



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

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

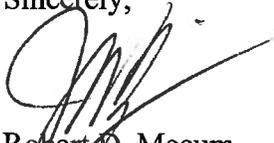
November 7, 2011

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

Dear Chris:

We have approved Amendment 88 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (RIN 0648-BA97). Amendment 88 would implement the Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Rockfish Program (Rockfish Program), which is necessary to replace the Central GOA Rockfish Pilot Program that is scheduled to expire December 31, 2011. The Rockfish Program would continue to provide exclusive harvesting and processing privileges for a specific set of rockfish primary species and associated species (secondary species) harvested incidentally to those rockfish in the Central GOA. A final rule to implement Amendment 88 will follow at a later date.

Sincerely,



FA Robert D. Mecum
Deputy Regional Administrator, Alaska Region

