



September 15, 2015

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the Senate
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

The Administration is pleased to forward for your consideration the enclosed draft legislation, a bill –

To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

This draft legislation will implement two international fisheries conventions relating to the Pacific Ocean –

- 1) the *Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean* (North Pacific Fisheries Resources Convention, or NPFRC), done at Tokyo, Japan, on February 24, 2012, and signed by the United States on May 2, 2012; and
- 2) the *Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean* (South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention, or SPFRC), done at Auckland, New Zealand, on November 14, 2009, and which entered into force on August 24, 2012.

On April 22, 2013, President Obama transmitted the NPFRC and SPFRC to the United States Senate, recommending that it give its advice and consent to ratification. On April 3, 2014, the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the NPFRC and the SPFRC. The NPFRC establishes a regional fisheries management organization through which parties will cooperate to promote the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the high seas of the north Pacific Ocean while protecting the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur. The SPFRC establishes a similar regional fisheries management organization for the south Pacific Ocean from Australia to South America.

The Administration has reviewed both agreements and determined that implementation will promote the effective management of high seas fisheries in the north and south Pacific Ocean. The Administration's review also indicated that, because they are not self-executing, legislation is necessary to implement the NPFRC and SPFRC. We have drafted the enclosed legislation to address this need.

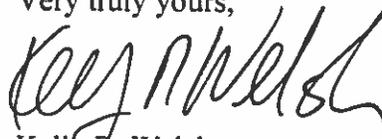
The draft legislation provides the United States, primarily through the Department of Commerce, with authority to administer the North Pacific Fisheries Resources Convention Implementation Act and the South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention Implementation Act and associated regulations. It further authorizes the Department of Commerce to conduct fishing operations and biological experiments for purposes of scientific investigation, issue fishing permits to U.S. vessels to fish in the specified convention areas, and request and use, among other things, the services, personnel, and equipment of other federal agencies, foreign governments or agencies, or international intergovernmental organizations in the conduct of scientific, research and other programs under both of these Acts. Also included, for your reference, are a Statement of Purpose and Need and a Section-by-Section Analysis.

The provisions in the NPFRC and SPFRC and the proposed implementing legislation will advance U.S. interests in the effective management of high seas fisheries. For this reason, the Administration recommends that the proposed bill be sent to the appropriate committees for early and favorable consideration and that it be enacted.

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Statutory PAYGO Act) provides that revenue and direct spending legislation cannot, in the aggregate, increase the on-budget deficit. If such legislation increases the on-budget deficit and that increase is not offset by the end of the Congressional session, a sequestration must be ordered. This proposal would affect direct spending and revenues, but the effects of this proposal would net to zero; therefore, it is in compliance with the Statutory PAYGO Act.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to transmittal of this proposal and that its enactment would be in accord with the program of the President. If you have any questions, please contact me or Jim Stowers, Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Very truly yours,



Kelly R. Welsh

Enclosures