

May 10, 1977

Dr. Robert M. White, Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce
Commerce Building, Room 5128
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Dr. White:

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, has asked me to respond to your letter of March 31st about Council interrelationships with the Marine Fishery Advisory Committee (MAFAC). This subject, and your letter in particular, was discussed at the last North Pacific Council meeting on April 27 and 28.

The Council has asked me to express their appreciation for your invitation to designate a member of the Council or the Council staff as an advisor to represent the Council at meetings of the Committee. There is considerable familiarity with MAFAC in the North Pacific Council, both Mr. Rasmuson and Senator Clem Tillion are members of course, as is Mr. Don Bevan, a member of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. The Council agreed that while an advisor from the Council to MAFAC would be valuable in developing the necessary interaction between the Council and MAFAC, it would be much more satisfactory if the Councils and MAFAC had a more dynamic interrelationship. The Council suggested that a member of MAFAC as a Council member, or if you wish, a Council member who is also a member of MAFAC, would allow a more active interface between the two organizations and eliminate the extra post of advisor from the Council.

That relationship exists now, of course, between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and MAFAC, but the Council would like to see this concept established as a policy to provide a continuing close interrelationship between the two groups. While we can't necessarily expect a Governor's list of nominees for Council seats to contain one or more MAFAC members the odds are probably good that it will. On the other side of this coin, it might be possible to consider one or more Council members as candidates for new appointments to MAFAC when seats are open on that Committee.

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The North Pacific Council would appreciate your consideration of their suggestion for interaction between the Councils and MAFAC. They believe it to be a more active alternative than sending an advisor to MAFAC meetings, and it also has the merit of reducing the number of people involved in these groups.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

cc: D. Bevan
R. Schoning
R. Weeden
A.J. Bilik, Executive Secretary, MAFAC
FX3
H. Rietze
All Council Chairmen

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