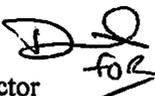


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: March 19, 2013
SUBJECT: AFA Vessel Replacement

ESTIMATED TIME 6 HOURS (All C-2 a, b items)

ACTION REQUIRED

Final action on AFA vessel replacement GOA sideboards.

BACKGROUND

On October 12, 2010, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 was signed into law. Section 602 of the Coast Guard Act addresses the replacement and removal of vessels eligible to participate in the Bering Sea pollock fishery under the American Fisheries Act (AFA). An initial review analysis was prepared and presented at the February 2013 Council meeting to clarify AFA vessel replacement provisions of the Coast Guard Act and to prevent AFA vessels that are replaced or rebuilt from increasing fishing effort beyond historical catch levels in the Gulf of Alaska. At that meeting, the Council released the document for public review. The Council also selected Alternative 2 as the preliminary preferred alternative along with the vessel removal provision, which would extinguish the sideboard exemption for AFA sideboard exempt vessels. The document was revised per SSC and AP comments and was mailed on March 6. The executive summary of the analysis, which includes the full suite of alternatives and options, is attached as Item C-2(b)(1).