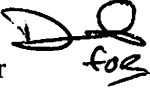


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director

DATE: May 24, 2013

SUBJECT: Freezer longline GOA cod sideboards

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Final action on freezer longline GOA Pacific cod sideboards

BACKGROUND

At the June 2012 meeting, the Council reviewed a discussion paper of the impacts of removing GOA Pacific cod sideboard limits applicable to freezer longliners that were created under the crab rationalization program. An initial review analysis was prepared and presented at the February 2013 Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council added a new option and suboption under Alternative 2. The new option would permanently remove non-AFA crab hook-and-line catcher processor limits for Pacific cod in both western and central GOA for the affected freezer longline (FLL) vessels and LLPs when all GOA FLL endorsed LLP holders reach an agreement to remove these sideboard limits and notify NMFS of this agreement. The notification of the agreement must be completed within 3 years of implementation of the rule. The suboption would suspend the sideboard limits rather than permanently remove these limits. If, in the future, not all GOA FLL endorsed LLP license holders agree on the removal of the non-AFA crab hook-and-line catcher processor limit for Pacific cod in both western and central GOA, these sideboard limits would be reinstated.

The document was revised to include an analysis of the new option and suboption as well as address the SSC comments. The document was mailed on May 3. The executive summary of the analysis is attached as **Item C-2(1)**.