




**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

January 10, 2012

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

**FROM:** Ann C. Eilers   
Principal Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

**SUBJECT:** Review of Fishery Management Councils and Fishery Rulemaking

We are initiating a review of controls and processes used by NOAA's Fishery Management Councils (FMCs) as related to developing rules for the commercial fishing industry. This review is being conducted pursuant to a joint request made by Massachusetts Congressmen Barney Frank and John Tierney on August 17, 2011.

Our review of FMCs and rulemaking will be conducted in phases and result in interim products produced at several intervals. In this phase of the review, we will evaluate the role of NOAA and the FMCs in the fishery rulemaking process and the transparency of the rulemaking process prescribed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

We will contact the audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference and will conduct our review at the FMCs and other NOAA locations as necessary. If you have any questions, please call me, (202) 482-2754, or Andrew Katsaros, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, (202) 482-7859. We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this review.

cc: Monica Medina, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Mary Glackin, Deputy Undersecretary for Operations  
Samuel Rauch, Acting Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries  
Paul Doremus, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NOAA Fisheries  
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