



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

AGENDA ITEM 7
May 1977

BUREAU OF OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

May 9, 1977

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson
Chairman
North Pacific Regional Fishery
Management Council
P.O. Box 3136 DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Elmer:

By now you will know that the President has nominated me to become the Ambassador to Finland and that I expect to leave my position as Deputy Assistant Secretary and Ambassador for Oceans and Fisheries Affairs within the next few weeks. I am looking forward to my new assignment with pleasure, accompanied by a sense of sadness at saying good-bye to my many friends and colleagues in the fisheries world with whom I have been associated over the past eighteen months.

In addition, I feel that I am leaving the fisheries world just as that world takes on a very important new challenge; that is, the regional administration of our national fishery interests. I am confident that the Regional Councils will demonstrate a capacity to manage, creatively, the living marine resources of our nation in a way which advances not only the health of those resources and the industries associated with them, but also the broader and yet equally important public interest across a range of concerns.

I do not know at this time who will replace me to represent the United States internationally in this important field. I hope that you and the members of the Council will find it possible to continue to support this office and that the very

positive relationship which I have found so supportive not only of me but of our nation's international tasks in fisheries, will be accorded my successor.

You and the members of the North Pacific Council have my very best wishes for a successful future. I send you, also, my very deepest appreciation for the role that you have played in the building of the new institutions of fisheries management and the application of our new principles in this field to our international responsibilities.

Sincerely,



Rozanne L. Ridgway
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Oceans and Fisheries
Affairs