



Office of the Chairman

National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

July 30, 2015

Ms. Eileen Sobeck
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
1315 East West Hwy. Bldg.3, Rm. 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281

Dear Assistant Administrator Sobeck:

This letter addresses Safety Recommendation M-09-11, which the National Transportation Safety Board issued to the National Marine Fisheries Service on October 9, 2009, as a result of our investigation of the March 23, 2008, sinking of the US fish processing vessel *Alaska Ranger* in the Bering Sea.

M-09-11

Amend the regulations at 50 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 679, subpart H, to allow for replacement of an Amendment 80 vessel in situations other than vessel loss.

Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, advised us by e-mail on May 12, 2015, that the final rule for Amendment 97, allowing for Amendment 80 vessels to be replaced in situations other than vessel loss, was published on October 1, 2012, and became effective on October 31, 2012. This action satisfies Safety Recommendation M-09-11, which is classified "Closed—Acceptable Action."

Thank you for your assistance and for your commitment to fishing vessel safety.

Sincerely,

cc: Mr. Chris Oliver
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management
Council