

REVISIONS TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS PURSUANT TO AMENDMENT 47 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GROUND FISH OF THE GULF OF ALASKA, AMENDMENT 47 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GROUND FISH FISHERY OF THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA, AND AMENDMENT 6 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COMMERCIAL KING AND TANNER CRAB FISHERIES IN THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA

These amendments would authorize an interim North Pacific groundfish observer program, maintain the current groundfish observer coverage requirements through, and remove references to the North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan.

1. Remove paragraph 2 and revise paragraph 1 of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska § 4.3.4.1 Observers, and paragraph 1 of the FMP for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Area § 14.4.6 Domestic Observer Program, as follows:

"The Council and NOAA Fisheries must have the best available biological and socioeconomic information with which to carry out their responsibilities for conserving and managing groundfish resources. To address management and scientific information needs, NMFS, in consultation with the Council, will require U.S. fishing vessels that catch groundfish from the EEZ or receive groundfish from the EEZ, and shoreside processors that receive groundfish caught in the EEZ, to accommodate observers certified by NMFS. Provisions of the groundfish observer program will be developed in consultation with the Council and established in regulations. The purpose of the groundfish observer program is to verify catch composition and quantity, including those discarded at sea, and collect biological information on marine resources."

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2. Remove paragraph 2 of FMP for the Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area § 8.1.3 Federal Observer Requirements.

3. Remove the last sentence of paragraph 1 of FMP for the Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area § 8.3.7 State Observer Requirements.