

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

C7: Sculpin Management

Council Motion

October 6, 2019

The Council adopts the following alternative and option for final action. The preferred alternative is indicated in **bold**.

Alternative 1: Status quo. Continue to manage sculpins as a target species in both the BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs. OFL, ABC, and TAC will continue to be set for sculpins in both areas.

Alternative 2: Designate sculpins in both BSAI and GOA FMPs as non-target ecosystem component species. Establishment of OFL, ABC, and TAC will no longer be required.

Remove regulations referring to sculpins as target species and implement regulations for the groundfish fishery that:

- **Prohibit directed fishing for sculpins,**
- **Establish a sculpin maximum retainable amount (MRA) when directed fishing for other fisheries at a level to discourage retention while allowing flexibility to prosecute other fisheries:**
 - Option 1 MRA = 2%
 - Option 2 MRA = 10%
 - Option 3 MRA = 20%**
- **Require recordkeeping and reporting to monitor and report catch and discards of sculpin species annually.**