



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Angel Drobnica, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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May 7, 2025

Mr. Eugenio Piñeiro Soler
Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Via email: eugenio.e.pineirosoler@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Eugenio Piñeiro Soler:

On behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, I am pleased to congratulate you on being appointed to lead NOAA Fisheries as the Assistant Administrator, as well as serve as acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator. We look forward to meeting with you in person at the CCC meeting next week and working with you over the next 4 years. We invite you to attend any of our upcoming Council meetings to learn more about the issues in the North Pacific.

We fully support you in your efforts to continue to build the important relationship and trust that NOAA Fisheries has with the councils. With your extensive background, you understand the importance of the council system, and the councils' work to provide sustainable fisheries, based on science and using a public collaborative process to engage with State and Federal agencies, Tribal representatives, fishermen, and other key stakeholders. We are committed to working closely with you and NOAA Fisheries in maintaining and building a robust fisheries management program for the nation.

Effective fisheries management, with strong scientific support, is particularly vital in the North Pacific. Alaska leads all states in both volume and value of U.S. landings. Each year, vessels homeported in coastal communities in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon harvest about 2,000,000 metric tons of groundfish in the North Pacific, worth approximately \$2.5 billion first wholesale. These catches, together with fish harvests from State waters, annually account for more than 60% of the total U.S. catch, and thus are critical to ensuring food security for the nation.

We would like to extend an open offer to call upon the Council, or its staff, at any time where we could be of assistance, including providing information on any issues that might arise during your tenure as Assistant Administrator.

Again, congratulations on your appointment.

Sincerely,

Angel Drobnica
Chair, NPFMC