

Regional Fishery Management Council Coordination Committee

November 8, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings
United States House of Representatives
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4704

The Honorable Mark Begich
United States Senate
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0201

Dear Representative Hastings and Senator Begich,

On behalf of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, I am forwarding to you a consensus statement from the October 23-24, 2013 Webinar meeting of the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) relative to potential reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Given the understanding that legislation drafting is advancing rapidly in the near term, the following CCC statement is necessarily brief and general.

In expressing confidence in most aspects of the MSA and the perspective that any changes should be carefully considered so as to not impair features that the CCC believes are key to current successes, the CCC noted the following as high priority candidate areas for improvement:

- *stock rebuilding plans, including*
 - a. *providing flexibility in stock rebuilding schedules,*
 - b. *addressing the discontinuity of the 10-year requirement, and*
 - c. *taking into account socioeconomic impacts;*
- *ending overfishing;*
- *mixed stock fishery flexibility;*
- *recreational fishery considerations;*
- *management of data-poor stocks; and*
- *a variety of international fishery management issues.*

In addition to this topical, general input, the CCC would also draw you attention to the more detailed perspectives from each of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC) that was available at the time of the October 23-24 webinar meeting; these can be found at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/ccc-oct-2013/#oct2013cccBB>. Please note that individual RFMCs may further elaborate on their individual priorities via separate communication in the relatively near future, and that the CCC is scheduled to discuss any legislation that is introduced at their mid-February meeting in the Washington, DC area.





Lastly, please accept our thanks for the contributions of Mr. Dave Whaley and Mr. Jeff Lewis during the October 23-24 webinar meeting. Their professional participation was invaluable in making progress on this important matter.

If there are any questions or specific information you need, feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council

DOM:kam

- C: CCC Members
Mr. Dave Whaley
Mr. Jeff Lewis
Mr. Samuel Rauch
Mr. Alan Reisenhoover
Ms. Emily Menashes
Mr. Brian Fredieu
Mr. Bill Chappell