



May 27, 2025

Honorable Howard Lutnick, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Rm 5516  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

On behalf of the eight U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) respectfully requests that the full Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Council Cooperative Agreement Award funding be made available to all Councils as soon as possible.

The Councils play a vital role in the sustainable management of our nation's fishery resources. We serve as a critical link between fishermen, small businesses, coastal communities, and NOAA Fisheries, helping to achieve the Administration's goals of economic growth, business and trade development, and increased availability of domestically sourced seafood.

Timely receipt of our full FY 2025 funding is essential for the Councils to carry out their participatory public processes that support access to fishing grounds, allocation of quotas, and the continued delivery of high-quality seafood to American consumers. We also request that this funding be aligned with the recent Cooperative Agreement Award renewal process to ensure continuity of operations, avoid disruption to Council and fishing industry activities, and support the productive harvest of our nation's seafood resources following recommendations from Executive Order 14276.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Council Chairs and Executive Directors:

<b>Caribbean</b> Chair: Carlos Farchette Executive Director: Miguel Rolón	<b>Gulf</b> Chair: Jonathan Dugas Executive Director: Dr. Carrie Simmons	<b>New England</b> Chair: Rick Bellavance Executive Director: Dr. Cate O'Keefe	<b>North Pacific</b> Chair: Angel Drobnica Executive Director: David Witherell
<b>South Atlantic</b> Chair: Trish Murphey Executive Director: John Carmichael	<b>Mid Atlantic</b> Chair: Wes Townsend Executive Director: Dr. Christopher Moore	<b>Pacific</b> Chair: Brad Pettinger Executive Director: Merrick Burden	<b>Western Pacific</b> Chair: William Sword Executive Director: Kitty Simonds

CC: Laura Grimm, NOAA  
Eugenio Piñeiro Soler, NOAA