



Submitted electronically via [OceanResources.Climate@noaa.gov](mailto:OceanResources.Climate@noaa.gov)

April 2, 2021

Heather Sagar  
NOAA Fisheries  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Recommendations for More Resilient Fisheries and Protected Resources Due to Climate Change;  
Request for Information

Dear Ms. Sagar:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) submits these comments on behalf of the State of Alaska (the State or Alaska), specifically our department, the Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and the Department of Natural Resources (ADNR). Our comments respond to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Federal Register notice<sup>1</sup> requesting input on section 216 of the January 27, 2021, Executive Order on Climate Change.

Alaskans are proud of the rich resources in our state and off our shores, which support robust populations of fish, shellfish, plants, birds and wildlife. We successfully manage our diverse resources sustainably to provide for their utilization, development, and conservation in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the State. This is required by the Alaska Constitution and was the primary impetus for statehood. Alaska's approach is highly effective. Our fish and game management programs are lauded around the world. Our management has maintained vast, interconnected ecosystems with healthy populations of fish and wildlife species that provide food, recreation, and economic benefits.

For example, Alaska produces more than half the fish caught in waters off the coasts of the United States, with an average wholesale value of nearly \$4.5 billion a year. Alaska's fisheries are among the best-managed, most sustainable in the world. Alaska resources provide jobs and a stable food supply for the nation, while supporting a traditional way of life for Alaska Native and rural fishing communities.

Alaska submits the following recommendations for implementing Executive Order 14008.

**Section 216(a) – Conserving 30% Our Nation's Land and Waters by 2030**

Section 216(a) of the Executive Order outlines a goal of conserving 30% of lands and 30% of waters by 2030. In determining how to implement this directive, Alaska urges the Department of the Interior

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<sup>1</sup> 86 Fed. Reg. 12410 (March 3, 2021).







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