

WEST COAST GOVERNORS'
AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH
CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

Dr. Peter Orszag
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
NOAA
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 5128
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 20, 2009

Dear Dr. Orszag and Dr. Lubchenco,

In 2006, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries the prohibition of krill harvesting in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the Pacific coast, and to deny any individual requests for experimental krill fishing. The States of California, Oregon, and Washington collectively support this unanimous decision, and encourage continued efforts to implement this action as Amendment 12 to the Council's Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan.

The three states appreciate NOAA's recent efforts to consider the Council's recommendation and understand that NOAA has forwarded Amendment 12 to the Office of Management and Budget for review. Furthermore, our collective support for the Amendment is identified in Action 3.3 of the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health.

In the Council's 2006 decision, essential fish habitat for krill was specified an action that makes it easier to work with other federal agencies to protect the species. Krill plays a critical role in the productivity of the California Current and is an integral food source for a diverse group of fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. Many of the fish species that depend on krill as a staple diet item support important recreational and commercial marine fisheries in ocean waters off the West Coast. Amendment 12 will also advance ecosystem-based fisheries management by moving away from the single-species management approach and toward a food-web approach with focus on sustainable fisheries.

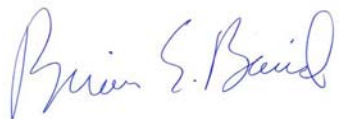
Finalizing the proposed rule to implement Amendment 12 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan will add upon krill protections already in place in Alaska's state and federal waters, as well as the prohibitions on directed

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harvest of krill in California, Oregon, and Washington state waters. Adoption of this amendment will ensure comprehensive protections for krill in water managed by the United States throughout the Northeast Pacific and Bering Sea. Thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Baird
Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy
California Natural Resources Agency
State of California



Jessica S. Hamilton
Natural Resources Policy Advisor
Office of the Governor
State of Oregon



Kathleen Drew
Executive Policy Advisor
Office of the Governor
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Cc: Dr. James Balsiger
Dr. Usha Varanasi