



Gulf of Mexico Dr. Carrie Simmons Executive Director Thomas Frazer Chair



Mid Atlantic Dr. Christopher Moore Executive Director Mike Luisi Chair New England Fishery Management Council

New England Thomas Nies Executive Director Dr. John Quinn



North Pacific David Witherell Executive Director Simon Kinneen Chair



Pacific Chuck Tracy Executive Director Marc Gorelnik



South Atlantic John Carmichael Executive Director Mel Bell Chair



Western Pacific Kitty Simonds Executive Director Taotasi Archie Soliai Chair



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, heard a report on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee recommendation to reestablish the National Seafood Council. The CCC discussed the broader need for NMFS to support fisheries managed through the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and endorsed a recommendation requesting NMFS evaluate NOAA FishWatch criteria for the purpose of serving as an equivalent to third-party certification deeming US fishery products as sustainable. In addition, the CCC requests NMFS report back on the utility of FishWatch for this purpose and any possible alternatives by the May 2021 CCC meeting.

Third-party certification impacts US fishing fleets and undermines consumer confidence in UScaught seafood. US fisheries are, by the nature of the MSA, inherently sustainable per NOAA and the Department of Commerce approval of the Councils' fishery management plans. A federal label noting this sustainability would put all US seafood on equal footing in the market and be a source of pride for US consumers. We appreciate your continued support of US fisheries as managed through the Regional Fishery Management Councils under the MSA and the sustainable seafood it provides the nation and look forward to the NMFS report.

Sincerely,

Taotasi Aréhie Soliai, Chair Western Pacific Fishery Management Council

Marc Gorelnik, Chair Pacific Fishery Management Council

chy t.1 un

Dr. John Quinn, Chairman New England Fishery Management Council

mt Jun

Simon Kinneen, Chair North Pacific Fishery Management Council

what

Mike Luisi, Chair Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Marw Hank

Marcos Henke, Chair Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Melin Bell

Mel Bell, Chair South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Frazer

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