



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 29, 2006

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER TO THE NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL

The Commerce Department today announced the appointment of Gerald P. Merrigan from Petersburg, Alaska, to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Merrigan has been a commercial fisherman since 1981 and is currently employed by a fishing company based in Petersburg, Alaska. He will serve on the Council until August 10, 2009.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act responsible for preparing fishery management plans for marine fish stocks in their respective geographical areas of responsibility. Once finalized by the councils, fishery management plans are forwarded to the Department of Commerce, through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, for review, approval and implementation.

Council members represent diverse interests, including commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as environmental, academic, and other interests from each geographic area. They are selected from nominations submitted by governors from the areas served by the eight councils and are appointed to three-year terms.

In 2007 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, celebrates 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA Fisheries Service: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>