

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members  
FROM: Chris Oliver *Chris*  
Executive Director  
DATE: March 22, 2011  
SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Issues

ESTIMATED TIME  
8 HOURS TOTAL  
(ALL D-2 ITEMS)

ACTION REQUIRED

*Mitigate Brown + Mandy Gandy  
9/22/11*

- (c) Receive a draft EA and approve an EFP to test salmon excluder devices in the eastern Bering Sea pollock fishery.

BACKGROUND

Gauvin and Associates LLC has applied to the Alaska Region of NMFS for issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for continued research on salmon excluder devices in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery. This EFP would allow continued development and testing of salmon excluder devices with focused efforts on reducing chum salmon bycatch and refinement to the Chinook salmon excluder device for use in the walleye pollock fishery.

The experiment would be conducted from Fall 2011 through Fall 2012. The primary objective would be the development and testing of an excluder that reduces chum salmon bycatch rates without significant negative effects on pollock fishing. An excluder would also reduce potential effects on the salmon stocks and cost to the pollock fishing industry. Additionally, a secondary objective under this EFP would be to examine two possible improvements to the Chinook salmon bycatch reduction performance of the final version of the Chinook salmon excluder developed under EFP 08-02.

A draft EA for the EFP was prepared by NMFS staff and was sent out in a Council mailing on March 11, 2011. An errata sheet is provided as Item D-2(c)(1) for that analysis. A corrected version is posted on our website.