



## North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director  
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July 8, 2020

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.  
Administrator, Alaska Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668  
via email: [Jim.Balsiger@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.Balsiger@noaa.gov)

Dear Dr. Balsiger:

Enclosed to begin Secretarial review is the following proposed fishery management plan (FMP) amendment: Amendment 50 to the FMP for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs (Crab FMP) [RIN 0648-XY104]. This action would include a new rebuilding plan for St. Matthew blue king crab (SMBKC) in the Crab FMP. The SMBKC stock was declared overfished on October 22, 2018, because the estimated spawning biomass was below the minimum stock size threshold specified in the Crab FMP. In order to comply with provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, a rebuilding plan must be implemented prior to the start of the 2020/2021 fishing season. There are no implementing regulations with the proposed amendment.

Chairman Kinneen and I reviewed the draft notice of availability (NOA) and FMP amendment provided by NMFS and determined that they are consistent with the Council's action. Accordingly, please proceed to initiate Secretarial review of this FMP amendment with the proposed NOA enclosed with this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Witherell".

David Witherell  
Executive Director

Enclosure (4)

cc: Glenn Merrill