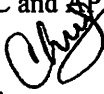


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: September 25, 2013
SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME
4 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Review tasking and committees and provide direction.
- (b) Receive Ecosystem Committee Report on EBFM Workplan.

BACKGROUND

Committees and Tasking

The list of Council committees is attached as Item D-2(a). Item D-2(b) is the three meeting outlook and Item D-2(c) provides a review of the items in the “on-deck circle” from the 3-meeting outlook. An updated work plan for implementing the programmatic groundfish management policy is attached as Item D-2(d). An updated project and staff workload table is attached as Item D-2(e). The Council may wish to discuss priorities for completing ongoing projects, as well as any new tasks assigned during the course of this meeting.

Item D-2(f) was prepared to assist the Council in its determination to schedule the next meeting of the IFQ Implementation Committee and its charge. While the Council has completed its actions on several major and minor actions affecting halibut fisheries, NMFS and Council staff continues to complete the Secretarial Review drafts, proposed rules, responses to public comments, and final rulemakings for those actions under Secretarial review. Two proposals from the 2009 proposal cycle remain at the discussion paper stage (allow pots for the GOA sablefish IFQ fishery and revise sablefish A share caps).

Several new IFQ proposals have been submitted out of cycle (Item D-2(g)). The Council also may wish to refer the proposed regulatory change for carrying an observer while fishing in multiple regulatory areas, which was reviewed by the Observer Advisory Committee in its report under Agenda C-1, as a proposal for the IFQ Implementation Committee. Previously the Council has suggested that it may wish to convene its IFQ committee, perhaps in conjunction with the Council’s December 2013 meeting, to review the remaining two 2009 proposals in the context of new proposals. The Council may wish to call for additional proposals between this meeting and the next committee meeting in order to maintain a clear public process for soliciting proposals. Item D-2(h) is a resubmitted request from Melvin Grove to establish a closed long-line period in PWS areas 230 and 240.

Ecosystem Committee Report on EBFM Workplan

The Ecosystem Committee met at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle on September 16-17, 2013. The Committee discussed whether the Council should consider developing an EBM vision statement, and also talked about operationalizing EBM in specific Council projects. The agenda is attached as Item D-2(i), and the minutes will be distributed during the meeting.