

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2015

Vice Admiral Michael S. Devany
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Admiral Devany:

We write to follow up on our October 27, 2014 letter regarding the importance of updating the facilities at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in order to protect our environment and support our regional economy. We are especially concerned that the recent discovery of structural deficiencies in the NOAA Fisheries Mukilteo Research Center building could hamper the planned construction of its essential replacement building.

Meanwhile, the Montlake facility has been in use for 83 years and those years of experimentation have taken their toll on the facilities. Thus, we again ask for your commitment to develop and execute a plan for the long-term future of both the Mukilteo and Montlake research facilities, which play such important roles in producing necessary knowledge to help manage, operate, and protect our nation's fisheries, shellfish populations and marine environments.

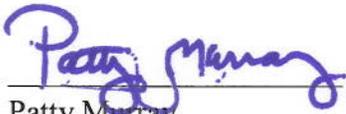
Securing a new building at the Mukilteo site has been a complex effort involving the transfer of land and multiple federal agencies, including the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. General Services Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. However, despite the sophistications involved, the Washington state delegation has pressed forward to move this process along. The Northwest Fisheries Science Center is essential in providing the long-term health of the Pacific Northwest's fisheries and oceans, including serving as a base for field studies of Pacific salmon species, which is why we will work together to provide any resources needed to ensure the permanent future for the Resource Center.

We strongly support NOAA's actions to work to stabilize the foundation of the current building. This stopgap effort guarantees the safety of the Mukilteo center's employees and provides a five year solution to the problem. However, we caution that this short-term fix should not endanger the prospect or the plan for the long-term replacement of Northwest Fisheries Science Center facilities. For a project of this importance and magnitude, five years is a short timeline, which is

why we respectfully ask that you provide us your five year plan for the funding and completion of a new building in Mukilteo and in Seattle.

Thank you again for your continued cooperation on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the Northwest Fisheries Science Center has the tools it needs to conduct necessary research in a facility benefitting from today's technological tools while reducing safety risks to employees. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the Northwest Fisheries Science Center facilities at Mukilteo and Montlake remain successful and critical pieces of the entire Pacific Northwest economy.

Sincerely



Patty Murray
US Senator



Maria Cantwell
US Senator



Rick Larsen
US Representative