



**Caribbean**  
Miguel Rolon  
Executive Director  
Marcos Hanke  
Chair



**Gulf of Mexico**  
Dr. Carrie Simmons  
Executive Director  
Thomas Frazer  
Chair



**Mid Atlantic**  
Dr. Christopher Moore  
Executive Director  
Mike Luisi  
Chair



**New England**  
Thomas Nies  
Executive Director  
Dr. John Quinn  
Chair



**North Pacific**  
David Witherell  
Executive Director  
Simon Kinneen  
Chair



**Pacific**  
Chuck Tracy  
Executive Director  
Marc Gorelnik  
Chair



**South Atlantic**  
John Carmichael  
Executive Director  
Mel Bell  
Chair



**Western Pacific**  
Kitty Simonds  
Executive Director  
Taotasi Archie Soliai  
Chair



www.fisherycouncils.org

November 6, 2020

12.D(4)  
184th CM

Mr. Chris Oliver  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA Fisheries  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chris,

The Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) at its virtual meeting on September 23-24, 2020, established a subcommittee to develop recommendations to the NMFS internal working group on guidance to implement the new National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations as they relate to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), including functional equivalency.

The Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) must meet NEPA requirements on the actions taken by the RFMCs and implemented through MSA. As such, it is important the RFMCs understand and have early and meaningful contributions to discussions in the development of guidance for the implementation of the new NEPA rule. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring CCC and RFMCs engagement in improving the application of NEPA for Council actions under the MSA, and look forward to working with NMFS in developing the new guidance.

Sincerely,

Taotasi Archie Soliai, Chair  
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council

Marc Gorelnik, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dr. John Quinn, Chairman  
New England Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Mike Luisi, Chair  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Marcos Henke, Chair  
Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Mel Bell, Chair  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Dr. Thomas Frazer, Chair  
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council