Tab E, No. 8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

May 19, 2020

Dear Regional Fishery Management Councils,

On May 7, 2020 the President signed Executive Order 13921 on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth, "to strengthen the American economy; improve the competitiveness of American industry; ensure food security; provide environmentally safe and sustainable seafood; support American workers; ensure coordinated, predictable, and transparent Federal actions; and remove unnecessary regulatory burdens".

On behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, I am formally requesting that each Council submit a prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries as required under Section 4 of the order.

NOAA Fisheries and the Councils continuously work together to revise or remove regulations identified as outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective to the relevant fisheries under their jurisdiction. In the summer of 2018, you provided letters with valuable recommendations for removing ineffective or unnecessary regulations in response to Executive Orders 13771 and 13777. We hope to have similar success working with you to identify recommended actions that would further reduce the regulatory burden on domestic fisheries.

Per the order, "recommended actions may include changes to regulations, orders, guidance documents, or other similar agency actions" and "shall be consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1801 *et seq*.); the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 *et seq*.); the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1361 *et seq*.); and other applicable laws."

By November 2, 2020, please provide your list of recommendations, including proposals for initiating each recommended action within one year of the Order (May 2021), to our Office of Sustainable Fisheries. Additional details on a template for submissions and other information will come soon.

As outlined in the order, upon submission, the Secretary of Commerce will review and, as appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, update the Department of Commerce's contribution to the Unified Regulatory Agenda based on an evaluation your lists.

Thank you for your hard work and diligence during these challenging times. We look forward to receiving your list of recommended actions. If you have any questions on the request, please contact Jennifer Wallace, Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, at (301) 427-8500 or Jenni.Wallace@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Chris Oliver

Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries

cc: Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
New England Fishery Management Council
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Pacific Fishery Management Council
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council