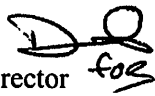


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director *for*

DATE: May 28, 2013

SUBJECT: GOA Trawl Bycatch

ESTIMATED TIME 12 HOURS (All C-5 items)

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Discussion paper on GOA Trawl Bycatch Management/roadmap.
- (b) Initial review on GOA Trawl Data Collection.
- (c) Tendering report.

BACKGROUND

(a) Trawl Bycatch Management

During its February, meeting the Council requested that staff draft a discussion paper and a roadmap to aid the development of GOA Trawl Bycatch Management program. That discussion paper is presented under **Item C-5(a)**. The elements of the discussion paper include a roadmap of Council decision points. Data describing participation in the Central and Western GOA groundfish fisheries is presented as well as information on LLPs and their endorsements. An errata sheet is also included under this item that provides additional information on the area 620 and 630 pollock fisheries. The third section of the paper is an expanded discussion of state waters management, including options for addressing expansion into state waters which may result from a catch share program that applies to federal waters. The fourth section provides an expanded discussion of community protections to include the mechanics and applicability of Community Fisheries Associations and other alternative measures (e.g, port of landing requirements, regionalization) to the GOA trawl fisheries. Finally, the fifth section provides a discussion of potential benefits and detriments of limited duration quota and a discussion of types of non-monetary auctions.

The Council may identify additional information that is needed to more fully develop these concepts, or develop more specific management alternatives for further analysis.

(b) Initial review of GOA Trawl Data Collection

Because the Council is considering developing a catch share plan for the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska trawl fishery (posted on web May 21, 2013), it has also expressed an interest in developing a fast-tracked data collection program that can be implemented before fishing begins under a potential new catch share program. Implementation of data collection before a catch share program implemented would

provide the Council, analysts, and the public better historical information to assess the impacts of the proposed amendment. At this meeting, the Council may determine whether the document is adequate for Public review. If it is ready to be released, the Council may select a preliminary preferred alternative.

It is assumed that the data collection program would apply to harvesters and processors that catch or process groundfish harvested with trawl gear from the Central or Western GOA. The analysis identifies the data elements that are proposed to be collected from catcher vessels, catcher processors, and processors. Some of the issues that the Council may wish to provide direction are:

- Should the Amendment 80 EDR be extended to cover the one GOA trawl catcher processor that is currently excluded from submitting that EDR?
- Should the Amendment 80 EDR be expanded to collect harvest crew permit numbers, so those data are comparable to that proposed to be collected from catcher vessels?
- If checkboxes are added to the catcher vessels logbook to note if a vessel used an excluder device or moved to avoid halibut, should the Council recommend moving to an electronic logbook so the data can be more easily accessed? Also should vessels less than 60 feet LOA be required to submit a logbook?
- What is the scope of data to be collected from catcher vessels? The data collection program in the RIR focuses on employment, fuel usage, gear purchases, and observer costs.
- What is the scope of data to be collected from processors? The data collection program described in the RIR focuses on employment and utility usage when purchased from community owned providers.

(c) Tendering report

The Council requested that staff prepare a report (attached at Item C-5(c)) on the use of tender vessels in the GOA pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries. That paper provides historic participation data from 2010 through April 2013, information on tendering regulations in the GOA, and management and enforcement issues. The only Council action necessary is to review the report and provide direction to staff regarding any additional information needs.