



D5 Central Gulf Rockfish Reauthorization

December 2018 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Sarah Marrinan
Action Required: 1. Review discussion paper
2. Adopt purpose and need statement and alternatives

Background

The Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Rockfish Program as currently managed is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2021. If the Council does not take positive action to recommend the continuation of the current CGOA Rockfish Program management structure or a modified management program for the CGOA rockfish fisheries, these fisheries will revert back to the License Limitation Program (LLP) license management structure. If the current program or a modified version of the program is to continue, the Council must develop an amendment to the GOA groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). In order for a final rule to be implemented by October 2021 and avoid confusion in the management of these fisheries, staff recommend the Council aim to take final action by April 2020.

This discussion paper is intended to begin the decision-making of if and how the Rockfish Program will be reauthorized. It includes sections to aid the Council in developing a purpose and need statement. This discussion paper also suggests two implied alternatives:

- 1) No action (revert back to an LLP limited access fishery) and
- 2) Reauthorize the CGOA Rockfish Program with current management framework (with options to modify the sunset date).

Building from information provided in the CGOA Rockfish Program review, the discussion paper lists proposed changes that have been raised by NMFS, stakeholders, and analysts, demonstrating how these proposed amendments might be considered in the Council's alternatives and options. Further public testimony and discussion may highlight additional potential amendments to the program. Staff suggests that if there is a desire to consider initiating analysis of substantial changes to the existing management structure of the Rockfish Program, the Council articulate them as (an) additional alternative(s). If proposed changes cannot yet be articulated into alternatives and options, the Council may choose to include a list of issues for further analysis. These issues could then move along with the analytical package and potentially be incorporated into an alternative at a later iteration.

This agenda item includes a discussion paper with two appendices: Appendix 1 is the CGOA Rockfish Program motion adopted by the Council in June 2010. Appendix 2 is a table demonstrating the key differences between the Pilot Program and the current Rockfish Program.