



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

March 8, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Witherell:

We have approved Amendment 123 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (RIN 0648-BL42). This amendment replaces the current Amendment 80 sector static Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) (halibut) prohibited species catch (PSC) limit with a process for annually setting the Amendment 80 sector halibut PSC limit based on the most recent halibut abundance estimates from the International Pacific Halibut Commission setline survey index in Area 4ABCDE and the National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Fisheries Science Center Eastern Bering Sea shelf trawl survey index. A final rule to implement Amendment 123 will follow at a later date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Kurland".

Jonathan M. Kurland
Regional Administrator

