

Supplemental

2.2 Purpose and Need for Action

At the June 2018 meeting, the Council, while conducting an initial review of the amendment package to require full retention of rockfish for fixed gear catcher vessels operating in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska, adjusted the purpose and need statement to better reflect the proposed action. Provided below is the revised purpose and need statement from the June 2018 meeting:

Fixed-gear CVs in the BSAI and GOA discard a proportion of their incidental catch of rockfish (Sebastes and Sebastolobus spp.). The greatest amount of discarded rockfish occurs in the GOA hook-and-line fisheries. Requiring the full retention of rockfish would improve identification of species catch composition when CVs are subject to electronic monitoring, improve data collection by providing more accurate estimates of total catch, reduce incentives to discard rockfish, may reduce waste, reduce overall enforcement burden, and provide more consistency in regulations.

The above revised purpose and need statement replaces the purpose and need statement included in the January 14, 2019, Public Review Draft for Full Retention of Rockfish for Fixed Gear Catcher Vessels. The revisions to the purpose and need statement were minor clarifications for increased precision of proposed action. The revisions do not change the purpose of the proposed action identified by the Council or affect how the analysis of the alternatives meets the Council's purpose and need for the proposed action.