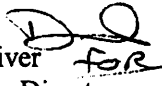


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: March 23, 2009
SUBJECT: GOA Fixed Gear LLP Pacific Cod Endorsements

ESTIMATED TIME 12 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Final action

BACKGROUND

In December 2008, the Council made an initial review of the draft EA/RIR/IRFA for the proposed action to add Pacific cod endorsements to Western and Central GOA fixed gear LLP licenses. The action would require fixed gear licenses to carry a gear-specific Pacific cod endorsement, in addition to the appropriate area endorsement, to participate in the directed Pacific cod fisheries in the Western and Central GOA. Long-term participants in the GOA Pacific cod fisheries have expressed concern that competition in the fisheries has intensified in recent years. Given the large number of fixed gear licenses that have not participated in the fisheries in recent years, long-term participants are concerned about the potential for these latent licenses to re-enter the fisheries. The proposed amendment would address this concern by limiting entry to the GOA Pacific cod fisheries to fixed gear licenses that have participated in recent years and qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement.

At the December 2008 meeting, the Council made several additions and refinements to the motion, and released the document for public review. The Council is scheduled to take final action at this meeting.

New information contained in the April 2009 public review draft includes:

- Background information on the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries, including: season lengths, the number of vessels and licenses participating annually, and annual catch and revenues to fixed gear licenses from the Pacific cod fisheries.
- The number of additional licenses that qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement when catch during the period from Jan 1, 2007 to December 8, 2008 is credited to licenses. Previously, the qualifying periods included 2000 to 2006, 2002 to 2006, 2000 to June 4, 2008, and 2002 to June 4, 2008. There is an option to make any Pacific cod endorsement granted to a license nontransferable if the license qualifies only when catch during 2007 to June 4, 2008 or 2007 to Dec 8, 2008 is included. The endorsement would be extinguished upon transfer of the license to another vessel or person.
- Discussion of an option to exempt vessels using fixed gear from the Pacific cod endorsement requirement during the Western GOA B season; a suboption would exempt pot gear only.

- Discussion of a proposed exemption from the landings thresholds for licenses held by hook-and-line CPs that voluntarily stood down from the GOA Pacific cod fisheries as part of an informal halibut PSC cooperative; and information on the number of Western and Central GOA CP licenses that would qualify for a hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsement under this exemption.
- Discussion of a proposed exemption from the landings thresholds for licenses held by residents of CQE communities; and information on the number of Western and Central GOA licenses that would qualify for a pot or hook-and-line endorsement under this exemption.

The full document was mailed to you on March 4, 2009. The Executive Summary is attached as Item C-1(a), and supplementary tables and figures will be handed out at the meeting as Item C-1(b).