

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

DATE: December 4, 1987

SUBJECT: Sablefish Management

ACTION REQUIRED

Receive progress report on development of alternatives and provide further direction.

BACKGROUND

At the September 23-25, 1987 meeting the Council, by adopting the Statement of Commitment on groundfish management, committed to developing strategies for license limitation and individual transferable quotas in the sablefish longline fishery. The Council intends final implementation of the selected management strategy for the 1989 season.

Since the September meeting, Council staff has been developing the basic structures for the two alternatives. Work has been hampered by the lack of data but should progress to the point that frameworks of model licensing and ITQ systems will be presented to the Council in January.

John Harville has been retained to lead public workshops on sablefish effort management in Seattle, Petersburg, Sitka, Homer and Kodiak. Workshops are expected to last two days each and will provide detailed presentations and group discussions of license limitation and ITQs. We hope the first workshop will be held in Seattle in January.