



## **C4 Central GOA Rockfish Adjustment**

April 2022 Council Meeting

### **Action Memo**

Council Staff: Jon McCracken

Action Required: 1. Review the Initial Review Draft of the RIR and determine whether to release for final action  
2. Consider whether to select a Preliminary Preferred Alternative

### **Background**

During the February 2022 meeting, the Council initiated an analysis to modify the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program. The measures under consideration include the following:

- 1) changing the season start date from May 1 to April 1
- 2) eliminating the catcher vessel (CV) cooperative holding cap of 30 percent
- 3) increasing the processing cap to 35 percent – 40 percent of the CV quota share pool for sablefish, Pacific cod, and/or primary rockfish, and
- 4) revising the CV aggregated primary rockfish (Pacific Ocean perch (POP), northern rockfish, and dusky rockfish) harvesting cap by capping only POP harvest at 8 percent of the CV POP share pool.

The purpose of this action is to address changes in the fishery which would increase flexibility and efficiency, improve functionality, and better ensure the total allowable catch (TAC) for the primary rockfish species is fully harvested and landed in Kodiak as intended. Unforeseen changes in the Central GOA rockfish fishery in recent years to include the continuing Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic conditions, impacts to the GOA flatfish market due to the continuing foreign trade tariffs, and the loss of several shorebased processing facilities in Kodiak have resulted in difficulties in processing all the trawl CV rockfish quota, especially later in the season as processors approach their current processing caps or close for seasonal maintenance. In addition, dusky rockfish and northern rockfish CV quota are not fully harvested, so modifying the aggregate harvest cap for the primary rockfish species to apply only to POP could facilitate a greater percentage of dusky rockfish and northern rockfish quota being harvested.