



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2809
Fax (907) 271-2817

Action Memo

File Number:BYC 15-018

Agenda Date10/5/2015

Agenda Number:C10

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

GOA Salmon PSC Reapportionment - Preliminary Review

ACTION REQUIRED:

Review document; identify preliminary preferred alternative if the Council determines that the provided information is adequate to do so.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2015, the Council proposed a set of alternatives that would provide NMFS inseason managers the authority to reapportion existing annual Chinook salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) limits between the various sectors for which a limit is currently defined. The Council's motivation for this action stems from the closure to the catcher vessel sector of the GOA non-pollock Non-Rockfish Program fishery that occurred on May 3, 2015. That sector was allowed to reopen for directed fishing in August 2015 under an Emergency Rule that made available 1,600 additional Chinook PSC; however, such an Emergency Rule will not likely be a response option in the future.

The proposed action alternative would not increase the maximum amount of Chinook salmon PSC that can be taken in a single year, which is currently set at 32,500 (combined total for the pollock and non-pollock trawl fisheries). Similarly, the alternatives would not change the sector PSC apportionments that were established under GOA Groundfish FMP Amendments 93 and 97. Those include the directed pollock fishery (25,000 Chinook salmon per year, divided between the Western and Central GOA), non-pollock trawl catcher/processors (3,600 Chinook salmon per year), Rockfish Program catcher vessels (1,200 Chinook salmon per year), and Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessels (2,700 Chinook salmon per year). Existing reallocation procedures for halibut PSC and Chinook salmon PSC would not be modified by this action.

Options under the action alternative would limit Chinook salmon PSC apportionments. Option 1 would not allow further reapportionment of the 1,200 Chinook salmon PSC in the Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector. Option 2 would cap the proportion of a sector's initial annual PSC apportionment that could be shifted to another sector during the course of a season. Option 3 would prohibit Chinook salmon PSC reapportionment from flowing to the non-pollock catcher/processor sector.