

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver *Chris*
Executive Director

ESTIMATED TIME 12 hours (all C-1 items)

DATE: May 23, 2006

SUBJECT: IR/IU

ACTION REQUIRED

- c) Initial Review of MRA adjustments

MRA Adjustments

In April 2006, the Council initiated an analysis to (1) change the MRA accounting interval for yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, "other flatfish," and arrowtooth flounder to occur at the end of a reporting week and (2) to change the MRA accounting interval for the same species list above plus Atka mackerel and Aleutian Islands Pacific Ocean perch to the time of an offload for the non-AFA trawl catcher processor sector. The Council is scheduled to make an initial review of the analysis at this meeting. NMFS staff will be on hand to present the findings of the EA/RIR/IRFA. This document was mailed to you on May 26, 2006.

C-1(c) MRA

The AP recommends that the final send out the EA/RIR/IRFA for public review with modifications as described below and for final action in October.

Components and options for changing MRA accounting

The following components are proposed to address this MRA regulatory amendment:

Component 1: Define Species- Increase the enforcement interval for all groundfish species (excluding pollock, sablefish, Alaska plaice, "other species," and squid). This includes the following species: cod, yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, BSAI Pacific ocean perch, "Other flatfish", and arrowtooth flounder, ~~greenland turbot and rockfish.~~

Option 1: Applies to cod, yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, "Other flatfish" and arrowtooth flounder.

Option 2: Applies to Amendment 80 species (yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch) as well as cod, "Other flatfish," and arrowtooth flounder.

Component 2: Define Sector- Any increase in the current enforcement MRA interval applies only to the non-AFA trawl C/P sector (under the Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law No. 108-447)

Component 3: Define Time Period- The MRA enforcement period for species defined in Component 1 would be increased from any time during a fishing trip to:

Option 1: the end of a fishing trip or (if a suboption is selected whichever option or suboption comes first), or

Option 2: at the time of offload (changed from "point of offload").

Alternatives for MRA enforcement of selected species

Alternative 1. No action, and no change in MRA enforcement period.

Alternative 2. In the BSAI, allow the calculation of the MRA of cod, yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, "other flatfish", and arrowtooth flounder to occur at the end of a fishing trip, for the non-AFA trawl C/P sector.

Option: Include Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch and Atka mackerel.

Alternative 3. In the BSAI, calculate the period of enforcement for MRA of cod, yellowfin sole, rock sole, flathead sole, "other flatfish", and arrowtooth flounder, ~~Atka mackerel and AI pacific ocean perch~~ at the time of offload, (previously read: "at the point of an offload") for the non-AFA trawl C/P sector.

Option: Include Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch and Atka mackerel. ~~Greenland turbot and rockfish species~~

Due to the interaction of Amendment 80 and changes to BSAI MRAs, the AP recommends that the Council request staff to expand the cumulative effects section to address relevant elements under the Council's most current Amendment 80 package. *Motion carried 17/0*

D-4 AI Ecosystem Plan

The AP recommends that the Council endorse the Ecosystem Committee's recommendations regarding initiating development of an Aleutian Islands Fisheries Ecosystem Plan and forming an AI ecosystem team. *Motion passed 15/0/1*

B-7 Protected Species

The AP supports the SSC's intent to thoroughly review and comment on the draft SSL Recovery Plan and recommends the Council request that NMFS extend the comment period to facilitate their efforts. *Motion carried 16/0*

C1 – IRIU Amendment 80

AP recommends moving forward with the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (starting on page 7 of the Action Memo) with the following amendments:

Component 3 and 13— Change the allocation of yellowfin sole to the non-AFA trawl CP sector to 95% of the ITAC and in Component 13, adopt the following table for threshold levels and sector allocations of ITAC above the threshold:

Threshold Level of ITAC	Allocation to Non-AFA Trawl CPs	Limited Access
87,500	87.5%	12.5%
95,000	82%	18%
102,500	76.5%	23.5%
110,000	71%	29%
117,500	65.5%	34.5%
125,000+	60%	40%

Motion carried 10/6

Component 6

For halibut, the AP recommends 6.1.4 with a possible increase to the floor and ceiling for non-AFA trawl CP fleet to account for the impacts of Amendment 85 allocations and with consideration of taxing rollovers of halibut PSC from limited access fishery. *Motion carried 10/6*

Minority Report

The undersigned minority opposes the halibut PSC allocation formula under Option 6.1.4. The formula underfunds the non-AFA trawl CP sector's needs while over-funding the limited access fishery. The non-AFA trawl CP sector may be unable to harvest its allocations of Amendment 80 target species with this limited amount of halibut PSC, and will have no assurance of rollovers from the limited access fishery. This is contrary to the problem statement to "...provide the opportunity for participants in this sector to mitigate the cost, to some degree, associated with bycatch reduction." Signed: Lisa Butzner, Lori Swanson and John Moller

For crab, the AP recommends that an amount equal to the sum of the AFA CV and CP crab sideboards would be available to the limited access fishery. The remainder of the crab caps would be allocated to the non-AFA trawl CP sector. *Motion carried 16/0*

Component 11

Vessel use caps – No vessel shall harvest more than 30% of the non-AFA trawl CP allocation in the aggregate. *Motion carried 15/1*

Component 13

See Component 3

The AP recommends that the data necessary for monitoring and enforcement be collected under Amendment 80. Data collection necessary to evaluate the impacts of Amendment 80 should be developed as a trailing amendment. *Motion carried 16/0*