

Observer Program Council motion

October 6, 2009

The Council forwards the following alternatives for analysis. (*Changes to the alternatives from the December 2008 Council motion are shown in underline and strikethrough.*)

Alternative 1. Status quo; continue the current service delivery model.

Alternative 2. GOA-based restructuring alternative. Restructure the program in the GOA, including shoreside processors; and include all halibut and <60' vessels participating in groundfish fisheries in the GOA and BSAI. Vessels in the restructured program would pay an ex-vessel value based fee. Retain current service delivery model for vessels ≥60' and shoreside processors in the BSAI.

Alternative 3. Coverage-based restructuring alternative. Restructure the program for all fisheries and shoreside processors with coverage of less than 100 percent. Vessels in the restructured program would pay an ex-vessel value based fee. Leave vessels and processors with at least 100 percent coverage under the current service delivery model.

Alternative 4. Comprehensive restructuring alternative with hybrid fee system. Restructure program for all groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska. Vessels and shoreside processors with 100 percent or greater coverage would pay a daily observer fee; ~~and~~ vessels and shoreside processors with less than 100 percent coverage would pay an ex-vessel value based fee.

Alternative 5. Comprehensive restructuring alternative that would assess the same ex-vessel value based fee on all vessels and shoreside processors in the groundfish and halibut fisheries in the GOA and BSAI.

Forward the OAC recommendations for further development, discussion, and expansion of several sections of the restructuring implementation plan, as outlined in Section VI of the September 2009 OAC report. The Council requests the OAC convene prior to the February Council meeting to review the revised document, recognizing that the implementation plan will eventually be folded into the overall analysis.

Forward the SSC recommendation of a more detailed analysis of proposed funding mechanisms, including scenario analyses of likely variation in catch and price.