**Council motion**
**C-2 Chum salmon PSC reduction measures**
**March 30, 2012**

The Council requests the following changes to the draft EA/RIR/IRFA. The intent is to revise the analysis and schedule another initial review prior to final action.

1. Make Alternative 3, Component 1, a separate alternative (new Alternative 3).

2. Create a new Alternative 4 which includes Components 1 – 6 of the current Alternative 3.

   Option: General objectives and goals for the RHS program would be in regulation, but the specific parameters of the RHS program would not be in regulation.

3. Include analysis of specific  modifications to the RHS program:
   - Modification of RHS to operate at a vessel level, platform level for mothership coop
   - Prioritize RHS closures to best protect western Alaska origin chum and Chinook salmon using best information available. Use identification tools, for example:
     - Non-genetic identifiers like length and weight;
     - Genetic identification of bycatch on an as close to real time analysis as possible;
     - Use information being developed (i.e. Dr. Guyon's ongoing research to identify areas and times more likely to have higher proportions of Western Alaska chum salmon);
   - Floor on the base rate.
   - Speed up shoreside data flow by obtaining trip chum counts as soon as they become available.
   - Increase chum salmon protection measures during June/July. For example:
     - Weekly threshold amounts that would trigger additional protection measures when bycatch is abnormally high;
     - Initiate "Western Alaska chum core closure areas." These areas would trigger during abnormally high encounters of chums believed to be returning to Western Alaska river systems;
   - Limit weekly base rate increases to 20% of the current base rate.
   - Stop RHS closures in a region (east **or** west of 168° west Longitude) as Chinook salmon bycatch levels start to increase in the later part of the B season.
   - Improvements to the tier system – consider a range of incentives that would lead to different levels of bycatch reduction.

4. Make the following revisions to the Draft EA/RIR/IRFA:
   - The analysis should provide information and rationale on the necessary provisions or objectives of the RHS that would need to be in regulation under new Alternatives 3 and 4.

- Provide additional qualitative analysis on the use of AEQ and how the impacts to individual river systems may vary annually, depending upon when and where bycatch occurs. While the limitations of the genetic data only allow for large aggregate groupings by region, the composition of the bycatch may not be evenly distributed among the river systems included in a single region, and therefore may have differential impacts within the region that may exceed the average impact rates by region provided in the AEQ analysis.

- Include information from Wolfe et. al. about projections for future subsistence demand for chum salmon in the AYK region.

- Under Alternative 4, provide spatial analysis of the combined effect of the triggered area closures and the closures implemented under the RHS to visually display the available fishing areas given the layering of potential chum salmon closures under Alternative 4.

- Include the recommendations of the Council's Enforcement Committee regarding issues of deck-loading, regulatory corrections, need to address observer viewing requirements and removal of salmon at end haul delivery [*note see minutes from the Enforcement Committee for detailed recommendations*].

The Council also recommends that staff incorporate the SSC comments regarding the EA, in particular the comment that the analysts made use of a variable (lambda) to express how the pollock fleet would respond to area closures in June and July by either waiting to fish until later in the season (lambda = 0) or seeking to fish for pollock outside of the closed area (lambda ranging from greater than 0 to 1). The Council recommends that in addition to scenarios with a lambda of zero, scenarios with lambda of 1 be presented in the summary tables that compare outcomes of the alternatives to represent a range of possible reactions of the pollock fleet to the alternatives. The Council recommends that the analysts incorporate the SSC recommendations on the RIR as practicable.

The Council recommends that NMFS continue to prioritize and fund the analysis of the Chinook and chum genetic composition data. The Council also recommends using the pre-2011 observer sampling protocol to obtain salmon length data.