

**Council Motion**  
**Agenda Item D-1: AFA and non-AFA Small Sideboard Elimination**  
**June 12, 2017**

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis:

**Purpose and Need Statement**

*Many of the sideboards for non-exempt American Fisheries Act (AFA) vessels and Crab Rationalization Program vessels for groundfish species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska are not opened for directed fishing because the sideboard limits are not large enough to support a directed fishery. Additionally, other sideboards are fully allocated to programs such as the Amendment 80 Program or have no prohibited species catch apportioned to them so therefore NMFS cannot open them to directed fishing. NMFS must annually close these sideboard fisheries to directed fishing through the groundfish harvest specifications. Closing these sideboard fisheries could be simplified administratively by prohibiting directed fishing by regulation. There are also some sideboard limits that may not be required due to other regulatory limits on harvests. The purpose of this action is to simplify the administration of the fisheries by establishing prohibited fishery closures instead of sideboard limits, or by removing sideboard limits that are no longer required.*

**Alternative 1. No Action**

**Alternative 2.** Prohibit directed fishing by regulation for all species in Tables 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 3-1 of the discussion paper, except catcher/processors fishing for Central Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel.

Option 1. Remove the sideboard limit on AFA catcher/processors for Central Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel.