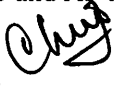


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: November 30, 2010
SUBJECT: Groundfish Management

ESTIMATED TIME 8 HOURS ALL D-1 ITEMS

ACTION REQUIRED

Review discussion paper on GOA Pacific cod jig fishery.

BACKGROUND

At the December 2009 meeting, as part of its final motion on GOA Pacific cod sector allocations, the Council requested a discussion paper on options for revising management of the GOA Pacific cod jig fishery. The Council has recently taken two actions that potentially increase opportunities for jig vessels in the GOA Pacific cod fishery by 1) exempting jig gear from the LLP requirement in the Western and Central GOA, and 2) allocating a percentage of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs to jig gear that is higher than the sector's historical catch levels, with a stairstep provision to increase the allocations if they are fully harvested. The purpose of considering alternative management measures for the jig fishery is to maximize access to the Pacific cod resource by jig participants and other sectors. The discussion paper is attached as Item D-1(a)(1).

The Council may choose to 1) take no action; 2) initiate an amendment to the GOA Groundfish FMP to revise management measures for the GOA Pacific cod jig fishery, or 3) request additional information prior to initiating an analysis. Should the Council choose to move ahead with this issue it should identify a purpose and need statement for the proposed action, goals and objectives for addressing the problem, and a reasonable range of alternatives for analysis.