

**From:** [Grosko, Brett \(ENRD\)](#)  
**To:** [Kristen Monsell](#)  
**Cc:** [John Almeida - NOAA Federal](#); [Jane Davenport](#); [Laura Friend](#); [Erica Fuller](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for a Meeting -- Right Whales  
**Date:** Monday, February 1, 2021 4:23:11 PM

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Dear Kristen:

Thank you for your email of January 27, 2020. Now that the proposed rule to amend the ALWTRP has been published, with the notice and comment process to run through March 1, 2021, NMFS is not interested in holding a meeting with Plaintiffs to discuss matters relating to the proposed rule and/or Biological Opinion that are not related to litigation. To the extent Plaintiffs have non-litigation based concerns or comments, Plaintiffs should make them available to NMFS through the public comment process. Plaintiffs may submit written comments via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Dkt. NOAA-NMFS-2020-0031) and/or participate in one of the upcoming NMFS public hearings. In addition to the four public information meetings held in January 2021, additional public hearings will take place on February 16, 17, 23 and 24.

Sincerely,

Brett

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**From:** Kristen Monsell <[KMonsell@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:KMonsell@biologicaldiversity.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 4:23 PM  
**To:** Grosko, Brett (ENRD) <[BGrosko@ENRD.USDOJ.GOV](mailto:BGrosko@ENRD.USDOJ.GOV)>; John Almeida - NOAA Federal <[john.almeida@noaa.gov](mailto:john.almeida@noaa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jane Davenport <[JDAVENPORT@defenders.org](mailto:JDAVENPORT@defenders.org)>; Erica Fuller <[efuller@clf.org](mailto:efuller@clf.org)>; Laura Smythe <[lsmythe@humansociety.org](mailto:lsmythe@humansociety.org)>  
**Subject:** Request for a Meeting -- Right Whales

Hi Brett and John:

I hope this finds you well.

Given the release of the proposed rule to amend the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, draft biological opinion, and draft “North Atlantic Right Whale Conservation Framework for Federal Fisheries in the Greater Atlantic Region,” Plaintiffs would like to have a meeting with you and your clients at the National Marine Fisheries Service as soon as possible. We’d like to discuss our significant concerns with these documents and the approach NMFS is taking, as well as the agency’s timeline for issuing final documents.

We request that as many NMFS employees as are necessary to ensure a full discussion attend the meeting. Given our significant concerns about the lawfulness of the agency’s approach, we think it would be most productive to meet with NMFS staff from both Silver Spring and the regional office. We believe at least some of the issues we’d like to discuss fall outside the scope of your representation of the agency in our current litigation, but that it is more efficient to have this discussion with both you and the agency.

Cheers,  
Kristen

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