



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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December 22, 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

Dear Dr. Balsiger:

Enclosed to begin Secretarial review is a proposed rule to remove a regulatory restriction in order to allow the processing and sale of incidentally caught squid and sculpins as products other than fishmeal. The purpose of this action is to allow processing and sale of squid and sculpin products to provide enhanced economic opportunity and to prevent waste of the incidental catch of these species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. Squid and sculpins are in the non-target ecosystem category and will retain all other applicable restrictions, but for allowable processing and sale.

Chairman Kinneen and I reviewed the draft proposed rule provided by NMFS for the regulatory amendment and determined that it is consistent with the Council's action. Accordingly, please proceed to initiate Secretarial review of this regulatory amendment 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