

The following is a Sample of the Form Letter.

(approximately 1,600 copies received)

From [REDACTED] ▶  
Sent Tuesday, April 17, 2007 11:06 am  
To [NEPAprocedures@noaa.gov](mailto:NEPAprocedures@noaa.gov)  
Cc  
Bcc  
Subject Preserve Environmental Review to End Overfishing

Director William T. Hogarth  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

As you are aware, numerous recent scientific studies have come to the conclusion that our oceans are in trouble and we need to chart a new direction to fix them. Two blue-ribbon commissions, the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy reached this conclusion. In January 2007, President Bush signed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. This important law took several steps forward to protect our oceans and marine fish populations while ensuring continued fishing opportunities. For example, the new law strengthens the role of science in fisheries management and seeks to end overfishing once and for all.

Congress also directed your agency to review and update its environmental review procedures to ensure compliance with all existing National Environmental Policy Act requirements. These requirements ensure that environmental impacts are clearly spelled out, alternatives are considered, and the public has an opportunity to comment and have its comments responded to. Any modifications to the existing procedures proposed by your agency must continue to comply with all existing legal environmental review requirements. America's oceans are publicly owned and as one of those owners I want careful environmental review of federal fisheries management actions and clear opportunities for the public to comment. The existing procedures provide these important features; do not eliminate or weaken them.

I also urge you to specifically reject a proposal from the regional fishery management councils that misreads the clear intent of Congress and ignores the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposal would undermine the public's ability to participate effectively in decisions about how public resources are managed, and would unacceptably narrow environmental review of fishery management actions. The fishery management councils' proposal should be rejected.

Thank you for considering these comments.