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January 9, 2017

**Re: Appointment of Mr. Chris Oliver as Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries**

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Freezer Longline Coalition (FLC), I am writing to express our strongest support for Mr. Chris Oliver to be appointed as the next Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Mr. Oliver's outstanding work as Executive Director of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and his leadership in fisheries management at the national and international arenas for over 25 years makes him the ideal candidate to lead NOAA Fisheries in the new administration.

**About FLC**

The FLC is an industry trade association representing the participants in the freezer longline sector of the Alaska cod fishery. FLC promotes the sustainable management of Alaska cod and other groundfish species in the North Pacific and supports research and education to reduce bycatch, increase safety, and minimize the environmental impacts of the fleet. Our coalition consists of 12 member companies who operate about 30 freezer longline vessels in federally-managed waters off Alaska. In 2016, FLC members harvested over 100,000 metric tons (over 200 million lbs) of Alaska cod that generated over \$200 million in revenues and supported more than 1,200 jobs in Alaska and Washington.

**Support for Mr. Oliver**

The FLC joins other North Pacific commercial fishing associations, including the At-sea Processors Association, Groundfish Forum, Pacific Seafood Processors and United Catcher Boats in offering support for Mr. Oliver's consideration as Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Together, our organizations represent companies engaged in the harvesting, processing, marketing and distribution of commercial U.S. seafood products, principally from federally managed Alaska and West Coast fisheries. The fisheries in which our member companies participate account for over half of all U.S. seafood landed annually and approximately two-thirds of the nation's seafood exports.

As participants in the North Pacific fisheries, the FLC and our members have worked closely with Mr. Oliver during his 26-year tenure with the NPFMC. Mr. Oliver is an integral reason why the North Pacific is widely recognized as having the most sustainably managed and productive fisheries in the nation. Under his leadership, the NPFMC has partnered with FLC and other commercial, recreational, community and environmental stakeholders in the North Pacific to pioneer solutions to fisheries management challenges in the region that have become models for sustainable management across the country. As Executive Director, Mr. Oliver consistently works with Council members, industry and scientific advisors, and his staff to pursue the most effective and practical solutions to complex issues pending before the NPFMC. Frequently, this

includes examining existing federal regulations and challenging NOAA Fisheries and other agencies to reform policies and practices that do not support sustainable fisheries operations in the North Pacific. He has consistently challenged NOAA Fisheries to reduce the regulatory burden on fishermen so that fisheries management is more sensible and responsive to real-time operations. Mr. Oliver has also advocated for a more decentralized approach to federal fisheries management by redistributing resources and authorities from NOAA Fisheries headquarters to the regional offices of NMFS and to the eight regional Councils responsible for management. This is consistent with the original intent of Congress for the regional council system.

In addition to administering the operations of the NPFMC for the past 16 years, Mr. Oliver is a leading voice in the consideration of commercial and recreational fisheries issues across the country. He has twice presided over the Managing our Nations Fisheries national conference in Washington, DC and is frequently asked to testify before Congress on federal fisheries issues, including the reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Act. He also works closely with the leadership of all eight regional fishery management councils through his participation on the Council Coordination Committee (CCC). Well regarded as a leader within this group, he has acquired a keen grasp of fisheries management issues in other regions and has worked to find common ground to effectively promote the development of NOAA Fisheries policies and regulations that support the ability of fishing industry to operate while achieving the shared objective of healthy and sustainable fisheries.

Beyond federal fisheries, Mr. Oliver has extensive experience in the international fisheries arena. Notably, since 2000 he has served as a delegate to the U.S./Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee, a position appointed by the U.S. Department of State. This committee develops bilateral agreements on the international boundary line as well as cooperative research and high-seas enforcement agreements key to the Bering Sea fisheries.

Mr. Oliver has lived in Alaska for 26 years and is a proud native of Texas. He began his career in the seafood business in Texas and remains very familiar with both commercial and recreational management issues in the Gulf of Mexico. He has been an avid sport fisherman and hunter all his life.

The FLC believes Mr. Oliver would be an outstanding Assistant Administrator by focusing NOAA Fisheries on its core science and management missions, and recognizing the value and utility of relying on regional expertise to solve regional issues. We know that with over 25 years' experience in the federal fisheries management process he is best suited to lead NOAA Fisheries in a direction which will have a positive effect on the future of the resource and the businesses and communities across the nation that rely on healthy and sustainable fisheries.

Sincerely,



Chad I. See  
Executive Director  
Freezer Longline Coalition



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Enc: C. Oliver resume

# CHRISTOPHER WAYNE OLIVER

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## EXPERIENCE

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL** SEPTEMBER 2000 - PRESENT

Responsible for all facets of Council operations related to the administration and management of the Nation's fisheries off Alaska, including overall administration of the Council, its staff, meetings, and representation of the Council at various high-level scientific and policy arenas at the state, national, and international levels. Includes direct responsibility for: personnel and administration (supervise staff of biologists, economists, data specialists, and administrative support staff); budget preparation; grant submissions and reporting (current Council five-year budget is approximately \$22 million); contract monitoring; programmatic research planning; public liaison; and overall development of analyses in support thereof.

Represent the Council in contact with other Federal and State agencies, the fishing industry, and public sector. Monitor and implement compliance with all state and federal laws including Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), U.S./Canada Pacific Halibut Act, Pacific Salmon Treaty, Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and numerous relevant Executive Orders. Work closely with National Marine Fisheries Service and other State and Federal agencies in the development and implementation of fisheries management plans and regulations governing all Federal fisheries in the North Pacific region.

#### Attendant Experience in U.S. National Fisheries Management

- Member of national Council Coordination Committee from 1996 to present, coordinating national fisheries policy among the eight regional fishery management Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service leadership.
- Provided input on, and coordinated implementation of, both the 1996 and 2006 reauthorizations of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Organized and presided over the 2003 and 2005 Managing our Nation's Fisheries national conferences (MONF1 and MONF2) held in Washington, D.C.
- Congressional testimony before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, October 2005 on reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Congressional testimony before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, May 2006 on reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Congressional testimony before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, December 2011 on reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Congressional testimony before the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee, February 2014 on reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Congressional testimony before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, September 2015 on the potential implications of pending Marine National Monument Designations.

## Attendant Experience in International Fisheries

- Representative of the North Pacific Council and Party to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), 2009 to present.
- Representative of the North Pacific Council and delegation member of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), 2010 to 2014.
- Representative of the North Pacific Council and delegation member of the U.S./Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC), 2000 to present. Assisting in the development of attendant bilateral agreements on international boundary line; cooperative research; cooperative maritime and high-seas enforcement; reciprocal fishing; and, bilateral agreement on combating Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- Representative of the North Pacific Council and delegation member of the Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (Donut Hole Convention), 2000 to present.
- Primary North Pacific Council staff liaison to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), 1992 to present.
- Interim U.S. Commissioner appointment to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), 2013 to 2014.
- Co-Author and overall project lead for the North Pacific Council's Arctic Fishery Management Plan.
- In consultation to the U.S. Department of State, assisted in development of the Declaration Concerning the Prevention of Unregulated High Seas Fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean.

## Major Recognitions/Awards

- National Association of Environmental Professionals – National Environmental Excellence Award (to North Pacific Council and NMFS Alaska Region) for Steller sea lion protection measures, 2003.
- Bob Mace Distinguished Service Award (to Chris Oliver) from the North Pacific Council, 2006.
- NOAA General Counsel's Award for Exceptional Performance (to Chris Oliver), 2008
- Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service – Award (to North Pacific Council) for leadership in the establishment of annual catch limits (ACLs), 2012
- American Fisheries Society, Conservation Achievement Award (to North Pacific Council), 2012
- Alaska Ocean Leadership Award (to North Pacific Council) for Stewardship and Sustainability, 2012
- Shining World Leadership Award (to Chris Oliver) for leadership in the development of the 2009 Arctic Fishery Management Plan for U.S. waters.

## **DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL** SEPTEMBER 1992 TO SEPTEMBER 2000

Responsible to the Council and its Executive Director for all facets of Council operations in management of the Nation fisheries off Alaska. Includes assistance to the Executive Director in all duties outlined above. Includes direct supervision of all Council staff. Project Coordinator in development of the following major fishery management programs including:

- Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements/Regulatory Impact Reviews/Regulatory Flexibility Act analyses to support fishery management plans, plan amendments, and regulatory amendments
- Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program for halibut and sablefish fisheries
- North Pacific Domestic Groundfish Observer Program and Electronic Monitoring Implementation.
- License Limitation Program for Groundfish and Crab Fisheries off Alaska
- Bering Sea Inshore/Offshore (processor) Pollock Allocations
- Bering Sea Pacific Cod Allocations by Gear Type
- Improved Retention and Utilization Requirements for cod/pollock fisheries
- North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan
- Management plan for North Pacific halibut guided sport fishery
- Implementation of American Fisheries Act (pollock fishery cooperatives)
- Development of Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures
- Development and implementation of catch share programs and fishery cooperatives for the Amendment 80 fleet
- Habitat protections measures covering over 600,000 square miles in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, and Arctic Ocean
- Community Development Quota (CDQ) program covering 66 coastal communities
- Salmon and halibut bycatch reduction measures
- Seabird protection measures
- Stakeholder outreach, public communication efforts, and media interface

**GULF OF ALASKA FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN COORDINATOR, NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

AUGUST 1990 TO SEPTEMBER 1992

Primary responsibilities were coordinating development of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Gulf of Alaska including analyses of proposed amendments to the Plan and preparation of Environmental Impact Statements/Regulatory Impact Reviews and related documents that assess environmental, economic, and social impacts of regulatory actions, and compliance Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Standards, and other federal and state laws. Required close coordination with various state and federal agencies and personnel as well as interfacing with fishing industry participants, other public user groups, and media on a routine basis. Prepared analyses and presentations for public hearings and Council decision meetings. Served on, or provided staff support to various North Pacific Council committees including: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team (review and coordination of annual stock assessments for all groundfish species); Salmon Management Plan Team; Halibut Management Plan Team; IFQ Implementation Team; Observer Oversight Committee, Legislative Committee, Executive/Finance Committee

**RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

JANUARY 1989 TO AUGUST 1990

Conducted research on Gulf of Mexico commercial and recreational fisheries. Primary research projects were (1) evaluation of economic impact of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) on commercial shrimp fishery, and (2) evaluation of various fishery management measures (such as the Texas Closure) to increase economic returns from the shrimp fisheries. Major duties included:

- Coordination with various state and federal agencies and industry associations to accomplish project objectives
- Writing and preparation of all interim and final reports
- Presentation of project results to agencies and scientific conferences
- Parameterization of biological and economic components and refinement and application of computer simulation model for Gulf shrimp fisheries (General Bioeconomic Fishery Simulation Model developed in SAS code)
- Use of statistical methods in data analysis

**GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.**

JANUARY 1988 TO DECEMBER 1988

Developed graduate thesis from two research projects:

(1) Control of Piscivorous Bird Depredation at Aquaculture Production Sites

(2) Feasibility of Food-Sized Red Drum from Head Started Fingerlings

Also generated project reports for public and industry distribution.

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY RED DRUM HATCHERY**

SEPTEMBER 1987 TO JANUARY 1988

Assisted hatchery foreman in all phases of operation including: collection of brood stock; set up and maintenance of algal and rotifer cultures; manipulation of spawning cycles; egg collection; water quality maintenance; and daily maintenance of facilities.

**WHOLESALE SEAFOOD PURCHASER, SELF-EMPLOYED**

SEPTEMBER 1981 TO SEPTEMBER 1987

Employed in seafood restaurant/hotel and seafood purchasing business for various companies; self-employed restaurant owner/operator from 1981 through 1983. Involved in all aspects of retail and wholesale seafood industry and marketing.

**EDUCATION**

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

MASTER OF AGRICULTURE IN FISHERIES SCIENCE

January 1987 to December 1988. Grade point average 4.0/4.0. Gamma Sigma Delta (Honor Society of Agriculture).

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

September 1977 to May 1981. Minor in English. Grade point average 3.1/4.0.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Griffin, Wade and C. Oliver - Economic Impact of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) on the Shrimp Industry in the Gulf of Mexico; Final Report, MARFIN\_project NA-87-06139.

Griffin Wade D. Tolman, and C. Oliver; Economic Impact of TEDs on the Shrimp Production Sector, Journal of Society and Natural Resources, Volume 6, 1993.

Thacker, S. G., C. Oliver, and T. Linton – The Relationship between Lunar Phases and Catch of pre-Molt Blue Crab, Technical Report – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University, 1989

C. Oliver, H. Hendrickson, Matlock C. Bryan R. Riechers and J. Clark - An Economic Analysis of Texas Shrimp Season Closures, Marine Fisheries Review 54(3), 1993.

C. Oliver, B. McCarl, G. Matlock, R. Bryan, and R. Reichers and J. Clark - Shrimp Fisheries Management to Increase Economic Returns Final Report MARFIN \_project NA-88- H-MF199,1992.

Oliver Chris, The Evolution of Sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) Fisheries Management off Alaska - Open Access to IFQs. Proceedings of the International Sablefish Symposium, Seattle Washington 1995.

Pautzke Clarence and C. Oliver - Development of the IFQ Program for Sablefish and Halibut Longline Fisheries off Alaska. Report to the National Academy of Science, National Research Council's Committee to Review IFQ Programs

Oliver, Chris - Implementation of the American Fisheries Act - Contributed paper and presentation to the 1999 International Fisheries Law Symposium, University of Washington School of Law

Oliver, Chris - Implementation of the American Fisheries Act, Part 2- Contributed paper and presentation to the 2001 International Fisheries Law Symposium, University of Washington School of Law

Lead author or coauthor on numerous Environmental Impact Statements supporting Council management initiatives, 1990 to present.

Numerous presentations of North Pacific Fishery Management Council issues and process to local, State, National, and International conferences and symposiums, 1990 to present.