

## THE SEAFOOD COALITION\*

*"Promoting science-based marine resource conservation and management"*

January 18, 2017

Governor Mike Pence, Vice-President Elect  
C/o Trump-Pence Transition Team  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce Nominee  
C/o Trump-Pence Transition Team  
Washington, D.C.

Re: Commerce Department Appointee Recommendation; Chris Oliver for NOAA Fisheries

Dear Governor Pence and Mr. Ross:

We are joining with our colleagues in the commercial fishing industry and in the businesses that are dependent on commercial fishing to strongly support Chris Oliver's appointment as Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

After too many years of what has been at best lukewarm support from the U.S. Department of Commerce our industry needs someone with Mr. Oliver's knowledge, experience and attitude to allow us to sustainably harvest fish and shellfish from some of the world's most productive fishing grounds in our Exclusive Economic Zone. Today the proportion of domestically produced seafood is under ten percent of the total seafood consumption in the U.S. We are confident that with Mr. Oliver's leadership at NOAA Fisheries we will be able to increase production and regain markets that we have lost over the past eight years, and we are as confident as well that we can do it sustainably.

This letter accompanies a similar letter from some of our colleagues that lists six reasons why they are supporting Mr. Oliver. Their reasons are our reasons so we won't bother to reiterate them. Mr. Oliver's support extends from Maine through the Gulf of Mexico to Alaska, includes fishermen from the smallest vessels to the largest and onshore businesses that handle domestically produced seafood from the dock to the consumer.

Thank you for your attention,

**\*Seafood Coalition member organizations - California Wetfish Producers Association, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Coalition of Coastal Fisheries, Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association, At-sea Processors Association, Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Southern Offshore Fishing Association, United Catcher Boats, Organized Fishermen of Florida, Coos Bay Trawlers Association, Pacific Seafood Processors Association, National Fisheries Institute, Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative, Freezer Longline Coalition, Western Fishboat Owners Association, American Fishermen's Research Foundation, Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, California Fisheries and Seafood Institute, West Coast Seafood Processors Association**