



June 2005

Dear Recipient:

On behalf of our March 2005 conference sponsors and organizers - the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, the three Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and NOAA Fisheries - I am pleased to present you with this copy of the conference proceedings. 'Managing our Nation's Fisheries II: Focus on the Future', was a tremendous success, largely due to our distinguished speakers, knowledgeable panelists, and over 600 conference participants from all corners of the country and beyond.

The conference provided findings relative to a number of key issues raised by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and issues that are being considered in the upcoming reauthorization process for the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Specifically, the conference examined ways to develop ecosystem approaches to fisheries, strengthen scientific advice for management, establish criteria for IFQ programs, improve fisheries governance, define MPAs, protect deep water corals, address overfishing and stock rebuilding, and reconcile conflicting statutes. The conference findings represent the collective wisdom of panel participants, with a diverse range of perspectives from fishermen, scientists, managers, and public interest groups.

We believe that the information contained in these proceedings will be extremely useful in informing the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization process this year, or other national legislation addressing fisheries management issues, and we thank all of you who participated in the conference.

Sincerely,

Chris Oliver  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council