

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON SEAVIRD AVOIDANCE REGULATIONS

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) has reviewed the documents associated with Agenda Item H.1.b and also received a summary report from Mr. Steve Copps.

The EC endorses Alternative 4. This alternative adopts the “Alaska style” seabird avoidance regulations for vessels 55 feet in length or greater, minus the provisions related to the sinking of baited hooks and offal discharge. These provisions are very subjective and difficult to enforce. Mr. Copps advised the EC that industry education and outreach could be effectively utilized to assist with seabird avoidance related to these two items. The EC recommends that the threshold for a rough weather exemption be determined by the issuance of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service forecast of a gale warning or higher for the maritime location currently being fished. The EC believes that this sets a standard for the rough weather exemption that is easier to enforce, as opposed to a specific wind speed threshold. All vessels have communications equipment that can easily obtain a weather forecast.

PFMC
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