

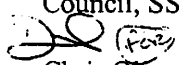
Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

Agenda Item C-1 PSEIS Workplan

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1 ✓	Denna Parker	MCA
2 ✓	Dorothy Childers	Amcc
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM:  Chris Oliver
Executive Director
DATE: January 30, 2007
SUBJECT: Groundfish Workplan

ESTIMATED TIME 2 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Review and adopt revised workplan

BACKGROUND

In 2004, the Council developed a workplan to bring groundfish management in line with its revised management policy (adopted as part of the PSEIS). This workplan is reviewed by the Council at each meeting as part of the staff tasking agenda item, and is posted on the Council's website. In December 2006, the Council revised the workplan, based on SSC comments and a staff report illustrating the Council's progress on implementing the workplan.

The workplan as amended is attached as Item C-1(a). An additional attachment, Item C-1(b), illustrates how the revised workplan differs from the 2004 original. The Council's action is to review and adopt the revised workplan.

DRAFT Revised Groundfish Workplan

- 1. Prevent Overfishing**
 - a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species
 - b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches
- 2. Preserve Food Web**
 - a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators
 - b. reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits
 - c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan
- 3. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste**
 - a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA fisheries
 - b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA fisheries
 - c. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives
 - d. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species
 - e. develop appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available
- 4. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals**
 - a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSLs including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA
 - b. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate
- 5. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat**
 - a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures
 - b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures
 - c. call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle
 - d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas
- 6. Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources**
 - a. eliminate latent licenses in BSAI and GOA
 - b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries
- 7. Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation**
 - a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process
 - b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions
- 8. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring, and Enforcement**
 - a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs
 - b. develop programs for economic data collection that aggregate data
 - c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers

DRAFT Revised Groundfish Workplan
 Illustrates changes from existing workplan: additions in italics, deletions in strikeout

General Priority (in no particular order)	Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status (updated 1-18-07)	Comments on revisions
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to participate in the development of "lumping and splitting" criteria management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	GOA "other species" and approved "other species" break-out analysis initiated	rewording of priority action
	b. consider new harvest strategies for rockfish evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches	4	AFSC presenting response to CIE review of rockfish harvest strategy (Feb 07)	revised priority action for rockfish reflects CIE review's comments on rockfish harvest strategy
	c. set TAC at or < ABC	4	Amendment approved by Council	REMOVE: action completed
Preserve Food Web	a. revisit calculation of OY caps	11, 4	research paper presented to SSC Feb 05	REMOVE: action completed
	b. encourage recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in the development and implementation of key ecosystem indicators as part of stock assessment process	10	ecosystem SAFE presented annually. AI FEP to identify ecosystem indicators for the Aleutians	simplify wording; also, indicators may have broader utility than just stock assessment process
	* Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits	11		IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
	* develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan	13	Initial review scheduled for Apr 07	IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. complete rationalization of GOA fisheries	17 (32)	rockfish demonstration program approved, analysis initiated for Pacific cod sector allocations	REMOVE: moved to fishery resource section below, also combined with bycatch action 'c'
	b. complete rationalization of BSAI non-pollock fisheries	17 (32)	partially addressed through IREU Amendment 59 and Pacific cod sector allocations (approved)	REMOVE: actions taken to assist in bycatch reduction
	c. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA fisheries	15		rewording of priority action to combine with bycatch action 'a' above
	d. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA fisheries	20		rewording to focus on PSC limits in GOA fisheries
	e. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17	revised ranking system for species of concern	no change proposed
	* develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19		IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
	* encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16		IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
	* develop appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	Initial review of revised regulatory closure areas scheduled for Jun 07	IDEA FOR NEW ACTION

DRAFT Revised Groundfish Workplan
Illustrates changes from existing workplan: additions in italics, deletions in strikethrough

General Priority (in no particular order)	Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status (updated 1-18-07)	Comments on revisions
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSL including development of an EIS and participation in the FMP-level ESA jeopardy-consultation process under the ESA	23	SSL committee recommendations on proposals for revised mitigation measures (Oct 07); NMFS is preparing a Biological Opinion revising SSL recovery plan	rewording for increased accuracy
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23		if new BIoP and reevaluation of recovery plan are sufficient, remove; if Council wants reconsideration of CH, retain
	* <i>monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate</i>	24, 25		IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	a. complete EFH action as scheduled	27	Amendment approved by Council; BS mitigation measures discussion Dec 06	REMOVE: action completed
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries increased mapping of benthic environment	29	part of Council's research priorities, approved in April 06	REMOVE: action completed
	c. develop and adopt definitions of MPAs, marine reserves, etc.	30	Marine Fisheries Review paper in press	REMOVE: national committee is developing definitions
	d. review all existing closures to see if these areas qualify for MPAs under established criteria	30	Marine Fisheries Review paper in press	REMOVE: review completed
	e. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	Marine Fisheries Review paper in press, salmon bycatch analysis ongoing	no change proposed
	* <i>consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures</i>	27	Initial review scheduled for April 07	IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
	* <i>call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle</i>	27	discussion in April 07; currently not a HAPC process scheduled for 2009	IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
	* <i>request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas</i>	27		IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	* <i>eliminate latent licenses in BSAI and GOA</i>	32	preliminary review of BSAI and GOA latent latency in Feb 07; discussion paper on GOA latent licenses in Feb 07	IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
	* <i>consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries</i>	32, 34	discussion paper on sector allocations for GOA Pacific cod in Feb 07	IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation	* <i>Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process</i>	37		IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
	* <i>Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions</i>	37		IDEA FOR NEW ACTION
Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance	38, 39	discussion in Feb 07	no change proposed
	b. develop programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	socioeconomic data collection workshop April 07; partially addressed in BSAI Amendment	no change proposed
	c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers	41	global VMS analysis preliminary review in Feb 07	no change proposed

DRAFT Revised Groundfish Workplan - CORRECTION

1. Prevent Overfishing

- a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species
- b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, including for rockfish
- c. consider spatial management for rockfish.

2. Preserve Food Web

- a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators
- b. reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits
- c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan

3. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste

- a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA fisheries
- b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA fisheries
- c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards
- d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives
- e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species
- f. develop appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available

4. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals

- a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSLs including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA
- b. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate

5. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat

- a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures
- b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures
- c. call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle
- d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas

6. Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources

- a. eliminate latent licenses in BSAI and GOA
- b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries

7. Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation

- a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process
- b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions

8. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring, and Enforcement

- a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs
- b. develop programs for economic data collection that aggregate data
- c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers