



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

January 25, 2021

Mr. David Witherell
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Witherell:

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that all Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in a fishery, commonly referred to as Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM). In February, 2020, the Council reviewed its SBRM for its six FMPs. Based on the evaluation, the Council concluded that the FMPs for Fish Resources of the Arctic Management Area (Arctic), Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI), and Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) are all consistent with current SBRM guidance and that no amendments to those FMPs are necessary.

The Alaska Regional Office has used the Council review, along with other relevant information, and has determined that the SBRMs in the Arctic, BSAI Groundfish, and GOA Groundfish FMPs are fully consistent with the SBRM rule and that no FMP amendments are necessary. The SBRMs in these three FMPs meet the purpose in 50 C.F.R. § 600.1600 and the Council's review addressed the four requirements under 50 C.F.R. § 600.1610(a)(2).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB", with a small dot above the "i".

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

