

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

October 13, 2020

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 50 to the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs (Crab FMP) (RTID 0648-XY104). This FMP amendment includes a new rebuilding plan for St. Matthew blue king crab (SMBKC) in the Crab FMP. The SMBKC stock was declared overfished on October 22, 2018, because the estimated spawning biomass was below the minimum stock size threshold specified in the Crab FMP. This FMP amendment is consistent with current operations in the fisheries, Federal regulations, and with the original intent of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Secretary of Commerce.

There are no implementing regulations with this FMP amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB", written over a white background.

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



