

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver *DO for*
Executive Director
DATE: September 29, 2010
SUBJECT: Scallop Annual Catch Limits

ESTIMATED TIME
2 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Final action to establish scallop ACLS

BACKGROUND

In June 2009 the Council tasked staff to begin analyses necessary to bring FMPs into compliance with new annual catch limit (ACL) and accountability measure (AM) requirements for ending overfishing of federal fisheries under the revised guidelines for National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Compliance with ACL requirements for the Alaska Scallop FMP requires substantive changes to that FMPs primarily in order to incorporate an ABC control rule into the annual specifications process as well as to address the necessary approach to manage non-weather-vane scallop stocks.

The Council reviewed the initial review draft of this analysis in June 2010. The analysis has been revised to address SSC recommendations as well as the Council direction to include additional information on where Status Quo addresses MSA and NS1 guideline provisions. The public review draft of the Scallop ACL analysis was mailed to you on September 14th. The executive summary of this analysis is attached as Item C-4(a). A revised section 4.7 (Economic Effects) is attached as Item C-4(b).

The Scallop Plan Team met on September 28th to review the analysis. The report from the Scallop Plan Team is attached at Item C-4(c). At this meeting the Council will take final action on this analysis in order to meet the statutory requirements for implementation by the start of the 2011 scallop fishing season. The Council must select their final preferred alternative (PA) at this meeting. A section of the document (Section 2.2) which provides additional information per Council request on addressing Federal requirements as well as decision points for the Council's selection of a PA is attached as Item C-4(d).