



Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative

American Seafoods • Glacier Fish Co. • Trident Seafoods

A Partnership to Promote Responsible Fishing

January 23, 2017

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

Re: Commerce Department Appointee; Chris Oliver Should Lead NOAA Fisheries

Dear Mr. Rayder:

I write on behalf of the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative (PWCC) to recommend the appointment of Mr. Chris Oliver as the next Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Mr. Oliver is also endorsed by fishery participants from across the nation. This unprecedented level of support is embodied in letters submitted by Mr. Daniel Occhipinti of Pacific Seafoods and by the Seafood Coalition (both letters enclosed). Mr. Oliver has over 30 years of experience in one of the most vital and valuable fishery regions in our nation. He possesses a deep understanding of the issues and challenges faced by NOAA Fisheries and an unsurpassed level of dedication. We recommend Mr. Oliver because of his experience, breadth of knowledge, and commitment to achieving sustainable fisheries that provide benefits to the nation and to those who catch, process, and supply fish to feed the nation and the world.

The PWCC is a fishing and research cooperative comprised of the three companies that participate in the catcher/processor sector of the Pacific whiting fishery. PWCC member companies employ several thousand men and women who rely upon Pacific and North Pacific fisheries to support their lives and families. The sustainability of US fisheries is of paramount importance to the PWCC. It is critical that NOAA Fisheries is led by a highly experienced individual, someone knowledgeable about and capable of formulating effective fishery policies.

As highlighted in the Pacific Seafoods' letter, Mr. Oliver understands the complex regulatory framework of US fisheries. He supports easing regulatory burdens and recognizes the critical importance of decentralized fisheries management. His leadership and guidance of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council provides Mr. Oliver significant experience in the management of international fisheries. Mr. Oliver also understands and respects the importance of balancing commercial and recreational fishing interests.

Finally, and most importantly, Mr. Oliver is clearly committed to the long-term health of our nation's living marine resources and sustainable fisheries management. For businesses that have made long-term investments in these fisheries, there is no higher priority than the maintenance of a healthy, sustainable resource. Mr. Oliver has demonstrated that he shares our commitment to this goal. Therefore, the PWCC urges his appointment to serve as the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

The PWCC and its member companies appreciate your consideration of our support for Mr. Oliver. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Waldeck
Executive Director

Enclosures

Pacific Seafoods Joint Letter – Commerce Department Appointee Recommendation;
Chris Oliver for NOAA Fisheries

Seafood Coalition Letter – Commerce Department Appointee Recommendation; Chris
Oliver for NOAA Fisheries

January 23, 2017

Vice President Mike Pence
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 Vice President Pence and Mr. Ross:

We are participants in America's marine fisheries and we strongly support appointing Chris Oliver as the next Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

Commercial and recreational fishing in federally managed waters makes a significant economic contribution to the United States, generating more than \$214 billion in sales and supporting 1.83 million jobs.¹ However, the industry faces tremendous pressure from international competition—90 percent of seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported, and our country has a \$13.2 billion seafood trade deficit (mostly from China).²

We need a leader of NOAA Fisheries who is committed to the economic productivity of American waters, and we are confident that Mr. Oliver is the right choice. Here are some of the reasons why:

1. Chris Oliver has nearly three decades of experience promoting economic prosperity in our nation's largest and most productive fishery in the waters off Alaska: Mr. Oliver has spent 26 years working with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council—including 16 years as its Executive Director. Under his leadership the NPFMC has balanced competing interests among communities, fishing sectors and environmentalists to become the most sustainably managed and productive fishery in the world, accounting for more than half of all seafood landed in the U.S. and approximately two-thirds of America's seafood exports. In addition Alaska maintains some of the most sought after recreational fishery opportunities anywhere.

¹ NOAA (May 26, 2016), *Commercial and recreational saltwater fishing generated \$214 billion in 2014*, available at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mediacenter/2016/05_May/26_05_feus_2014_pr.html

² See NMFS Fisheries of the United States (2015), available at: <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/fus/fus15/index>

2. Chris Oliver understands the complex regulatory framework of U.S. fisheries: Mr. Oliver is a leader on the Council Coordination Committee and has worked closely with all eight regional councils that manage America's fisheries. Among his many accomplishments at the CCC, Mr. Oliver helped find common ground across all regions to effectively push back against dubious NOAA policy initiatives and fisheries regulations that needlessly restricted the ability of the fishing industry to operate efficiently.
3. Chris Oliver supports easing regulatory burdens: In addition to promoting best conservation practices for long-term sustainable outcomes, Mr. Oliver has consistently advocated for streamlining the rule-making process in order to make fisheries management more sensible and responsive to real-time operations. For example, he worked with the CCC and NOAA Fisheries to integrate NEPA requirements into the MSA process to avoid duplicative and time consuming regulatory burdens.
4. Chris Oliver supports decentralized fisheries management: Mr. Oliver has consistently advocated for redistributing resources and authority from NOAA Fisheries headquarters to the NMFS regional offices and to the eight regional councils. Each region is faced with different challenges and fisheries management is not a one-size-fits-all scenario. Given the wide variability in our fisheries, flexibility must be an essential and key operating principle. Mr. Oliver will refocus the agency on its core science and management missions, and emphasize reliance on regional expertise to solve regional issues.
5. Chris Oliver understands international fisheries: Mr. Oliver has served as a delegate to the U.S./Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee for nearly 20 years, and helped develop bilateral agreements on the international boundary line as well as cooperative research and high-seas enforcement agreements key to the Bering Sea fisheries.
6. Chris Oliver will balance commercial and recreational fishing interests: One of his key accomplishments on the NPFMC was the creation of a management program that balanced the needs of both commercial and guided sport halibut fishermen in an effective and fair manner. Mr. Oliver is himself an avid sport fisherman, and is originally from Texas where he became very knowledgeable about both commercial and recreational fishing issues in the Gulf of Mexico.

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For these reasons, we strongly support Chris Oliver's appointment as the next Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Thank you for your consideration of his candidacy.

Sincerely,



Daniel Occhipinti
General Counsel



John Connelly
President

NATIONAL
FISHERIES
INSTITUTE



Lori Swanson
Executive Director



Greg DiDomenico
Executive Director



Jerry Sansom
Executive Director

ORGANIZED
FISHERMEN
OF FLORIDA



Bonnie Brady
Executive Director



Bob Jones
Executive Director



Roger Thomas
President



Don Hansen
Founder



Angie Pinsonneault
Director of Business Dev.



Sean Martin
President



Capt. Bill Kelly
Executive Director



Tyson Fick,
Executive Director



Julie Bonney
Executive Director



Robert J. Wurm
President/CEO



Shannon Carroll
Fisheries Policy Director



Rebecca Skinner
Executive Director



Craig Cross



Kathy Fosmark
Executive Director



Natalie Webster
Director of Operations



Rob Rogness
VP Corporate Relations



Stephanie Madsen
Executive Director



Norm Van Vactor
President/CEO



Joe Reilly
President



Rob Ross
Executive Director



Chris Voss
President



David Goldenberg
Executive Director



Diane Pleschner-Steele
Executive Director



James Haussener
Executive Director



Dave Rudie
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Craig Jacobs
Board Member



Bob Alverson
Executive Director



Chad See
Executive Director



Chris Woodley
Executive Director



Kris Norosz
Government Affairs



Heather Mann
Executive Director



Ian Tolleson
Director of Gov. Affairs



Jason Brandt
President & CEO



Brad Pettinger
Executive Director



Glenn Reed
Executive Director



Dan Waldeck
Executive Director

Seafood Coalition

Nils E. Stolpe
Executive Director

Southern Offshore Fishing Association



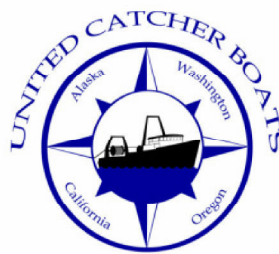
Robert Spaeth
Executive Director

Joe Hamby
Chief Operating Officer

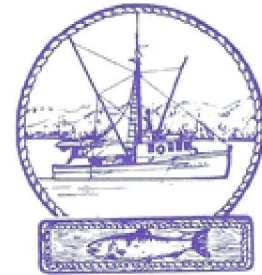
Stefanie Moreland,
VP Government Affairs



Frank Kelty
Mayor



Brent Paine
Executive Director



Washington Trollers Association
Greg Mueller
President

United Fishermen's Marketing Association



Jeff Stephen
Executive Director

Jonathan Gonzales
Executive Director



Mike Conroy
President



Lori Steele
Executive Director

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,

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, Garden State Seafood Association, 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, Fishing Vessel Owners Association