



Newport Fishermen's Wives

October 14, 2014

Adm. Paul Zukunft  
Commandant (CG-00)  
US Coast Guard Headquarters  
2100 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW Stop 7000  
Washington D.C. 20593-7000

Dear Admiral Zukunft,

Newport Fishermen's Wives is deeply troubled with the sudden decision to close the Newport Coast Guard Air Station on November. This closer takes effect on the first day of Dungeness crab season, identified by NIOSH as one of the most dangerous fisheries in the nation. We urge you to reconsider your decision, and re-evaluate the conditions of our turbulent and dangerous waters off the Oregon coast. This air station closure will compromise the safety of our fishing fleet and put the greater maritime community in jeopardy.

It is true that communication and at sea positioning technologies have improved for both the Coast Guard and our fishermen. It is also true that the best preparations and training cannot stop a rogue wave or an unforeseen equipment failure, which might-and have in the past-result in a life threatening injury or god forbid -man overboard. The water of the Pacific Northwest is frigid and unforgiving. In a blink of an eye a rescue at sea can change. Time is of the essence.

It has been 29 years since a tragedy at sea took the lives of three young fishermen and prompt Newport Fishermen's Wives to fight for a helicopter in Newport. Due to their grit and, -determination along with an act of the US Congress, there has been 24 -hour helicopter coverage in Newport since. In these three decades, the Port of Newport has seen a large increase in the ocean user community, including researchers and observers aboard fishing

The USCG and Newport Fishermen's Wives have been partners in safety training and improved communications for all these years. Let us move forward, not backwards. Please reverse the decision to close USCG Air Station in Newport.

Thank you,  
Newport Fishermen's Wives

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Schock Stevenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jennifer Schock Stevenson  
President

Cc: Admirals from Seattle and California, Senators Wyden and Merkley, Congressman Schrader,  
Oregon Senator Roblan, Oregon Representative Gombert