



## North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director  
1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone 907-271-2809 | [www.npfmc.org](http://www.npfmc.org)

August 17, 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 a proposed rule for regulatory amendments authorized under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. This action would modify Federal permit conditions and impose participation requirements for trawl, hook-and-line, and pot gear catcher vessels that catch and retain Pacific cod in the State of Alaska's parallel Pacific cod fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. This action would maintain and enhance previous North Pacific Fishery Management Council decisions regarding license limitation, sector allocations, and catch reporting.

Chairman Kinneen and I reviewed the draft proposed rule provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the regulatory amendments and determined that it is consistent with the Council's action. Accordingly, please proceed to initiate Secretarial review of these regulatory amendments with the proposed rule enclosed with this letter.

Sincerely,

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

David Witherell,  
Executive Director

Enclosure (3)

cc: Glenn Merrill