

MEMORANDUM

TO: SSC, AP and Council Members
FROM: *DS for*
Chris Oliver
Executive Director
DATE: June 1, 2010
SUBJECT: BSAI Chum salmon bycatch

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS (All C-1 items)
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ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Receive update on outreach initiatives
- (b) Review discussion paper and finalize alternatives for analysis
- (c) Update on chum and Chinook salmon genetics research and sampling design

BACKGROUND

- (a) Receive update on outreach initiatives

The Rural Community Outreach Committee (committee) and the Council reviewed the outreach plan for the Bering Sea non-Chinook (chum) salmon bycatch action earlier this year, and provided input and suggestions. One of the recommendations was to conduct a statewide public teleconference, thus, this effort was added to the outreach plan in April.

The primary purpose of the teleconference was an orientation for the public on the alternatives currently proposed to evaluate new management measures to limit chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries. The teleconference was intended to help the public understand the Council process, the basics of the alternatives proposed, and ways to provide formal input to the Council. A secondary purpose was to document public input on the suite of alternatives and general concerns related to the issue. A report on this feedback was scheduled to be reviewed by the Council at its June meeting.

The call occurred from 9 am – 11 am on May 4. Council analysts, Nicole Kimball and Dr. Diana Stram, provided a 30 minute presentation on the proposed action, community outreach plan, and Council process, with 90 minutes remaining for questions and comments from the public. The timing of the teleconference was such that the public would have an opportunity to understand the proposed action and how to provide comment on the issue, prior to the Council finalizing alternatives for analysis in June.

The report resulting from the teleconference is provided as Item C-1(a). The powerpoint presentation given during the teleconference was posted on the Council website two weeks prior to the teleconference, and is Appendix 1 to the report. The call log, which indicates the number of callers, their location, and the amount of time they participated, is provided as Appendix 2 to the report. In sum, a total of 73 unique lines called in, which effectively means a minimum of 73 people participated, as there were several sites with more than one person on the line. The maximum number of lines participating at any one time was 53. Thirty-one different locations were represented, with 20 of those being small Alaska villages.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review the staff report on the May 4 teleconference, as part of the overall chum salmon bycatch agenda item. This report was mailed to you on May 10, and is posted on the Council website. The audio recording of the teleconference is also posted on the Council website: <http://www.box.net/shared/j37fjq8i1>.

(b) Review discussion paper and finalize alternatives for analysis

A discussion paper is attached as Item C-(1)(b)(1) which summarizes current trends in chum salmon bycatch as well as the current suite of alternatives under consideration by the Council in the forthcoming chum salmon bycatch management measures analysis. This paper was mailed to you on May 28th. The Council most recently reviewed the alternatives in December 2009 and February 2010. Motions from these two meetings are attached to the discussion paper as appendices 1 and 2 respectively. Responses to the Council's specific requests for additional analysis and clarification are included in the discussion paper.

At this meeting, the Council will review and revise the current suite of alternatives for chum (non-chinook) salmon bycatch in the EBS pollock fishery. Section 1.0 of this paper provides overview information on bycatch trends, hatchery releases and stock of origin of bycatch. Additional information on stock of origin of chum and Chinook bycatch in the EBS pollock fishery is provided in the next agenda item. Section 2.0 of this discussion paper reviews the current suite of alternatives including the range of hard caps, trigger caps and area closures under consideration. Section 3.0 provides additional information on the development of the candidate closures for review at this meeting in conjunction with refining area and timing elements of Alternative 3. Section 4.0 provides additional information requested by the Council in February in relation to alternatives and management and enforcement. Supplemental information will be provided by staff at the Council meeting which reviews staff suggestions for refining alternative structure as well as clarifications on the zonal trigger approach proposed by the Council in April.

In order to meet the analytical timeframe reviewed by the Council in December 2009 for this analysis, the Council must finalize alternatives at this meeting. Preliminary review of this analysis would then be scheduled for February 2011 with initial review in Nome, AK in June 2011. Council staff and NMFS staff are preparing to work with staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as soon after June 2010 as possible to compile the pertinent data and sections necessary for the analysis given the Council's preferred schedule as outlined above. Correspondence between the Council and the Department of Fish and Game regarding this are attached as Item C-(1)(b)(2) and Item C-(1)(b)(3) respectively.

Several additional documents are included for SSC review of methodological approaches for this analysis. The first document provides an overview of the proposed AEQ model for chum salmon (Item C-(1)(b)(4)). The second discusses an approach to evaluate the status quo conditions under both the current conditions as well as anticipating fleet behavior under Amendment 91 (Item C-(1)(b)(5)) while the third proposes a method to evaluate the impact on fleet redistribution under proposed area closures (Item C-(1)(b)(6)). Dr. Jim Ianelli and Dr. Alan Haynie of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center will review these documents with the SSC.

(c) Update on chum and Chinook salmon genetics research and sampling design

Preliminary genetic stock identification results for chum salmon bycatch from the groundfish trawl fishery in 2009 are attached as Item C-(1)(c)(1). This information is provided at this time both to update the Council on stock composition results for 2009 as well as to indicate the relative aggregate groupings that will be employed in the impact analysis for the Council's chum bycatch measures given the

limitations on the regional break-outs for chum stock identification at this time. This report builds on a report provided to the Council (but not presented) at the February Council meeting in 2010 indicating preliminary 2005 chum stock composition results. Additional information on genetic stock composition results for Chinook bycatch samples from the 2007 B season and 2009 Season as well as the 2008 fishery are attached as Item C-(1)(c)(2) and Item C-(1)(c)(3) respectively. Dr. Jeff Guyon from the Auke Bay Laboratory at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center will provide an overview of these reports as well as an update on the sampling design proposed to provide additional genetic sampling in conjunction with Amendment 91 implementation.