

CALIFORNIA – NOAA FISHING ISSUES
Comments to the Obama-Biden Transition Team

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- 1) Provide an adequate budget to support the science needed for ecosystem-based fishery management. The recently reauthorized and amended Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is the right tool for this. NOAA-Fisheries and the Regional Fishery Management Councils need to be supported.
- 2) “Oceans 21” as written, although well intended, will add confusion, delays, and likely litigation to ocean and fishery management.
- 3) The US should work aggressively to end over-fishing and destructive or non-sustainable fishing practices by international fleets in international waters.
- 4) Fix problems in the National Marine Sanctuaries Program during the reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuary Act.
 - Clarify that the Magnuson-Stevens Act be used for all fishing regulations in Sanctuaries (Sanctuaries should not have this authority).
 - Strengthen the multiple-use language of the Act to balance protection with use. Sustainability should be a major goal of the National Marine Sanctuary Program.
 - Improve the Sanctuary’s public decision-making process.
- 5) The creation of Federal Marine Protected Areas need to utilize fishermen’s knowledge and be supported by recreational and commercial fishermen. All too often these processes appear to be just a way to remove fishermen from the water. This costs jobs.
- 6) Go slow with Individual Transferable Quotas. Issues of the gifting of public resources, the consolidation of the industry to a few wealthy individuals or corporations, the potential transfer of fishing quotas away from some coastal communities – all need to be resolved.
- 7) Other:
 - We need help with high fuel costs. Double the tax deduction for fuel costs?
 - Localized pollution. Money is needed for states and local government to solve this.
 - Local working waterfronts are disappearing to become T-shirt shops.
 - International seafood products should have better labeling as to origin and status of fisheries.