


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director

DATE: March 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Groundfish Management

ESTIMATED TIME 2 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Final action to revise management of the GOA Pacific cod jig fishery.

BACKGROUND

In December 2010, the Council received a discussion paper that reviewed options to revise management of the GOA Pacific cod jig fishery. The Council decided to initiate an analysis of two alternatives, including the status quo fishery and the proposed "reverse parallel fishery." The proposed action would open Federal waters to directed fishing for Pacific cod with jig gear concurrent with the State of Alaska Guideline Harvest Limit (GHL) fishery for Pacific cod in the GOA. Catches in Federal waters would accrue to the State jig GHL, which is specified as a percentage of the GOA Pacific cod ABC. Jig gear was recently exempted from the Limited License Program (LLP) requirement in the GOA subject to gear limits.

Under the proposed action, operators using jig gear would likely have year-round access to Federal waters. In the absence of this action, jig operators would only have access to Federal waters during the parallel/Federal waters A and B seasons, and the timing of the jig fishery may continue to be a factor limiting jig catches. At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to take final action on the proposed amendment.