



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:Crab 15-098

Agenda Date12/7/2015

Agenda Number:D7

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Bristol Bay RKC Savings Area Exempted Fishing Permit - Review

STAFF CONTACT: Diana Stram

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review and approve EFP

BACKGROUND:

NMFS has received an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to allow operators of up to five Alaska Seafood Cooperative (AKSC) non-pelagic trawl catcher/processors to test fish in two subareas of the Bering Sea that are closed to trawl directed fisheries: Reporting Area 516 of Zone 1 closed to all trawl gear and the Red King Crab Savings Area (RKCSA) closed to non-pelagic trawl gear. The purpose of the EFP is to collect data on crab bycatch rates during commercial fishing operations targeting primarily flatfish inside these closed areas as well as adjacent areas that are open to non-pelagic trawling. The objective of this EFP is to evaluate whether flatfish and other groundfish trawling in these closed areas under the existing PSC limits for crab would result in reductions in PSC rates for crab and other species, or a change in overall catch of target species compared with status quo. This study would begin in February of 2016 through mid-May 2016 and again from January 2017-mid-May 2017. The applicant, Mr. John Gauvin will be available to present the EFP application and study objectives.