Brief Statement of Proposal –

Proposal for temporal dispersion of area 541/542 Atka Mackerel for the trawl limited access fleet:

Upon implementation, Am. 80 provides for a separate allocation of Atka mackerel to the limited access (non-H&G) fleet in area 541 and 542. This proposal is intended to provide an alternative to the platoon system for the limited access fishery. Trawl vessels participating in the limited access fishery would be required to register for the fishery and would be subject to a trip limit when directed fishing for Atka mackerel of one delivery per day not to exceed 100 tons, for a maximum of 3 deliveries per week. In any week in which more than 3 vessels register, NMFS would limit participation by lottery.

Objectives of Proposal -

The Am. 80 allocation of Atka mackerel to the limited access fleet is intended to provide opportunity to non-AFA CVs not covered by AFA sideboards. These vessels are expected to prosecute the fishery in a different fashion than the H&G CP vessels that are expected to be operating in a cooperative mode. With a separate allocation, CVs likely will fish at different times than H&G CPs, thus platooning with the H&G fleet would be problematic.

Justification for Council Action –

Adjustments to Sea lion mitigation measures require council action.

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal –

This proposal will provide an alternative means of achieving temporal dispersion of effort by the limited access in the harvest of its share of the 541/542 Atka mackerel allocation.

Allowing the limited access fleet to fish outside the platoon system will increase temporal dispersion of the Atka mackerel harvest.

Possible Alternative Solutions -

An alternative solution might be an inter-cooperative agreement between the Am. 80 H&G coop/s and the non-AFA CVs that limits daily harvest rates.

Supporting Data and Other Information –

None at this time.

Off-setting Proposals –

None.

Submitted by:

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