

# C5 Squid/Sculpin Product Types Initial Review

- In 2017 the Council acted to move squids to the Ecosystem Component (EC) species category of the BSAI and GOA FMPs
  - Council intent throughout the process was to continue to allow sale of incidentally caught squids for bait and human consumption
  - During final rulemaking, saleable product types were limited to fish meal only, consistent with other EC species
- In 2019 the Council acted to move sculpins to the EC species category of the BSAI and GOA FMPs and final rulemaking, which is pending, will apply the same restriction on saleable product type
- Flexibility is sought regarding processing of both species complexes
- This RIR evaluates two alternatives: 1) status quo for both species complexes, with the processing restriction; 2) removal of the processing restriction to allow sale of products other than fish meal

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- The analysis provides succinct background and summary information sufficient to allow the Council to act and the SSC **supports** moving the document forward for final action pending the following changes:
  - Several tables should be updated with more recent assessment and harvest data obtained since the last full stock assessment for each complex
  - Downstream economic impacts of the alternatives should be addressed, including the potential for development of shore based processing options
- The SSC remains concerned about directed exploitation of EC species and the need for regular review, informed by adequate data, to move them back into the fishery if/when appropriate