



Marine Conservation Alliance

promoting sustainable fisheries to feed the world

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Alaska Whitefish Trawlers
Association

Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
International Seafoods of Alaska
North Pacific Seafoods
Trident Seafoods
Western Alaska Fisheries

Alaska Scallop Association

Aleutian Pribilof Island
Community Development
Association

*Akutun, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, St.
George*

Arctic Storm Management
Group

Bristol Bay Economic
Development Corporation

*Akiakagik, Clark's Point, Dillingham, Egegik, Ekuk,
Ekwok, King Salmon, Levickok, Manokotak, Naknek,
Pilot Point, Port Heiden, Portage Creek, South Naknek,
Toqiak, Twin Hills, Ugashik*

Central Bering Sea Fishermen's
Association

St. Paul

City of Unalaska

Glacier Fish Company

Groundfish Forum

*Fishermen's Finest, Iquique US, Ocean Peace, O'Hara
Corporation, The Fishing Company of Alaska, United
States Seafoods*

High Seas Catchers

Ocean Harvester, Sea Storm, Neahkahnie

Icicle Seafoods

Norton Sound Economic
Development Corporation

*Brevig Mission, Diomedes, Elm, Gambell, Golovin,
Kayuk, Nome, Saint Michael, Savoonga, Shaktoolik,
Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales, White Mountain*

Pacific Seafood

Pacific Seafood Processors
Association

Alaska General Seafoods
Alyeska Seafoods
Golden Alaska Seafoods
North Pacific Seafoods
Peter Pan Seafoods
Phoenix Processor Limited Partnership
Trident Seafoods
UniSea
Westward Seafoods

United Catcher Boats

Akutun Catcher Vessel Association
Mothership Fleet Cooperative
Northern Victor Fleet Cooperative
Peter Pan Fleet Cooperative
Unalaska Fleet Cooperative
Unisea Fleet Cooperative
Westward Fleet Cooperative

January 18, 2017

Scott Rayder
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)
Senior Advisor to the President
3090 Center Green Drive, Boulder, CO 80301

Dear Mr. Rayder,

The Marine Conservation Alliance represents seafood harvesters, processors and communities primarily in the North Pacific that support sound, scientific fishery management principles. We rely on sustainable, healthy fisheries and believe it is vital that NOAA leadership have a clear understanding of the numerous, often contentious, issues involved. We are writing to you to express our support for Mr. Chris Oliver for the position of Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

As you will see from his resume, Mr. Oliver is uniquely suited to this appointment due to his breadth of experience and proven dedication to sound fisheries management.

As Executive Director of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (and, previously, Deputy Director) Mr. Oliver is responsible for managing what is widely recognized as one of the soundest fisheries programs in the world. Largely due to his efforts, the NPFMC has been a leader in science-based regulation to preserve both our resources and those whose livelihoods depend on them. The Council is involved in both large and small scale commercial fisheries, sports fisheries, community and habitat protections and is the first Council to develop a 'Fisheries Ecosystem Plan' (for the Aleutian Islands) to institute ecosystem-based management principles.

Equally important, Mr. Oliver has proven his ability to understand and respect conflicting and often passionate viewpoints and to be involved in practical solutions that adhere to the National Standards outlined in the Magnuson Stevens Act. He has also worked closely with the International Pacific Halibut Commission and its efforts to coordinate research and management objectives with those of the NPFMC.

On numerous occasions, he has presented both written and oral testimony to Congressional and Administration offices. He has consistently encouraged realistic, precautionary management principles that recognize issues unique to each region. In addition to his domestic fisheries experience, Mr. Oliver has participated in international treaties and management bodies addressing trans-boundary stocks, enforcement, and research. He is highly respected as a credible and knowledgeable leader who is committed to the long-term health of our oceans.

We believe that Chris Oliver has the knowledge, experience, passion and intelligence that will maintain the strength of our nation's fishery resources and the health of our commercial and recreational fisheries. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Lori Swanson
Executive Director

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