


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director

DATE: May 22, 2009

SUBJECT: BSAI Pacific cod parallel State waters fishery

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Final action on regulatory amendment to limit access by Federally-permitted vessels to the BSAI Pacific cod parallel State waters fishery.

BACKGROUND

In February 2009, the Council completed initial review of the draft EA/RIR/IRFA for the proposed action to limit access by Federally-permitted vessels to the BSAI Pacific cod parallel State waters fishery. Specifically, the proposed action includes measures to limit access by Federally-permitted hook-and-line and pot catcher processors (CPs) to the BSAI Pacific cod parallel State waters fishery. During 2008, 5 pot and hook-and-line CPs participated in the AI parallel State waters Pacific cod fishery that do not have the Federal permits and LLP licenses needed to participate in the Federal waters fishery. This parallel State waters activity may be circumventing the intent of previous decisions made by the Council regarding license limitation and endorsements, sector allocations, and catch reporting.

At the February 2009 meeting, the Council made several additions and refinements to the motion, and released the document for public review. The Council is scheduled to take final action at this meeting. New information in this document includes:

- An expanded discussion of the potential effects of selecting one or more of the action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and/or 5).
- Information on the number of Federal Fisheries Permits (FFPs) with CP designations that were surrendered during 2002 through 2008, and the gear types used by the vessels holding these permits. No CPs that used trawl gear in the groundfish fisheries surrendered their FFP during this time period. This information is relevant to Alternatives 4 and 5.
- Additional background information requested by the SSC on the potential impacts to protected resources if fishing effort in the BSAI parallel State waters Pacific cod fishery increases.

The analysis was mailed on May 8, 2009; it is attached as Item C-2(1).