

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver *CO*
Executive Director
DATE: January 25, 2013
SUBJECT: GOA Trawl Issues

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| ESTIMATED TIME 8 HOURS (All C-3 items) |
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ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Discussion paper on CGOA Trawl Economic Data Collection

BACKGROUND

Because the Council is considering developing a catch share plan for the Central Gulf of Alaska trawl fishery (C-3(b)), it has also expressed an interest in developing a fast-tracked data collection program that can be implemented before fishing begins under the proposed catch share program. Implementation of data collection before the catch share program implemented would provide the Council, analysts, and the public better historical information to assess the impacts of the proposed amendment.

The Council will need to define the scope of this data collection proposal. It is assumed that the data collection program would apply to harvesters and processors that catch or process groundfish harvested with trawl gear from the Central gulf. The program could be expanded to include participants that only fish in the Western gulf area as well. Extending the program to the Western gulf may not be a substantial burden, if the collection program is limited. It may also be prudent to extend the program to the Western gulf if the Council anticipates that harvests from that area could be included in a catch share program in the future (C-3(c)).

The most efficient means of fast tracking the program would be to draw from other programs that currently collect data. These issues are described in the short discussion paper (Item C-3(a)(1)) developed for this action item. The Council will need to affirm that this approach meets the intended goals. The Council could then choose to task staff with an analysis of the regulatory impacts of this action. Development of the surveys and limited modifications of the Amendment 80 EDR to account for GOA activity will likely require consultation with industry on specific issues regarding their ability to breakout proposed data elements by area, fishery, gear type, or month.