



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

February 5, 2019

Mr. Simon Kinneen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Chairman Kinneen:

This letter is to inform the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) of an error in the Saint Matthew Island blue king crab (*Paralithodes platypus*) stock status notification provided to the Council during its December 2018 meeting. In the notification letter dated October 22, 2018, it stated that the total catch for Saint Matthew Island blue king crab in the 2017/2018 crab fishing year, July 2017 to June 2018, was 50 metric tons (mt). However, this is incorrect. The correct total catch for that timeframe is 3 mt, which is below the overfishing level (OFL) of 120 mt. The correction of this error does not change the overfished status of this stock.

We look forward to working with the Council to develop a rebuilding plan and to ensure that overfishing does not occur for Saint Matthew Island blue king crab.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James W. Balsiger".

James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

Handwritten initials in blue ink, possibly "JB".

