


MEMORANDUM

TO: SSC, AP and Council Members

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director

ESTIMATED TIME 20 HOURS

DATE: May 31, 2011

SUBJECT: BSAI Chum salmon bycatch

ACTION REQUIRED

Initial review of BSAI Chum Salmon Bycatch analysis

BACKGROUND

At this meeting the Council will take initial review of the draft EA/RIR/IRFA for the BSAI non-Chinook (chum) Salmon Bycatch Management analysis. The draft analysis was mailed to you on May 16th. The analysis examines four alternatives to reduce chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The executive summary of the EA/RIR is attached as Item C-5(a). An errata sheet for the EA/RIR is attached as Item C-5(b). The report from the Council's outreach effort is attached as Item C-5(c).

Some additional background sections for the EA are attached. These materials provide additional information to be presented in conjunction with the draft analysis at this meeting and will be folded into the EA/RIR for the public review draft. Item C-5(d) is a supplemental section for the EA section 5.1.4 and 5.1.5. This builds upon the information contained in the EA section 5.1.4 on migrations routes for chum salmon in the Bering Sea and provides additional information in section 5.1.5 on carrying capacity of the Bering Sea. Item C-5(e) is an additional appendix section on the development of the area closures alternatives included in this analysis. The draft alternatives for the chum salmon bycatch measures include two different alternative time/area triggered closure configurations. The first was developed by staff in 2008 with iterative review and modification by the Council while the second results from work following the December 2009 Council meeting per request for staff to develop new candidate closures. This was developed further and finalized with complete data through 2010 during the February 2011 Council meeting. The purpose of this appendix is to document the development of the monthly closures under Alternative 3.

Some additional sections are included for the RIR. Two additional sections to Chapter 3 are included. Item C-5(f) provides a description of the importance of commercial chum salmon revenue to western Alaska limited entry permit holders. Item C-5(g) provides harvest and ex-vessel revenue information for Area M. An additional section to Chapter 6 is included as Item C-5(h). This provides additional analysis of the potentially forgone state and local tax revenues. Finally supplemental summary information for the RIR is provided as Item C-5(i). This information builds upon the RIR summary contained in the executive summary of the EA/RIR provided in the document. This information will be combined into the executive summary for the public review draft.

At this meeting the Council will take initial review of the draft EA/RIR/IRFA. The Council took preliminary review of the analysis in February 2011. The Council modified their problem statement at that time and revised the suite of alternatives. The Council's motion from February 2011 is attached as Item C-5(j). The Council may wish to revise the suite of alternative management measures under consideration at this time or may select a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) at this meeting. The Council is not required to select a PPA and may wait until final action to indicate their preferred alternative (PA). Any modifications that are recommended by the Council at this meeting will be analyzed in the document prior to it being released for public review. The Council has tentatively scheduled this action for final action in October 2011 but may modify that schedule at this meeting.