

Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

Agenda Item D-2 (f) Seabirds 4E

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	Patience Mercutiof	CBSFA
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver *Chris*
Executive Director
DATE: January 28, 2008
SUBJECT: Seabird Interactions

ESTIMATED TIME
1 HOUR

ACTION REQUIRED

Review preliminary analysis of seabird deterrence exemption in IPHC Area 4E

BACKGROUND

At the February 2007 meeting, the Council approved changes in regulations for seabird deterrence in groundfish fisheries. As part of the motion, the Council requested an analysis of a trailing amendment to consider an exemption for small vessels from seabird deterrence regulations in all or part of IPHC Area 4E. Available data suggested that such an exemption in Area 4E might be appropriate, but an analysis of new short-tailed albatross satellite tagging data would be required to better inform such a decision.

Staff has developed a preliminary analysis of available data on short-tailed albatross (STAL) distribution, abundance, and movement patterns in the eastern Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area; this analysis partly involves geospatial analysis techniques. The analysis of STAL data will be factored into an overall EA/RIR/IRFA that examines several alternatives for an exemption in Area 4E. A preliminary draft EA/RIR/IRFA was sent in a Council mailing, but additional analysis and initial results of geospatial analysis of the STAL data will be provided at this meeting.

The proposed alternatives in the analysis areas follow. Note that alternatives 2, 3, and 4 reference a "STAL subarea" which will be determined based on the results of the spatial analysis referenced above:

1. Status Quo for vessels greater than 26 ft LOA in Area 4E:

- a. Vessels less than 55 ft LOA with masts, poles, or rigging using snap-on hook-and-line gear are required to deploy one streamer line while setting gear. Specifically, the streamer line must be at least 45 m long and must be maintained with a minimum aerial extent of 20 m.
- b. Vessels less than 55 ft LOA with masts, poles, or rigging not using snap-on hook-and-line gear (conventional gear) are required to deploy one streamer line while setting gear. Specifically, the streamer line must be at minimum of 90 m long and must be maintained with a minimum aerial extent of 40 m.
- c. Vessels less than 55 ft LOA without masts, poles, or rigging and not capable of adding poles or davits to accommodate a streamer line (including bowpickers) must tow a buoy in such a way to deter birds from the sinking groundline, without fouling on the gear, while setting hook-and-line gear.

d. Vessels less than or equal to 32 ft LOA in IPHC area 4E shoreward of EEZ (inside 3 nm) are currently not required to use seabird avoidance measures.

e. Vessels greater than 55 ft LOA with snap-on gear are required to use one streamer line that meets the standard. Vessels greater than 55 ft LOA with other than snap-on gear are required to use paired streamer lines.

2. EXEMPTION FOR 26-32' VESSELS: Maintain status quo seabird protection measures except that vessels greater than 26 and less than or equal to 32 ft LOA are not required to use seabird avoidance measures in area 4E. NOTE: Vessels less than or equal to 32 ft LOA in IPHC area 4E shoreward of EEZ (inside 3 nm) are currently not required to use seabird avoidance measures. One of the following options would continue to require seabird avoidance measures in the STAL subarea of 4E outside of 3nm:

Option 1. Vessels fishing in the STAL subarea of 4E are required to use seabird avoidance regulations as detailed in alternative 1, above.

Option 2. EXCEPT: Vessels fishing in the STAL subarea of 4E are required to use only a buoy bag to deter seabirds.

3. EXEMPTION FOR 26-55' VESSELS: Maintain status quo seabird protection measures except that vessels greater than 26 and less than or equal to 55 ft LOA are not required to use seabird avoidance measures in area 4E. One of the following options would continue to require seabird avoidance measures in the STAL subarea of 4E:

Option 1. EXCEPT: Vessels fishing in the STAL subarea of 4E are required to use seabird avoidance regulations as detailed in alternative 1, above.

Option 2. EXCEPT: Vessels fishing in the STAL subarea of 4E are required to use a buoy bag to deter seabirds.

4. EXEMPTION FOR ALL VESSELS OVER 26': Seabird avoidance measures are not required in area 4E, except as required by one of the following options:

Option 1. Vessels fishing in the STAL subarea of 4E are required to use seabird avoidance regulations as detailed in alternative 1, above.

Option 2. Vessels fishing in the STAL subarea of 4E are required to use only a buoy bag to deter seabirds.

Table 1-1 below (reproduced from the analysis) provides a summary of the alternatives. A map of the IPHC regulatory areas offshore Alaska is provided below also.

At this meeting, the Council will review the analysis, and revise the alternatives as necessary. Initial review of the analysis is scheduled for April, with final action in June 2008.

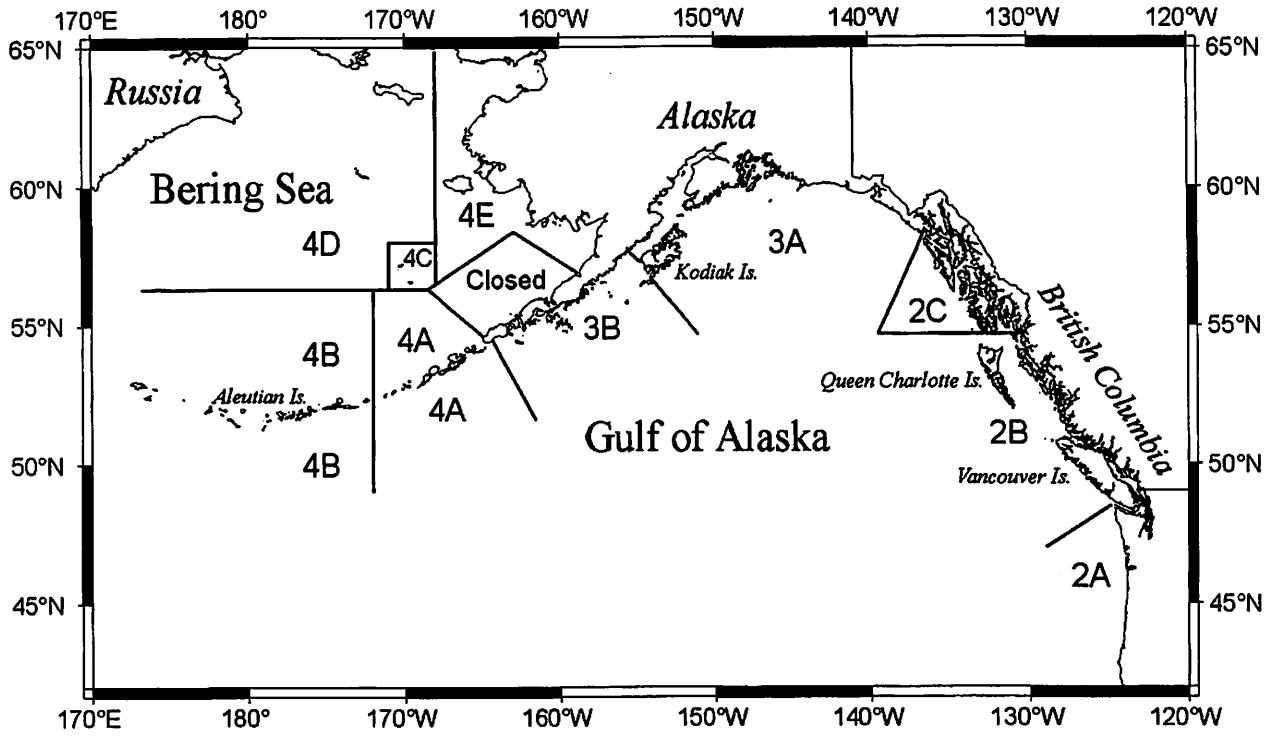
Table 1-1. Seabird Avoidance Measures Alternatives for Hook and Line Gear in IPHC Area 4E for vessels > 26' LOA

Location, Vessel Size & Config	26-55' in the EEZ >32' to ≤ 55' in 0-3 nm w/o masts, poles, or rigging	26- 55' in the EEZ >32' to ≤ 55' in 0-3 nm with masts, poles, or rigging	>55' in the EEZ >55' in 0-3 nm
Alt 1 (Status Quo)	1 buoy bag line	1 streamer line with standard (snap-on gear) ¹	1 streamer line with standard (snap-on gear) ¹
		1 streamer line with standard (other than snap-on gear) ²	Paired streamer lines with standard (other than snap-on gear) ²
Alt 2	26-32' - no seabird avoidance measures required in 4E. >32' - status quo		
option 1	Vessels 26-32' LOA fishing in the STAL subarea ³ of 4E are required to use seabird avoidance regulations as detailed in alternative 1, above.		
option 2	Vessels 26-32' LOA fishing in the STAL subarea ³ of 4E are required to use only a buoy bag to deter seabirds.		
Alt 3	26- 55' - no seabird avoidance measures required in 4E. > 55' - status quo		
option 1	Vessels 26-55' LOA fishing in the STAL subarea ³ of 4E are required to use seabird avoidance regulations as detailed in alternative 1, above.		
option 2	Vessels 26-55' LOA fishing in the STAL subarea ³ of 4E are required to use only a buoy bag to deter seabirds.		
Alt 4	all vessels - no seabird avoidance measures required in 4E		
option 1	All vessels fishing in the STAL subarea ³ of 4E are required to use seabird avoidance regulations as detailed in alternative 1, above.		
option 2	All vessels fishing in the STAL subarea ³ of 4E are required to use only a buoy bag to deter seabirds.		

1 Streamer line standard that is 45 m in length and in the air for 20 m aft of stern.

2 Streamer line standard that is 90 m in length and in the air for 40 m aft of stern.

3 STAL subarea - southern portion of 4E where albatross are more likely to occur. See Figure X



IPHC regulatory areas in the North Pacific