



AGENDA #3
JUNE 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D.C. 20235

F36:CB

JUN 11 1979

JUN 14 1979

Mr. Clement Tillion
Chairman, North Pacific
Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Clem,

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved Amendment 4 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP).

This amendment was approved without much difficulty, because the Council did an excellent job in achieving a consensus from affected parties for the adjustments to the FMP, and because the Council staff had the flexibility to make technical changes in the language of the amendment to assure that the Council's intention was carried out. However, because the supporting materials did not adequately explain why the specific measures were adopted, it was necessary to seek further clarification from the EIS, the record, and from members of the team which participated in drafting the amendment, in order to determine whether the amendment had a rational basis. It would be helpful if you would include a more complete rationale in future Council amendments for the Secretary's review record.

Although approval of a plan is still a difficult process, I am pleased to see that the system is starting to work more smoothly for routine amendments to plans.

Sincerely yours,

Terry L. Leitzell
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

