

Good afternoon Jeff. Please consider this an addendum to my EFP application for our continued research on salmon excluders in the Bering Sea. As we have discussed, the timing of our EFP permit became problematic based on the dates in our original applications and the timing issues of the NMFS review and permit issuance process. Under the timing we originally proposed, the permit would have needed to be finalized and effective by August 15, 2014 in order for us to be able to conduct our excluder tests when encounter rates for chum salmon are optimal as per our research objectives. The August 15 start was critical because performance of the excluder when chum encounter rates are highest is the objective of summer/fall work under this new EFP. Given that it has become clear that the permit review and issuance cannot be completed in time for an August 15, 2014 start of the EFP, we hereby request that the permit review and issuance be pushed back in time so that the start of the EFP would be January 20, 2015.

Given the inability to issue the permit would be in hand by August 15th, 2014, this change is now preferable from our perspective for several reasons. This first is that we have to conduct, in conjunction with the AFSC RACE Division, an EFP vessel selection process. If we relied on the original timing of the EFP and then had to then modify it later on it would have potentially made all the effort put into the the vessel selection process null and void. This is because availability of vessels for the EFP is quite dependent on specific timing for the fieldwork and the vessels selected for the test might not have been able to do the EFP under the push back in timing. Likewise, last minute changes to the timing on short notice would be equally problematic for our field project managers and sea samplers. For all of the above reasons, it is simply more prudent to us to start January 2015 than to risk getting the permit finalized and in place later than August 15, 2014.

Under the new timing for the EFP, the field seasons would be as follows: January 20 through June 11, 2015, (pollock A season 2015), June 11 through November 2015 (pollock B Season 2015), and January 20 through June 11 2016 (pollock A season 2016). With this modification to the EFP timing, the catch allowances would be as listed in the table below. These changes reflect the switch from two fall seasons and one winter season to two winter seasons and one fall season.

| Field work season | MT of groundfish (in pollock target) | Number of Chinook salmon | Number of non-chinook salmon |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A season 2015 | 2,500 | 600 | 250* |
| B season 015 | 2,500 | 250* | 2500 |
| A season 2016 | 2,500 | 600 | 250* |

*small allowance of chum or Chinook salmon for seasons when the salmon species is not a predominant focus of the research but can still occur as bycatch