



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 6, 2011

William W. Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator
NMFS Northwest Region
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
7600 Sandpoint Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

Re: EPA Comments on the NOAA Final EIS for Proposed Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2011-2012 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and Amendment 16-5 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan to Update Existing Rebuilding Plans and Adopt a Rebuilding Plan for Petrale Sole, EPA Project #10-041-NOA

Dear Mr. Stelle:

EPA has reviewed the above-referenced document (CEQ No. 20110075) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We believe that the modified preferred alternative selected by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adequately addresses our concerns related to the preferred alternative we identified in the draft EIS. We especially appreciate NMFS' decision to support shortened rebuilding times for overfished stocks while balancing the needs of fishing communities and interactions of those species with the marine ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on this final EIS. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 206-553-1601, or contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff at (907) 271-6324, or by email at curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit