NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number: BYC 15-024

Agenda Date 12/7/2015

Agenda Number: D1

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
GOA Trawl Bycatch Management Workplan - Review

STAFF CONTACT: Sam Cunningham

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review plan; Provide feedback on 2016 schedule for review

BACKGROUND:
After revising and adding to the range of alternatives under consideration for the GOA Trawl Bycatch Management Program, the Council instructed staff to begin work towards a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As requested, Council and NMFS staff have produced a "work plan" that lays out proposed steps and milestones to develop a draft EIS by the end of 2016. The work plan attempts to balance the time required to complete various analytical tasks with the desire to bring work back to the Council at regular intervals for feedback and public comment. Staff also developed this plan with the understanding that GOA Trawl Bycatch Management is one of several priorities for the Council's 2016 schedule, therefore it is unlikely that the Council can devote significant meeting time to this action at *every* meeting.

The work plan includes five items: (1) a cover letter describing staff rationale behind the proposed plan; (2) a generalized schedule of analytical, decision-making, and implementation tasks that includes 2016 and beyond; (3) a draft outline of the EIS document; (4) the Council's current set of alternatives for analysis (for reference purposes); and (5) a comparison of the Council's four alternatives in tabular form, categorized by topic area.

After reviewing the work plan, the Council may wish to provide staff with feedback on the desired timing and prioritization of analytical tasks. The Council's feedback will also give interested stakeholders a general expectation as to when they could plan to comment on particular aspects of the Bycatch Management Plan development.

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