

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
June 4; 7-9, 2024 - Kodiak, AK

D3 Central GOA Rockfish Program Review

Motion

The AP recommends the Council adopt the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program Review Work Plan as presented with the following expansions within the Table of Contents:

1. In Chapter 4, “*TACs, Allocations, Harvests, Processing, and Transfers,*” expand on the following topics:

Rockfish Program TACS:

- The available quota for each CQ species by sector from the beginning of the RPP (2007) to present.
- The amount of harvest of each CQ species by sector.
- An evaluation of potential reasons why species have not been fully harvested.

Fishery Timing:

- How fishing effort has changed by month from prior to the Rockfish Pilot Program, through the RPP, and to present in the RP over the history of the program.
- Whether less harvest of RP species including northern and dusky rockfish has changed due to less catchability during shoulder seasons.
- A description of how other fisheries have changed that affect annual landings for the port of Kodiak and RP participants (ex: pollock, flatfish, and Pacific cod).

Processing Capacity:

- The change in the number of RP processors operating annually through the history of the RP
- How the number of RP processors receiving deliveries fluctuates by month, each year
- Whether the increase of the RP’s Processing Cap from 30% to 40% in Amendment 113 will be enough to sufficiently address issues with processing capacity in the RP.

2. In Chapter 8, “*Products and Markets,*” expand on the following through the history of the RP:
 - An evaluation of product mix changes across the CV and CP sectors
 - An evaluation of wholesale pricing by species across the CV and CP sectors
 - How rockfish fits into the current global seafood market crisis, including if oversupply exists for rockfish species or if other problems exist due to substitute fish species.
3. In Chapter 12, “*Fishing Vessel Safety*” provide additional context on
 - How fishery timing, including increased fishing in the shoulder seasons with poorer weather, affects vessel safety.

4. In Chapter 14, “*Management, Monitoring, and Enforcement,*” provide an expanded background about the current state of monitoring in the fishery to understand why the CV sector is moving toward electronic monitoring. This should include:
 - Observer availability and observer cost over the history of the program.
 - Efficiency of the present monitoring system.

The AP acknowledges that while final 2024 data may not be available for all data sources and types, they recommend that it be included in the Program Review to the extent possible given the extreme recent changes within the RP.

Motion Passed 21/0

Rationale in Favor of Motion:

- *The AP appreciated staff’s work in developing the Table of Contents for the Program Review Workplan. The AP’s motion requests expanded data, background, and context within that framework to highlight the RP’s recent challenges, especially with monitoring and processing.*
- *The Central GOA rockfish program (RP) is an important part of the business plan for Kodiak’s catcher vessels and processor participants. As a high cost fishery for both harvesters and participants, there have always been unique challenges within the fishery which the Rockfish Program was structured to help alleviate; the current global seafood market crisis has exacerbated these challenges to an untenable point for participants. It’s expected that the majority of the C/V sector’s primary rockfish quota will go unharvested this year.*
- *The motion is responsive to written public comment from the 5 RP catcher vessel cooperatives and oral comment provided on behalf of the C/P cooperative. The C/P cooperative did not request additional items be added to the Table of Contents, but supported the additions made by the C/Vs.*
- *There were a few details, such as cost recovery fees in light of reduced revenue and how to include support business in community profiles, that came up during the Staff presentation but were not included in the motion since Staff indicated they would provide those details.*