MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver
            Executive Director

DATE: March 24, 2011

SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ACTION REQUIRED

Review tasking and committees and provide direction.
Review Observer Advisory Committee report and take action as necessary.

BACKGROUND

Committees and Tasking

The list of Council committees is attached as **Item D-3(a)(1)**. An updated work plan for implementing the programmatic groundfish management policy is attached as **Item D-3(a)(2)**. **Item D-3(a)(3)** is the three meeting outlook and **Item D-3(a)(4)** provides a summary of current projects and tasking. The Council may wish to discuss priorities for completing ongoing projects, as well as any new tasks assigned during the course of this meeting.

Observer Advisory Committee

In February, the Council tasked the Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) to meet to discuss the potential for using electronic monitoring (EM) on specific fleets that will be subject to observer requirements under the observer restructuring action the Council approved in October 2010. Toward this end, the committee was asked to review the EM discussion paper that NMFS provided to the Council in February, and discuss the scope and development of a focused EM design, likely targeted toward the <60' fixed gear fleets. The intent was to develop an EM alternative such that it is available to the specified fleets, if it is determined effective to meet the monitoring objectives for those fleets, at the time that the restructured observer program is implemented. The restructured program continues to be scheduled for implementation in 2013.

In addition to the EM issues, the OAC received an update on the workplan to develop the regulations to implement the observer restructuring action, as well as an update on the potential for Federal start-up funding to support the program.

The OAC met on March 22 in Anchorage to address the issues above. The agenda is provided as **Item D-3(b)(1)**. The OAC report is attached as **Item D-3(b)(2)**.