

Council Motion December 2006

Seabird Avoidance Measures EA/RIR/IRFA

Motion to release the EA/RIR/IRFA document for public review with the following modifications:

1. Add an option to alternatives 2 and 3 to establish a weather safety standard for small vessels (26-55 feet) of 30 knots, such that in winds exceeding 30 knots, the use of seabird avoidance devices is discretionary.
2. Add an option to alternatives 2 and 3 that all vessels 26-32 feet are only required to use a buoy bag in Area 4E.
Sub-option: All vessels 26-32 feet are exempt from seabird avoidance regulations in Area 4E.
NOTE: Without this modification, alternatives 2 and 3 would require vessels 26-32 feet with masts, poles, or rigging to use a streamer line with a standard.
3. Alternative 3, Part B is modified as follows:
Eliminate seabird avoidance gear requirements in inside waters as in alternative 2, except in the following areas:
Chatham Strait – Require the use of seabird avoidance gear in Chatham Strait as described by:
 - a. ADF&G groundfish statistical areas 345603 and 345534; OR
 - b. Inside waters south of a latitude line from the northern-most ‘species of conservation concern’ observation, or other suitable line (this includes all of 345534 and part of 345603)
4. Incorporate SSC comments to the extent possible.