



FEB 27 2013

Dear International Fisheries Team,

After four years as NOAA Administrator, I believe more than ever that NOAA plays a central role in connecting people with the natural environment. NOAA provides science, services, and stewardship that contribute to sustainable economic growth—through restoring the health of commercial and recreational fisheries, improving the resilience of America's coastal communities, and safeguarding people and physical infrastructure from hazardous weather events. NOAA generates tremendous value for the nation and our role is all the more important given the profound economic, environmental and societal challenges we have been navigating.

I've been delighted with all we've been able to do together. The agency has tackled some big challenges, and through an emphasis on transparency, integrity, innovation, team work and communication, we have made significant progress on multiple fronts. As you know, NOAA's breadth is one of our greatest challenges, but it's also our greatest strength.

To make real and measurable progress, we have relied on dedicated and focused teams of NOAA personnel who pulled together to make a difference. Much of this progress required integration of efforts across line and staff offices and with a wide variety of partners and stakeholders. Our One-NOAA approach has proven its power time and again.

It is not enough that I know about and appreciate your work. I want to take a moment to tell you directly how grateful I am for your contributions to the effort. So please consider this note a big "Thank you!" for what you have done and are continuing to do.

In particular, I want to recognize your team's leadership and achievements in helping us achieve our challenge to address illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Congress called on the United States to address the issue of IUU fishing in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. These unsustainable practices are undermining our stewardship and placing our fishing operations at a disadvantage in the market place. IUU not only undermines the effectiveness of stewardship, it undermines the economic well-being of our fishing industries. Monitoring of imports is a key part of NOAA efforts, so consumers can have confidence that the seafood they purchase was harvested legally. Under your leadership, the United States has been working with other fishing nations to strengthen enforcement and data collection programs around the world. In addition, the Secretary of Commerce identified countries that have fishing vessels engaged in IUU activities.

Your work on the third joint meeting of the five global tuna regional fishery management organizations (Kobe III) in July 2011, was important.



During that meeting over 50 nations agreed to better track IUU vessels, improve the science upon which fisheries management is based, and recommended decision-making principles designed to ensure all management measures are consistent with scientific advice.

I offer my sincere congratulations and thank you to all our NOAA personnel involved in this important endeavor. Please pass this letter along to all the team members who contributed to this monumental success.

I am well aware of how much work lies ahead. But because I have experienced your impressive drive and your deep-felt dedication, I am confident that you will continue to tackle problems and devise creative solutions. Most of all, I appreciate the opportunity to work with you. I will miss you, but know you will continue devoting your energy and talents to fulfilling our mission.

I am deeply grateful for your passion, your commitment, your excellence, and your sacrifices. It is an honor to work with each of you. For now, as Administrator, I say a simple but heartfelt 'Thank You!'

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Lubchenco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere