



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:ID 15-059

Agenda Date6/1/2015

Agenda Number:D2

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Adak Crab Offload - Initial Review

ACTION REQUIRED:

Receive Initial Review of WAG offload requirements analysis; take action as necessary.

BACKGROUND:

The Council is considering a regulatory exemption that would allow vessels participating in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) fishery to continue fishing after offloading a portion of their retained catch. Under current regulations, a vessel participating in a crab rationalization fishery is not permitted to deliver a portion of their retained harvest to a processor and subsequently resume fishing for additional crab.

The issue was first raised in February of 2015, when stakeholders of the WAG fishery provided public testimony to the Council. Although the processing plant in Adak does not currently have the capacity to accept and process a full offload from a catcher vessel prosecuting this fishery, stakeholders testified that a live crab market opportunity is possible in Adak due to the commercial flights that are scheduled to land in the community twice a week. However, depending on the configuration of the jet, these flights would only be able to accommodate 8,000 to 14,000 pounds of live WAG in one trip.

This action would specifically allow vessel harvesting WAG to deliver partial loads of live crab to Adak opportunistically, when the markets and commercial flights are available. Relaxing the full offload regulation for this specific fishery could allow vessels harvesting WAG to make partial deliveries and continue harvesting crab before fully offloading at a processor that could accommodate the full volume of crab onboard these catcher vessels.