Your Name
Address
City, State, Zip Code
Phone Number
Email

Dear _____:

My request for your assistance is two-fold: 1) cessation of actions the National Marine Fisheries Service is taking against fishermen, both commercial and recreational; and, 2) removal of Dr. Jane Lubchenco as head of NOAA for having a conflict of interest and her personal responsibility in the economic destruction of this country's coastal communities. These actions have dire consequences upon our local, state, and federal economies.

Under the guise of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and at the direction of Dr. Lubchenco, the NMFS has initiated actions to greatly reduce or shut down citizens' access to fish and utilize our coastline. Dr. Lubchenco's history of environmental activism and her strong ties with the PEW Environment Group and the Environmental Defense Fund create a conflict of interest resulting in government policies dictated by ideology, not science. Numerous, unsubstantiated laws are being forced on fishing communities and create a myriad of economic hardships. Under Dr. Lubchenco's direction, the NMFS is over-regulating fishing by using "fatally flawed" data, according to fisheries managers. The unreliable data resulted in this collection method being outlawed after 2009, and a replacement system was to be developed. To date, this has not occurred. Additionally, NMFS has stated publicly the latest two targets of reduced catch limits, Wahoo and Dolphin fish, are not being overfished; nor does any evidence exists to the contrary. Dr. Lubchenco's radical environmental stance has caused a complete loss of confidence by the fishing community in her ability to effectively lead NOAA. In a climate of continued economic hardships and lack of jobs, she has personally instituted policies creating great financial hardships on the citizens of this country.

As a Recreational fisherman, I realize no income or gain from fishing; however, I spend money in the pursuit of my passion. I fish exclusively off the coast of Brunswick County, North Carolina. I target pelagic fish located at least 80 miles offshore. I own a boat, pay taxes on this vessel, purchase tackle, fuel, parts, and all other expenses associated with fishing and boat ownership. In **2008**, I spent **$XX,XXX.00**; **2009**, **$XX,XXX.00**; and, **2010**, **$XX,XXX.00**. **This totals $XX,XXX.00.** Of these expenditures, **$XX,XXX.00**, was spent in **South Carolina** and **$XX,XXX.00**, was spent in **Brunswick County, North Carolina**. Both locations benefitted from the taxes on these purchases, as well as money infused into their local economy. The money in South Carolina was a one-time purchase of the vessel and a non-recurring expense. However, the average yearly money I spend in North Carolina is **$XX,XXX.00**. With the proposed rules from NMFS, I will no longer be fishing these offshore areas due to my inability to retain the fish I catch. Consequentially, the amount of money I spend on fishing will drop 85% to 90%. ***This will be an annual reduction of $XX,XXX.00, to the economy of Brunswick County, the state of North Carolina, and the Federal Government's tax revenue.***

I am one fisherman, with one boat. The economic impact to Commercial and Charter boat operators will be much greater. This is not only about fishermen; marinas, tackle stores, mechanics, marine parts stores, fuel companies, marine fabricators, boat manufacturers, and TAX revenues will suffer. As NMFS continues to pursue these job eliminating policies, the fallout to local, state, and federal governments will sharply increase the number of people requiring food stamps, Medicare, welfare, and other entitlement programs. When these additional expenses are added to the over inflated budgets of NOAA and NMFS, required financial resources do not exist. Citizens of coastal communities will be destitute as a result of policies based on radical environmentalism--not science.

Thank you for your time. I urge your immediate attention to this situation.

Sincerely,