



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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

June 7, 2012

Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Oliver:

We have approved Amendment 86 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area and Amendment 76 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (RIN 0648-BB42). These amendments restructure the funding and deployment system for observers in the North Pacific groundfish and halibut fisheries and include vessels less than 60 ft. in length and halibut vessels in the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. A final rule to implement Amendments 86 and 76 will follow at a later date.

Sincerely,

*Robert O. Meunier*

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

