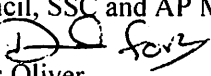


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM:  Chris Oliver
Executive Director
DATE: September 24, 2010
SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Issues

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS ALL D-3 ITEMS
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ACTION REQUIRED

(c) Annual review of Groundfish Workplan.

BACKGROUND

Consistent with the goals of adaptive management, the Council annually reviews its groundfish management policy. The Council's groundfish policy, including the approach statement and objectives, is attached as Item D-3(c)(1). It was adopted by the Council in 2004 following a comprehensive programmatic review of the fisheries.

The Council has developed a workplan to guide the full implementation of that policy in the management of the fisheries. This workplan was last revised by the Council in February 2007, and is attached Item D-3(c)(2). The Council reviews the status of this workplan at each meeting, and the status update is attached as Item D-3(c)(3).

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review the objectives and workplan, and if appropriate, make any changes. To assist with your review, a brief discussion of management measures relating to the workplan and objectives is attached as Item D-3(c)(4). While changes to the workplan can be made at any time, changes to the objectives require an FMP amendment. It has now been six years since completion of the programmatic groundfish FMP SEIS, which contained the analysis supporting the Council's adoption of the current groundfish management policy. Last year, the Council concluded that the current approach to groundfish fishery management is still adequately captured in the 2004 programmatic evaluation. At some point, however, the programmatic review of groundfish fishery management is likely to need supplementing. The factors that influence whether and when this update needs to occur include consideration of how much management of the fisheries has changed from when the document was prepared, and how environmental conditions affecting the fisheries have changed. During the development of the PSEIS, it was suggested that an average lifespan for this type of programmatic review was five to ten years.

At the annual review in 2009, the Council encouraged Council and NMFS staff to begin internal planning to develop options for updating the programmatic review. The Council also indicated that it may be appropriate to defer supplementing the PSEIS until imminent changes planned to groundfish management have been acted upon. Given the delayed timing of the Steller sea lion biological opinion and related actions, as well as the timing of discussion papers and amendments resulting from the EFH 5-year review,

staff determined that it would be premature to convene a workshop to prepare for updating the programmatic review for this year. Instead, staff will begin internal planning for discussions with the Council at the 2011 annual review.

Finally, in the past the Council has discussed the possibility of issuing a call for proposals focusing on the groundfish workplan; that option is available should the Council wish to consider such a call.