

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: ^{DO} Chris Oliver _{for}
Executive Director
DATE: January 26, 2009
SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Review tasking and committees and provide direction.
- (b) Receive report on Alaska Native/Community Outreach.

BACKGROUND

- (a) Committees and Tasking.

The list of Council committees is attached as Item D-3(a)(1). Item D-3(a)(2) is the three meeting outlook, and Item D-3(a)(3) and Item D-3(a)(4) respectively are the summary of current projects and tasking. In addition, an updated workplan for implementing the programmatic groundfish management policy is attached as Item D-3(a)(5). The Council may wish to discuss priorities for completing ongoing projects, as well as any new tasks assigned during the course of this meeting.

As discussed in the Executive Director's report, staff has begun to assess FMP and regulatory changes that may be required to comply with the recently published National Standard 1 Guidelines. It is clear that several amendments will be required, and staff will report back with more details regarding tasking in April.

Another possible task on the horizon is a review of the regulation to allow Area 4C Halibut IFQ and CDQ to be harvested in Area 4D. When this regulatory change was adopted in by the Council in 2004, the Council expressed an interest in reviewing this regulatory change after the third year of implementation (the regulation was implemented on August 2005). The Council may wish to schedule such a review for a future meeting, or include this issue as an item to be discussed by the IFQ Implementation Team in 2009.

- (b) Receive report on Alaska Native/Community Outreach

In June 2008, the Council reviewed a discussion paper that was provided in response to the Council's policy priority to improve communication and participation with Alaska Native and rural communities, as identified in the workplan resulting from the Programmatic SEIS. Upon review of several suggestions to expand both ongoing communication and outreach specific to particular projects, the Council initiated a small workgroup to further review potential approaches and provide recommendations. This workgroup met on November 24, the report for which is attached as Item D-3(b)(1).

One of the main recommendations of the workgroup is to create a standing committee of Alaska Native, rural community, and Council representatives. This committee would be charged with three primary tasks: 1) to advise the Council on how to provide opportunities for better understanding and participation from Native Alaska and rural communities; 2) to provide feedback on community impacts sections of specific analyses; and 3) to provide recommendations regarding which proposed Council actions need a specific outreach plan.

With regard to the third task, a primary example is the recent outreach plan implemented for the Draft EIS on limiting Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. In addition to direct mailings to stakeholders, regional outreach meetings were attended. The results of these meetings will be included in a report presented to the Council prior to its taking final action. A list of the regional outreach meetings for this particular project is provided as **Item D-3(b)(2)**. The standing committee that is being recommended by the outreach workgroup would work as a filter to recommend whether a proposed action needs a specific outreach plan and prioritize multiple actions when necessary.

This committee is not intended to be the primary mechanism for community input on Council actions, instead, it is intended to assist the Council in improving the overall outreach process and analyses relevant to community concerns and to do so within the constraints of staff and budgetary limitations. The workgroup recommends that the Council initiate this committee, with the intent that it meet and provide further recommendations to the Council at its April or June 2009 meeting.