



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:Catch 16-005

Agenda Date4/4/2016

Agenda Number:C5

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Aleutian Islands Groundfish Offshore Sector - Limited access and Pacific cod A/B seasonal split

STAFF CONTACT: Jon McCracken

ACTION REQUIRED:

Review discussion paper.

BACKGROUND:

In October 2015, the Council tasked staff to evaluate participation and effort in the offshore groundfish fisheries in the AI for potential action to limit access in these fisheries. In addition, during the February 2015 Council meeting, members of the hook-and-line catcher processor sector testified during the initial review of the AI Pacific cod shoreside processing stability action (Amendment 113) to add an option for an A/B seasonal AI Pacific cod split due to the steadily declining harvest opportunity in the AI Pacific cod fishery for their sector. Although the Council did not include the requested option in the shoreside processing stability action, the Council did task staff to prepare a discussion paper on the conservation and management issues associated with establishing a seasonal split for the AI Pacific cod TAC.

To address the Council's request, a discussion paper was prepared by staff for the April 2016 Council meeting. The paper includes historical participation and effort data for the AI Pacific cod fishery, BSAI TLA fisheries AI Atka mackerel and AI Pacific ocean perch, AI arrowtooth flounder, AI Greenland turbot, and AI Kamchatka flounder. The discussion paper also includes a brief discussion on the conservation and management issues associated with a seasonal split for the AI Pacific cod TAC.