


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director

DATE: January 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Groundfish issues – BSAI flatfish specifications flexibility

ESTIMATED TIME 12 HOURS (All C-2 items)

ACTION REQUIRED

(b) Initial review of BSAI flatfish specifications flexibility

BACKGROUND

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled for initial review of an analysis for a proposed action that would allocate the ABC surplus (the difference between acceptable biological catch (ABC) and total allowable catch (TAC)) for flathead sole, rock sole, and/or yellowfin sole, among the Amendment 80 cooperatives and CDQ groups, using the same formulas that are used in the annual harvest specifications process. These entities would be able to exchange their yellowfin sole, flathead sole, and/or rock sole quota share for an equivalent amount of their allocation of the ABC surplus for these species. The approach is intended to increase the opportunity for maximizing the harvest of these species, while ensuring that the overall 2 million mt BSAI optimum yield, and ABCs for each individual species, are not exceeded. The analysis also includes options to restrict flexibility in the exchange of yellowfin sole, if the analysis shows that there is a potential negative impact of the approach on users of yellowfin sole in the BSAI trawl limited access sector.

The analysis was distributed to the Council on January 25, and the executive summary is attached as Item C-2(b)(1).