


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: May 29, 2009
SUBJECT: Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program

ESTIMATED TIME 8 HOURS All C-1 Items
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ACTION REQUIRED

Review alternatives for Central GOA Rockfish Program

BACKGROUND

In February 2009, the Council reviewed a discussion paper identifying potential changes to the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program. In addition to outlining possible amendments to the program, the paper noted that the pilot program is scheduled to expire after the 2011 fishing season. Realizing the protracted time needed to develop and analyze a comprehensive management program that could substitute for the existing pilot program after its expiration, the Council is considering the process of developing that substitute program. That program would be fashioned to address adjustments to the existing program, as well as comply with any applicable new Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements. To that end, the Council tasked staff to provide a description of four alternatives that range from taking no action and allowing the program to expire, to redesigning elements of the existing program to satisfy concerns expressed by stakeholders, for the June 2009 meeting. The alternatives specifically include:

1. No action, under which the fishery would revert to management under the License Limitation Program,
2. The current rockfish pilot program,
3. A variation on the existing program with changes to address issues that arise under the new Magnuson-Stevens Act limited access privilege program requirements, and
4. A variation on the existing program with changes to address concerns of various interests.

The attached paper examines these alternatives and includes a brief discussion on the purpose and need for the action (see Item C-1(a)(1)).