



NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD

"Building a clear understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems that enables effective management and sustainable use of marine resources."

December 2, 2016

Dear Members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to join your December meeting. This is a fitting way to start my work as Executive Director of the North Pacific Research Board, which began this week. The chance to engage more directly with practical applications of fishery and ecosystem research was a major factor in my decision to join NPRB. I look forward to supporting the Board and, indirectly, the Council with my expertise in administration, comparative ecosystem based management and international ocean issues.

I am new to Alaska but not to issues of marine management and politics. My work as a professor of ocean law in New England first brought me to Alaska in 2008 to sail on USCGC Healy with scientists mapping the Arctic Ocean continental shelf. A range of research projects followed, on management of living and non-living marine resources in Alaska and the Arctic. By the time I moved to Alaska full time in 2014, I'd completed projects for the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission, Arctic Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Statoil, the U.S. Department of State, and the Alaska Regional office of the National Marine Fisheries Service, among others. That work and affiliations with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Washington School of Law have introduced me to the Alaska and Northwest marine policy community.

I just wrapped up a study of fishery and ecosystem management in the Barents Sea and the Southern Ocean. One goal was to compare how commissions there have leveraged decades of their fishery data to develop ecosystem programs. The different approaches of the Norwegian-Russian Joint Fishery Commission (North-East Arctic cod, Haddock, Capelin and Greenland halibut) and the Commission on Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish, mackerel icefish, and Antarctic krill) were instructive, with CCAMLR not surprisingly taking a more precautionary approach. The JFC, CCAMLR and the NPFMC are not parallel institutions but all are marking three to four decades of work. I am privileged to be joining NPRB at a time when the Council is reflecting on how its accomplishments over forty years should shape its work into the future.

Denby Lloyd left big sandals to fill and an organization that is strong. I am grateful to him for this solid foundation, and to Dan Hull for his leadership at the Council and NPRB. I look forward to meeting and working with you, and to continuing the fruitful relationship between our two organizations.

With kind regards,

Betsy Baker