



C2 Fixed Gear CV Rockfish Retention

April 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Jon McCracken
Other Presenters: Josh Keaton NMFS
Action Required: 1. Public Review Draft – review
2. Identify preferred alternative; adopt a final recommendation

BACKGROUND

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review the public review draft of an analysis to require full retention of rockfish species by fixed gear catcher vessels and take final action. At the February 2019 meeting, the Council selected a preliminary preferred alternative which would require full retention of rockfish species by all fixed gear CVs (hook-and-line, pot, and jig) in the BSAI and GOA. Included in the preferred alternative were two options. The first option would require full retention of rockfish even if the rockfish species is on prohibited status but would prohibit these retained rockfish from entering commerce. The second option would establish a maximum commerce allowance of 10%, 15%, or 20%. The purpose of the maximum commerce allowance is to constrain vessels from increasing incidental catch of rockfish under a full retention regulation, while allowing vessel operators and processors to sell most of the rockfish catch. The purpose of this proposed action is to achieve benefits of full retention of rockfish by fixed gear catcher vessels. Requiring full retention of rockfish would improve identification of species catch composition when catcher vessels are subject to electronic monitoring, improve data collection by providing more accurate estimates of total catch, reduce incentives to discard rockfish, may reduce waste,