

**Council Motion**

**D-1(a) Management of the GOA Pacific Cod Jig Fishery**

**December 13, 2010**

**Problem Statement:**

*The Council has taken two recent actions that will potentially increase opportunities for jig vessels. The GOA Fixed Gear LLP Recency action exempts jig vessels, subject to gear limits, from the LLP requirement in the Western and Central GOA. The GOA Pacific Cod Sector Allocation action allocated a percentage of the Western and Central GOA Pacific cod TACs that is higher than the sector's historical catch levels with a stairstep provision to increase the allocations if they are fully harvested.*

*A number of factors have contributed to limiting jig harvests in both state and federally managed fisheries. The timing of the Pacific cod A and B seasons may have limited the participation of jig vessels in the parallel and Federal fisheries of the GOA. Additionally, the State waters jig allocation has gone uncaught in some years, potentially due to the lack of availability of Pacific cod inside three miles.*

*The jig fishery provides entry level opportunity into GOA fisheries and contributes to a diversified fishing portfolio for combination fishing vessels throughout coastal Alaskan communities. Restructuring management of the jig fishery could ensure that the jig fleet has access to fully harvest both state and federal fisheries allocations.*

**Alternative 1: Status quo.**

Distinct Parallel/Federal and State waters fisheries will continue to exist and the two fisheries will be managed as follows when the GOA Pacific cod sector allocations action is implemented:

The Federal TAC will be divided into an A/B season of 60%/40%. The A season will open on Jan 1 and close when the TAC is reached or on March 15. The State jig fishery will open either when the Federal season closes due to TAC or on March 15. The Federal B season will open on June 10.

**Alternative 2: Reverse parallel fishery.**

Federal management authority delegated to the State of Alaska to manage the Pacific cod jig GHL fisheries in the Western and Central GOA from 0-200 miles.