

Council Motion**E1 Motion – Pot Gear Discussion Paper****February 10, 2022**

The Council is currently examining changes to pot gear regulations for the IFQ and Greenland turbot fisheries that could increase operational efficiency. An increasing number of vessels are using new pot gear designs (i.e., slinky pots). Existing regulations may limit potential innovations in pot gear design that improve harvest efficiency and may minimize bycatch of non-target species. The Council requests staff provide a discussion paper that explores potential regulatory changes to simplify pot gear regulations, and allow for flexibility to use pots in the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries. Staff should consider gear configuration requirements for biodegradable panels, escape mechanisms, tunnel opening sizes, and the use of longline and single pot gear.