


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke   
Executive Director

DATE: November 25, 1991

SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Review status of all plan amendments, regulatory amendments, and emergency rules.

**BACKGROUND**

The Council has several major projects in various stages of completion or in the initial stages of analysis. Item D-1(a)(1) summarizes these projects and their status. Council and NMFS staff are available to provide the Council with further detail.

**STATUS OF COUNCIL TASKING**

**PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION OR COMPLETED**

**Plan Amendments**

**Groundfish**

Am. 17/22	Delete reporting areas in GOA Criteria for experimental fisheries Bogoslof pollock TAC Walrus protection Groundfish pot definition	Proposed Rule submitted; pending publication. Bogoslof provision to be implemented by in-season authority of RD.
Am. 18/23	Inshore-Offshore Allocations	Forwarded to Secretary for review concurrent with NEPA public comment period.
Am. 19/24	Bycatch Amendment for implementation in 1992	Final Action scheduled for December meeting. Implement by June 1992. Emergency Action in December to cover first half of 1992.
North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan		Progress report in December. Final action in January or April of 1992. Implementation beginning of 1993.
Am. 20/25	Marine Mammal Protection Measures for 1992	Proposed Rule published on November 18. Implementation scheduled for January 20 (this will effect the season delay for all trawl groundfisheries)

**Emergency Rules from September 1991 Meeting**

Reduce directed fishing standard for Pacific cod, in the midwater pollock fisheries, to 7% in the BSAI. Reduce directed fishing standard for all groundfish, in midwater pollock fishery, to 7% in the GOA. When halibut trawl PSC allowance is reached in GOA, all trawling for groundfish, other than pollock with pelagic trawls, is prohibited.	Used extended ER in GOA for remainder of 1991. Permanent action as part of 19/24 Bycatch Amendment to be implemented by June 1992.
Season delay of all groundfish trawl fisheries and GOA Rockfish	All trawl fisheries delayed via Amendment 20/25. GOA Rockfish delay by E.R.; if filed, would be effective mid-January.

**Regulatory Amendments and Other Actions**

Prohibit longlining of pots (except Aleutians) (from 12/90)	Region preparing Final Rule.
Product Recovery Rates	Final Rule pending publication.
IPHC Area 4C Expansion	Need to make recommendation to IPHC.
Allocate Halibut PSC to DSR Fishery	Action required at December meeting.

**STATUS OF COUNCIL TASKING**

**UNCOMPLETED PROJECTS REQUIRING SUBSTANTIAL STAFF TIME**

Am. 15/20 Sablefish IFQ system	Final decision in December 1991. Implement in 1993 or 1994.
Halibut IFQ system	Final decision in December 1991. Implement in 1993 or 1994.
Final SAFEs and Specifications for 1992	Review in December 1991.
Environmental Assessments for Specifications Process	Available at December meeting.
Reporting/Recordkeeping Requirements	Region will prepare Proposed Rule after December meeting.
Prohibit trawling east of 140°W	ADF&G will complete analysis of plan amendment by April 1992. Amendment could be implemented for 1993.
Pribilof Bottom Trawl Closure Bycatch IFQs Herring Bycatch: Transit Corridors Salmon Bycatch Cap	Council requested State of Alaska to analyze. ADFG will report status.
Strategic Bycatch Plan	Status report by Bycatch Team
Moratorium	Finalize scope of moratorium options. Clarify relationship of moratorium to comprehensive rationalization plan.
Comprehensive Rationalization Program/Groundfish/Crab IFQs	Develop schedule for analysis. Clarify relationship of groundfish/crab ITQs to comprehensive rationalization program.

**POTENTIAL NEW PROJECTS**

Delay of BSAI pollock non-roe season	Need Council direction.
Seasonal apportionment of BSAI Pacific cod	Begin analysis when staff available.
Delay 2nd Qtr W/C GOA pollock opening to June 1	Begin analysis when staff available.
Restrictions affecting Donut operations or affiliated U.S. operations	Develop alternatives and schedule.
Pre-Registration	NMFS will provide discussion paper.