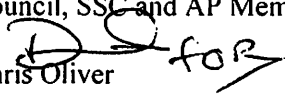


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM:  Chris Oliver
Executive Director
DATE: September 29, 2010
SUBJECT: Crab Management

ESTIMATED TIME 3 HOURS (ALL D-1 ITEMS)
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ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Preliminary review of Pribilof Island blue king crab rebuilding plan.

BACKGROUND

This preliminary draft EA/RIR/IRFA evaluates six proposed alternative rebuilding measures for the Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock. The Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and the current rebuilding plan has not achieved adequate progress to rebuild the stock by 2014. The preliminary review draft of this analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) was mailed to you on September 28th. The executive summary of the EA is attached as Item D-1(a).

This revised rebuilding plan considers six alternatives. Four of the alternatives are different closure configurations to restrict groundfish fisheries in the areas of the crab stock distribution. The fifth alternative considers a prohibited species bycatch cap on the groundfish fisheries. The sixth alternative considers trigger caps and associated area closures in all groundfish fisheries. The Council previously reviewed this analysis in April 2010 and requested that staff add the sixth alternative to the analysis. The Council may wish to further refine alternatives at this meeting given the additional fishery-specific information in the document as well as clarify some aspects of the alternatives (to be noted in staff presentation) to facilitate revisions to the analysis for initial review. The impacts of these alternatives on rebuilding the blue king crab stock as well as the environmental and social/economic impacts of these measures are considered in this analysis. The Crab Plan Team comments on this analysis are contained in the CPT report (under Item C-2(b)). Analysis of the impacts of these closure configurations on the rebuilding potential for the PIBKC stock shows limited effect on rebuilding between the ranges of alternative closures. Preliminary review is scheduled for October 2010, with initial review in December 2010.