

November 6, 2020

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chris,

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) at its virtual meeting on September 23-24, 2020, established a subcommittee to develop recommendations to the NMFS internal working group on guidance to implement the new National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations as they relate to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), including functional equivalency.

The Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) must meet NEPA requirements on the actions taken by the RFMCs and implemented through MSA. As such, it is important the RFMCs understand and have early and meaningful contributions to discussions in the development of guidance for the implementation of the new NEPA rule. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring CCC and RFMCs engagement in improving the application of NEPA for Council actions under the MSA, and look forward to working with NMFS in developing the new guidance.

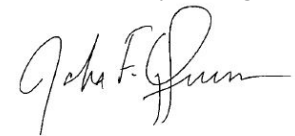
Sincerely,



Taotasi Archie Soliai, Chair
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council



Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council



Dr. John Quinn, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council



Simon Kinneen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council




Mike Luisi, Chair
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Marcos Henke, Chair
Caribbean Fishery Management Council



Mel Bell, Chair
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Dr. Thomas Frazer, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

