## MEMORANDUM

TO:   Council and SSC Members

FROM:  Chris Oliver for 
     Executive Director

| ESTIMATED TIME |
| :---: |
| 8 HOURS |

DATE:   May 31, 2011

SUBJECT:  Miscellaneous Issues (SSC only)

ACTION:

  (a)  Pacific cod assessment models
  (b)  Groundfish uncertainty/Total catch accounting

BACKGROUND

Pacific cod assessment models

Eleven members of the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team and nine members of the GOA Groundfish Plan Teams met at a Joint Meeting of the BSAI GOA Groundfish Plan Teams via teleconference and WEBEX on May 17, 2011. The objective of the meeting was to review proposals for GOA and BSAI Pacific cod stock assessment models and recommend models for each area assessment for fall 2011. Six high-priority recommendations were allocated among four new models. The joint plan team report is attached as Item D-1(a).

Groundfish uncertainty/Total catch accounting

Dr. Grant Thompson will present his discussion paper on three issues pertaining to possible amendments to the BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMPs that address additional aspects of the National Standard Guidelines and Annual Catch Limits. The issues are: 1) expanding or otherwise changing the role of scientific uncertainty in determining the buffer between ABC (=ACL) and OFL; 2) lack of a numeric value for MSST; and 3) possible ambiguities regarding which anthropogenic removals should be treated in computation of fishing mortality reference points and counted against harvest specifications.

Given that the Secretary has already determined the Groundfish FMPs to be in substantial compliance with the National Standard 1 Guidelines as a result of Amendments 96 (BSAI) and 87 (GOA), no action is required. The paper is intended primarily for use by the SSC to determine if any of the options put forward are worth further exploration to improve current practices. The discussion paper is attached as Item D-1(b)(1).

Status reports on two Joint Groundfish Plan Team initiatives on total catch accounting are also provided as Item D-1(b)(2) and Item D-1(b)(3).