



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2809
Fax (907) 271-2817

Action Memo

File Number:Catch 16-001

Agenda Date2/1/2016

Agenda Number:C1

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

BSAI Trawl Limited Access Yellowfin Sole Fishery - Discussion Paper

STAFF CONTACT: Jon McCracken

ACTION REQUIRED:

Review discussion paper

BACKGROUND:

In October, the Council received public testimony from a few participants in the offshore sector of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) trawl limited access (TLA) yellowfin sole fishery. Testimony indicated that several new vessels entered the fishery during 2015, and that new entrants may be negatively impacting the ability of historical participants to maintain yellowfin sole harvest and may increase halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) in the fishery.

After considering this public testimony, the Council tasked staff to prepare a discussion paper that examines participation and effort in the yellowfin sole BSAI TLA fishery in relation to a potential need to limit entry in the offshore sector in that fishery.

To address the Council's request, a discussion paper was prepared by staff for the February 2016 Council meeting. The paper includes historical participation and effort data for the yellowfin sole BSAI TLA fishery. The discussion paper was released to the public on January 15, 2016.