing issues, together with budget constraints, require us to become increasingly creative, efficient, and adaptable to prioritize mission-critical work.

I recognize this will be an ongoing conversation. I look forward to engaging with you in a productive discussion on budget at the upcoming Council Coordination Committee meeting in Puerto Rico in May.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet Coit".

Janet Coit  
Assistant Administrator  
for Fisheries

