



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:BYC 14-012**

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**Agenda Date**12/8/2014

**Agenda Number:**C2

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**Dan Hull, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**  
Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch - Initial Review

**ESTIMATED TIME:**  
10 hours

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  
Initial review of EA/RIR/IRFA for Bering Sea Chinook and chum salmon bycatch management measures.

### BACKGROUND

In 2013 and 2014, the Council reviewed several discussion papers evaluating the efficacy of management measures and options for modifications under the Amendment 91 Chinook salmon bycatch management program by the Bering Sea pollock fleet, as well as the status of western Alaska Chinook and chum salmon stocks. In June 2014, the Council initiated a combined analysis of refinements to the Chinook bycatch management program with measures to incorporate management of chum salmon bycatch. The motion from that meeting, including the purpose and need statement from the Council, as well as the suite of alternatives for analysis is attached.

At this meeting, the Council will take initial review of this analysis. The analysis was made available on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Both the EA/RIR/IRFA and the executive summary of the full analysis are posted and paper copies will be made available as needed at the Council meeting. Additional supplemental tables and figures to correct for omissions and errors are attached as well as supplemental information for evaluating the impact of Alternative 5 on the inshore sector. This supplemental information will be incorporated into the public review draft following this meeting.

The Council will review the EA/RIR/IRFA at this meeting and may choose to modify the current suite of alternatives and/or identify a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA). The purpose of identifying a PPA is to signal to the public the likely direction of Council intent, however the Council's preferred alternative at final action may differ from the PPA. The Council is not required to create a PPA at this time and may choose to wait until final action to select a preferred alternative.

The Council has previously indicated its intent to pursue further outreach efforts on this analysis with targeted outreach to communities in Western Alaska. A proposed outreach schedule is being developed, and, with the Council's concurrence, outreach efforts will be conducted in the Spring of 2015. The Council has indicated its express intent that outreach timing would be completed prior to Council final action. This draft outreach plan is attached and will be presented for input by the Council and the public during the meeting.

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