

Groundfish Programmatic Workplan

The Council conducted its most recent *comprehensive* review of its Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy¹ (Policy) at its February 2019 meeting², highlighting Council activities in calendar year 2018 that continue to fulfill the Priorities and Objectives established in the Policy. Annual Policy review is a requirement of the GOA and BSAI Groundfish FMPs, and the Council fulfills that requirement through the Programmatic Workplan, a concise tool that presents Council actions relative to Policy Objectives and is provided at every Council meeting. As determined by the Council in February 2019, comprehensive review of the Policy is done on a three-year cycle in order to accommodate the multi-year lifespan of major Council actions. The next 3-year comprehensive review will be conducted at the Council’s February 2022 meeting.

The table below provides a two-meeting (previous and current) snapshot of the Programmatic Workplan, listing only Council actions relate to the Groundfish FMPs and indicating their correspondence to Programmatic Management Objectives. Those Management Objectives were intended to support decision-making under the Groundfish FMPs. Although the Policy’s EBFM approach is reflected in actions outside of the Groundfish FMPs, these other actions are not included in the table. The tabular presentation of the Programmatic Workplan below as well as prior versions of the table are available on the Council website: (www.npfmc.org).

** Not included in the Table: 2021 Scallop SAFE

		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	February 2021	April 2021
1. Prevent Overfishing	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.	SSC Risk Table Workshop	
	2. Continue to use the optimum yield caps for the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries.		
	3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range.		
2. Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities	6. Promote conservation while providing for optimum yield in terms of the greatest overall benefit to the nation with particular reference to food production, and sustainable opportunities for recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing participants and fishing communities.	BSAI Pacific cod pot CP – <i>Final Action</i> Community Engagement Committee Recommendations	Coop Reports Halibut ABM – Init. Rev. IFQ Access Opportunities RQE funding mechanism AFSC Community Report
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures	Crab PSC limit reductions – Preliminary/Initial Review	
	9. Promote increased safety at sea.	USCG Report	USCG Report NIOSH Report

¹ <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/node/33552>

² <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/363>

		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	February 2021	April 2021
3. Ecosystem - based Fishery Management	10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.	Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Taskforce Reports	NMFS briefing on EO 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis, Section 216(c)
	11. Improve the procedure to adjust acceptable biological catch levels as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors.		
	13. Incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions, as appropriate.		
4. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.	Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology – Initial/Final Action	Coop Reports Halibut ABM Salmon bycatch reports
	20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.	Crab PSC limit reductions – Preliminary/Initial Review Small sablefish release – Initial Review	
	21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.	EFP applications and reports	
5. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	24. Encourage programs to review status of endangered or threatened marine mammal stocks and fishing interactions and develop fishery management measures as appropriate.	Protected species report Marine mammal status – Review	Portion of NMFS Management Report on seabird bycatch
6. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	27. Identify and designate essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Act rules, and mitigate fishery impacts as necessary and practicable to continue the sustainability of managed species.		Portion of NMFS Management Report on EFH update
7. Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	31. Provide economic and community stability to harvesting and processing sectors through fair allocation of fishery resources.	BSAI Pacific cod pot CP – <i>Initial Review</i> Small sablefish release – Initial Review PSC limit reductions – Preliminary/Initial Review	Coop Reports Halibut ABM GOA Sablefish Pot fishery 3-year review IFQ access opportunities IFQ Committee report SSPT EDR workshop report
	32. Maintain the license limitation program, modified as necessary, and further decrease excess fishing capacity and overcapitalization by eliminating latent licenses and extending programs such as community or rights-based management to some or all groundfish fisheries.		
	33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.		

		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	February 2021	April 2021
8. Increase Alaska Native & Community Consultation	36. Consider ways to enhance collection of local and traditional knowledge from communities, and incorporate such knowledge in fishery management where appropriate.	Community Engagement Committee Recommendations	AFSC Community Report
	37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management.	FEP Taskforce on LK/TK/Subsistence update	
9. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources.	Small sablefish release – Initial Review	
	39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.		
	40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.	Groundfish Economic SAFE reports	SSPT EDR workshop report
	42. Encourage a coordinated, long-term ecosystem monitoring program to collect baseline information and compile existing information from a variety of ongoing research initiatives, subject to funding and staff availability.		Research Priorities
	43. Cooperate with research institutions such as the North Pacific Research Board in identifying research needs to address pressing fishery issues.		
	44. Promote enhanced enforceability.		Enforcement Committee report
	45. Continue to cooperate and coordinate management and enforcement programs with the Alaska Board of Fish, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement, International Pacific Halibut Commission, Federal agencies, and other organizations to meet conservation requirements; promote economically healthy and sustainable fisheries and fishing communities; and maximize efficiencies in management and enforcement programs through continued consultation, coordination, and cooperation.	NMFS Management Report NOAA GC Report AFSC Report ADF&G Report USCG Report USFWS Report IPHC Report	NMFS Management Report NOAA GC Report AFSC Report ADF&G Report USCG Report USFWS Report US Navy Report NIOSH Report