

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members  
FROM: Chris Oliver *for*  
Executive Director  
DATE: January 21, 2011  
SUBJECT: Amendment 80 Program

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS (all C-2 items)
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ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Receive discussion paper on Amendment 80 vessels and their replacements on GOA sideboards.
- (b) Final action to remove the retention standard from the GRS program.
- (c) Receive report on flexibility of using unspecified reserves in specification process to address Amendment 80 hard caps.

BACKGROUND

- (a) Discussion paper on Amendment 80 vessels and their replacements on GOA sideboards

At its June 2010 meeting, the Council tasked staff to bring back a discussion paper on the potential impacts of Amendment 80 vessels (and their replacement vessels) on GOA flatfish fisheries and West Yakutat and Western GOA rockfish fisheries. The discussion paper was mailed to the Council on January 19, and is attached as Item C-2(a)(1).

- (b) Final action to remove retention standard from the GRS program

In December, the Council released for public review a proposed action to remove the retention standard requirement from the Groundfish Retention Standard (GRS) program. At that meeting, the Council selected Alternative 2 as the preliminary preferred alternative. This alternative would remove the groundfish retention standard requirements from Federal regulations and require the Amendment 80 sector to report to the Council on an annual basis its groundfish retention performance. The proposed action would allow the Amendment 80 sector to internally monitor and administer its groundfish retention to meet the Council's retention goals described in Amendment 79. The public review draft was mailed to the Council in early January. The executive summary of the analysis is attached as Item C-2(b)(1).

- (c) Report on flexibility of using unspecified reserves in specification process to address Amendment 80 hard caps

In December, the Council requested staff prepare a discussion paper of the potential use of non-specified reserves or other alternative management measures for flatfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) by the Amendment 80 sector. The paper examines a

possible method for providing Amendment 80 cooperatives with additional harvest opportunities for flathead sole, rock sole, and yellowfin sole without increasing the total allowable catch (TAC) assigned to those species. This approach would require regulatory changes that would need to be implemented outside of the annual harvest specification process. No changes would be possible before the start of the 2012 fishing season. The discussion paper is attached as **Item C-2(c)(1)**.