



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

June 5, 2015

John Gruver
4005 20th Avenue West
Seattle, Washington 98119

Re: Approval of an Amendment to the Inshore Chinook Salmon Savings Incentive Plan Agreement

Dear Mr. Gruver:

We have reviewed a proposed amendment to the Inshore Chinook Salmon Savings Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) you submitted on May 12, 2015. The IPA you are proposing to amend was approved by NMFS on November 5, 2010, and amended on June 28, 2011, under regulations at 50 CFR part 679 for management of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery.

The proposed amendment contains two parts. The first part would amend the terms of the IPA as described on page 1 of your May 12, 2015, letter. I have reviewed these proposed amendments to the IPA and have determined that the IPA as amended would continue to contain the information required in § 679.21(f)(12)(i) through (iv). Therefore, I approve the amendments to the terms of the IPA effective today.

The second part is a proposed amendment to the list of vessels participating in the IPA. These changes reflect vessels that have been removed or retired from the American Fisheries Act (AFA) inshore fleet, name changes for vessels continuing to participate in the IPA, and changes in inshore cooperative membership. I have confirmed that these changes are consistent with the 2015 AFA Inshore Cooperative Member Vessel permit list and the 2014 proposed revisions to Table 47c to Part 679. I also note your statement that 100% of the qualified AFA inshore sector catcher vessels are still participating in the IPA. However, regulations at § 679.21(f)(12)(v)(C)(2) state that “[A]n amendment to the list of IPA participants must be received by NMFS no later than 1700 hours, A.l.t., on December 1 and will be effective at the beginning of the next year.” Therefore, I approve the proposed amendment to the list of vessels participating in the IPA effective on January 1, 2016.

Sincerely,

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

