



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 22, 2020

Mr. David Witherell, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third
Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Witherell:

We have approved Amendment 111 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska Management Area (RIN 0648-BJ73) and the final rule implementing the regulations will follow shortly.

This amendment reauthorizes the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program (Rockfish Program) and makes minor revisions to regulations to improve administrative provisions of the Rockfish Program. This action retains the conservation, management, safety, and economic gains realized under the Rockfish Program. This amendment removes the Rockfish Program sunset date, allows the program to continue indefinitely, and implements minor revisions to administrative and management provisions of the Rockfish Program recommended by the Council.

NMFS published the Notice of Availability for Amendment 111 in the Federal Register on July 28, 2020 (85 FR 45367), with public comments invited through September 28, 2020. NMFS published the proposed rule to implement Amendment 111 in the Federal Register on September 4, 2020 (85 FR 55243). The approval or disapproval decision date for Amendment 111 is October 28, 2020. The proposed rule had a 30-day public comment period under section 313(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). We expect the final rule to be effective in early 2021.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region

