

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members  
FROM: Chris Oliver *DO*  
Executive Director *for*  
DATE: November 28, 2011  
SUBJECT: FLL Vessel Replacement

ESTIMATED TIME 2 HOURS
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**ACTION REQUIRED**

Initial review of the RIR/IRFA to allow replacement of freezer longline vessels

**BACKGROUND**

In October 2011, the Council tasked staff to prepare an analysis on vessel replacement provisions for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) freezer longliner fleet. The request originated from an industry proposal that would allow smaller freezer longline vessels to be rebuilt or replaced with larger vessels to improve safety, fuel efficiency, resource utilization, and economic efficiency.

Subsequently, the staff has prepared a draft analysis for initial review at this meeting. The Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (RIR/IRFA) provides an analysis of a proposed modification to the maximum length overall (MLOA) of the License Limitation Program (LLP) license assigned to the freezer longline vessels to accommodate larger replacement vessels. The proposed action would also allow freezer longline replacement vessels that (1) exceed 165 feet in length, or (2) more than 750 gross tons, or (3) with engines capable of producing more than 3,000 shaft horsepower to enter the groundfish fishery. Coast Guard regulation 46 U.S.C. 12106(c)(6) limit vessels greater than the above limits from entering fisheries unless the vessel carried a fisheries endorsement prior to September 25, 1997 or the Council has recommended and the Secretary of Commerce has approved a conservation and management measure to allow the vessel to be used in fisheries under its authority.

The analysis for this agenda item was mailed out on November 17, 2011; an executive summary of that analysis is attached (Item C-5(1)).