Council Motion June 08, 2018 Agenda Item C-4: Fixed gear CV rockfish retention - Initial review

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for public review after making the following revisions to the purpose and need, alternatives, and analysis. The preliminary preferred alternative is shown in bold; new language underlined, and removed language in strikethrough.

Purpose and Need

Fixed-gear CVs in the BSAI and GOA discard much-a proportion of their incidental catch of rockfish (Sebastes and Sebastalobus spp.). The greatest amount of discarded rockfish occurs in the GOA hook-and-line fisheries. Requiring the full retention of rockfish could: benefit vessel operators by improving would improve identification of species catch composition when CVs are subject to electronic monitoring, improve data collection by providing more accurate estimates of total catch, reduce incentives to discard rockfish, may reduce waste, reduce overall enforcement burden, and provide more consistency in regulations. promote more consistent management between State of Alaska and Federal fisheries.

Alternatives

Alternative 1. Status quo

Alternative 2: Require full retention of rockfish species by all fixed gear CVs (hook-andline, pot, and jig) in the BSAI and GOA.

Alternative 3: Require full retention of rockfish species by hook-and-line CVs in the GOA. Option under Alternatives 2 and 3: Require full retention of rockfish even if the species is on prohibited species status but prohibit these retained rockfish from entering commerce.

Option under Alternatives 2 and 3: Establish a maximum commerce allowance (MCA) of 10% or 15%.

The Council recommends that the analysis be revised to include the revisions suggested by staff and the SSC as practical.