

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 6, 2019

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

Mr. Witherell:

I am writing to request the Council's general analysis and feedback on the following legislation:

- H.R. 1979, "*The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act.*" I would like to receive the North Pacific Council's analysis of the current status of "alternative fishing practices that minimize the incidental catch of living marine resources." This term is not defined in H.R. 1979, and as Congress evaluates this legislation, it would be helpful to receive the North Pacific Council's assessment on what alternatives to the current fishing gear are being considered.
- H.R. 2236, "*The Forage Fish Conservation Act.*" I would like to receive the North Pacific Council's analysis of the need for further management and conservation of forage fish, along with the feasibility to develop management plans that meet requirements outlined in this legislation. As Congress evaluates this legislation, it would be helpful to receive your assessment on how this legislation would alter management plans and affect communities in your region.

Respectfully,



Rob Bishop  
Republican Leader  
Committee on Natural Resources