

Council Activity Related to Groundfish Workplan

D4 Alternative 2 Workplan  
FEBRUARY 2016

General Priority	Management Objectives	Current Activity	Cumulative Management Actions
Prevent Overfishing	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.		<p><b>FMP amendments related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● revisions to the harvest specifications process (B48/G48)</li> <li>● moved skates to target category (G63)</li> <li>● biologically-based specifications for GOA “other species” category (G69, G79)</li> <li>● amendments to bring FMPs in line with annual catch limit requirements, including moving other species into target category, and creating an ecosystem component category (B95, G87)</li> <li>● amendment to include grenadiers in the ecosystem component of the FMPs (B100, G91)</li> <li>● Restructured observer program reduces bias in catch accounting (B86, G76)</li> <li>● Provide flexibility for flatfish specifications (B105)</li> </ul> <p><b>Regulatory amendments related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Annual specifications for setting harvest levels</li> </ul> <p><b>Other management actions related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regular Center for International Experts reviews for stock assessments and harvest strategies</li> <li>● Ongoing work on accounting for uncertainty in control rules</li> <li>● Council policy and ongoing discussion of spatial management for stocks</li> </ul>
	2. Continue to use the 2 million mt optimum yield cap for the BSAI groundfish fisheries.		
	3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range.		
	4. Provide for periodic reviews of the adequacy of $F_{40}$ and adopt improvements, as appropriate.	Ongoing - AFSC responds to CIE reviews as part of specs process	
	5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories.	<p>2009 - BSAI skates TAC breakout                  2010 - Ecosystem component created                  2014 - Grenadiers to EC                  2015 - Working paper on uncertainty in control rules tasked                  2015 - BSIERP MSE modeling underway                  Ongoing - Spatial management policy guides species complex and subarea considerations                  Pending - Squid to EC - Init. Review in 2016</p>	
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.		These considerations are applied to all management actions.
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures.		
	8. Promote fair and equitable allocation of identified available resources in a manner such that no particular sector, group or entity acquires an excessive share of the privileges.		
	9. Promote increased safety at sea.		
Preserve Food Web	10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.	<p>2010, 2011 - AI and EBS ecosystem assessments developed                  2015 - GOA Ecosystem Report Card                  Ongoing - Ecosystem SAFE presented annually                  Pending - BS FEP will include ecosystem indicators and triggers</p>	<p><b>Other management actions related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Uncertainty and ecosystem considerations taken into account during stock assessment and harvest specifications</li> <li>● Ecosystem indices reported and assessed in annual ecosystem SAFE report</li> <li>● Adoption of the Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan, and development of a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan</li> <li>● Development of ecosystem synthesis reports for the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands ecosystem areas, and ongoing development of report for the Gulf of Alaska</li> <li>● Adoption, as Council policy, of an ecosystem vision statement</li> </ul>
	11. Improve the procedure to adjust acceptable biological catch levels as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors.	<p>Pending - Working paper on uncertainty in control rules - awaiting NS Guidelines revisions                  Ongoing - BSIERP MSE modeling</p>	
	12. Continue to protect the integrity of the food web through limits on harvest of forage species.		
	13. Incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions, as appropriate.	<p>2007 - FEP and brochure published                  2011 - AI ecosystem assessment developed                  2015 - BS FEP</p>	

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<b>Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste</b>	14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.	2011 - National Bycatch Report 2013 - Restructured Obs. Program 2015 - Bycatch limits for BS Chinook revised - pending rulemaking Ongoing - Review of Obs. Annual Deployment Plan	<b>FMP amendments related to this goal statement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Groundfish retention standard (B79, subsequently removed)</li> <li>● Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch restrictions (B84, B91)</li> <li>● Trawl sweep elevation requirement in the flatfish fisheries (B94, G89)</li> <li>● GOA area closures to reduce bairdi crab bycatch (G89)</li> <li>● Establishment of PSC limits for Chinook salmon in the GOA trawl pollock and non-pollock fisheries (G93, G97)</li> <li>● Reduce PSC limits for GOA halibut (G95)</li> <li>● Restructured observer program reduces bias in bycatch accounting (B86, G76)</li> <li>● Prohibit Pacific cod fishing in Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone (B103)</li> <li>● BSAI Chinook and chum salmon PSC avoidance measures (B110 approved by Council, not yet implemented)</li> <li>● Reduce PSC limits for BSAI halibut (B111 approved by Council, not yet implemented)</li> </ul> <b>Regulatory amendments related to this goal statement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Annual specifications for setting prohibited species limits</li> <li>● Revisions to MRAs</li> <li>● Revision to regulations for prohibited species donation program and fishmeal</li> </ul> <b>Other management actions related to this goal statement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Upcoming discussion paper on BSAI crab bycatch</li> <li>● Council encourages research through annual research priorities</li> <li>● NMFS and observer program work on improving statistical methods for bycatch accounting (as part of National Bycatch Report initiative)</li> <li>● Development of a halibut management framework</li> </ul>
	15. Develop incentive programs for bycatch reduction including the development of mechanisms to facilitate the formation of bycatch pools, vessel bycatch allowances, or other bycatch incentive systems.	2010 - Kodiak Tanner crab closures 2011, 2013 - GOA pollock and non-pollock Chinook PSC limits 2012 - GOA halibut PSC limit reduction 2015 - Bycatch limits for BS Chinook revised - pending rulemaking 2015 - Partially addressed in BS salmon bycatch analyses 2015 - GOA trawl bycatch mgmt 2015 - Halibut management framework initiated 2016 - Halibut deck sorting EFP	
	16. Encourage research programs to evaluate current population estimates for non-target species with a view to setting appropriate bycatch limits, as information becomes available.	2007 - Included in research priorities Ongoing - Forage fish included in Ecosystem SAFE	
	17. Continue program to reduce discards by developing management measures that encourage the use of gear and fishing techniques that reduce bycatch which includes economic discards.	2007 - Partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses for GOA 2010 - Partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses for BSAI 2015 - Halibut management framework Ongoing - Partially addressed in rockfish program Ongoing - Partially addressed in Council's Spatial Mgmt Policy	
	18. Continue to manage incidental catch and bycatch through seasonal distribution of total allowable catch and geographical gear restrictions.		
	19. Continue to account for bycatch mortality in total allowable catch accounting and improve the accuracy of mortality assessments for target, prohibited species catch, and noncommercial species.	2011 - National Bycatch Report 2013 - Restructured Obs. Program Ongoing - Review of Obs. Annual Deployment Plan	
	20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.	2009 - Partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS 2014 - Template for BSAI crab bycatch limits initiated 2015 - Bycatch limits for BS Chinook revised - pending rulemaking 2015 - Halibut abundance-based PSC interagency paper 2015 - Halibut management framework	
	21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.		
<b>Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals</b>	22. Continue to cooperate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect ESA-listed species, and if appropriate and practicable, other seabird species.	2008 - Avoidance measures in area 4E 2015 - Re-consultation for short-tailed albatross	<b>FMP amendments related to this goal statement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Walrus protection areas around Round Island and Cape Pierce, including transit corridors for Federal fishing vessels (B107)</li> </ul> <b>Regulatory amendments related to this goal statement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Revisions to seabird avoidance measures, including in Area 4E</li> <li>● Revisions to Steller sea lion closures for pollock and cod fisheries in the GOA</li> <li>● Revisions to Steller sea lion protection measures for Atka mackerel, Pacific cod, and pollock fisheries in the Aleutian Islands</li> <li>● Designation of critical habitat for Cook Inlet beluga whale</li> </ul> <b>Other management actions related to this goal statement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ESA consultations on fishery impacts on listed seabirds and marine mammals</li> <li>● Council receives protected species report at each meeting, monitoring issues with seabirds and marine mammals</li> <li>● Reconsideration of Steller sea lion closures in 2014 biological opinion and 2014 EIS</li> </ul>
	23. Maintain or adjust current protection measures as appropriate to avoid jeopardy of extinction or adverse modification to critical habitat for ESA-listed Steller sea lions.	2011 - SSL BiOp 2014 - Updated SSL BiOp Ongoing - SSL EIS regs in place Pending - SSL CH proposed rule expected in 2016	
	24. Encourage programs to review status of endangered or threatened marine mammal stocks and fishing interactions and develop fishery management measures as appropriate.	Ongoing - Monitoring through the Protected Species Report	
	25. Continue to cooperate with NMFS and USFWS to protect ESA-listed marine mammal species, and if appropriate and practicable, other marine mammal species.	Ongoing - Monitoring through the Protected Species Report	

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<p><b>Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat</b></p>	<p>26. Review and evaluate efficacy of existing habitat protection measures for managed species.</p>	<p>2014 - Partially addressed in crab bycatch limits discussion paper</p>	<p><b>FMP amendments related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HAPC (B65/G65) and EFH (B78/G73) amendments, and associated fishery area closures in the GOA and Aleutian Islands (AI)</li> <li>● Bering Sea Habitat Conservation (B89) with area closures for non-pelagic trawling</li> <li>● Trawl sweep elevation requirement in the flatfish fisheries (B94, G89)</li> <li>● Update to EFH information with findings from the 2010 EFH 5-year review (B98/G90)</li> <li>● Designation of skate nurseries in Bering Sea as HAPC (B104)</li> </ul> <p><b>Other management actions related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion of protected areas for Bering Sea canyons</li> <li>● Discussion paper resulting from EFH 5-year review to look at groundfish impacts on crab EFH (especially red king crab in southwestern Bristol Bay)</li> <li>● Ongoing 2015 EFH 5-year review, including updates to fishing effects model and EFH descriptions</li> <li>● Discussion of a Northern Bering Sea Research Area Research Plan (subsequently tabled)</li> <li>● Council discussion regarding nominating Alaska MPAs to national MPA center register (tabled)</li> <li>● Council encourages research through annual research priorities</li> </ul>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>2007 - BS habitat closures 2007 - Included in research priorities 2008 - NBSRA established 2009 - BS flatfish trawl sweep mods required 2011 - EFH 5-year review and Omnibus Amds approved 2011 - HAPC cycle changed to 5 years 2011 - Discussion paper initiated 2012 - NBSRA plan halted 2013 - HAPC skate nurseries adopted 2014 - Crab bycatch limits discussion paper addresses BBRKC Pending - EFH 5 year review Pending - Fishery overlap with Pribilof corals Pending - EFH 5 year review Pending - Fishery overlap with Pribilof corals</p>	
	<p>28. Develop a Marine Protected Area policy in coordination with national and state policies.</p>		
	<p>29. Encourage development of a research program to identify regional baseline habitat information and mapping, subject to funding and staff availability.</p>		
<p><b>Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources</b></p>	<p>31. Provide economic and community stability to harvesting and processing sectors through fair allocation of fishery resources.</p>		<p><b>FMP amendments related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sector allocations for Pacific cod (B85, G83); fixed gear endorsement in GOA (G86)</li> <li>● Sector allocations and cooperative formation for 3 flatfish species, POP, and Atka mackerel in BSAI (Amendment 80); vessel replacement and cooperative revisions (B80, B90, B93, B97)</li> <li>● Latent licenses rescinded (B92/82, G86)</li> <li>● Cooperative program for rockfish in central GOA (G68); program revisions (G78, G85); new program authorized (G88)</li> <li>● BSAI freezer longline maximum length overall adjustment (B99)</li> <li>● AI pollock to the Aleut Corporation (B82); Single geographic location amended for pollock motherships (B62, G62); AFA vessel replacement (B106)</li> <li>● IRIU rescinded in GOA for shallow water flatfish (G72)</li> <li>● IFQ B quota shareholders can fish on any size vessel (G67), "fish up" in Area 4B (B102)</li> <li>● Revisions to GOA CQE program entities, revise vessel use caps, allow purchase of small blocks, establish CQE program in Area 4B (G94, G96, B102)</li> <li>● Allow for a small boat CDQ Pacific cod fishery (B109, approved by Council but not yet implemented)</li> <li>● Allow use of longline pots for sablefish (G101, approved by Council but not yet implemented)</li> <li>● Aleutian Islands Pacific cod catcher vessel fishery and shoreplant delivery requirement (B113, approved by Council but not yet implemented)</li> </ul> <p><b>Regulatory amendments related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Modify monitoring and reporting requirements for BSAI cod freezer longliners</li> <li>● BSAI fixed gear parallel fishery management measures</li> <li>● Minor revisions to AFA, CDQ, IFQ, Rockfish Programs</li> <li>● GOA pollock trip limits</li> </ul> <p><b>Other management actions related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Permit fee authorization (all FMPs)</li> </ul>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>2008 - Trawl LLP recency in 2008 2009 - GOA fixed gear latent licenses</p>	
	<p>33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.</p>		
	<p>34. Develop management measures that, when practicable, consider the efficient use of fishery resources taking into account the interest of harvesters, processors, and communities.</p>	<p>2008 - Trawl LLP recency in 2008 2009 - GOA fixed gear latent licenses 2009 - GOA Pcod sector allocations 2010 - GOA rockfish program renewed 2015 - GOA trawl bycatch mgmt</p>	

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<p><b>Increase Alaska Native &amp; Community Consultation</b></p>	<p>35. Continue to incorporate local and traditional knowledge in fishery management.</p>		<p><b>FMP amendments related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AI pollock to the Aleut Corporation (B82)</li> <li>● Revisions to GOA CQE program eligible entities, revise vessel use caps, allow purchase of small blocks, establish CQE program in Area 4B (G94, G96, B102)</li> <li>● Allow for a small boat CDQ Pacific cod fishery (B109, approved by Council but not yet implemented)</li> <li>● Aleutian Islands Pacific cod catcher vessel fishery and shoreplant delivery requirement (B113, approved by Council but not yet implemented)</li> </ul> <p><b>Other management actions related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community outreach and consultation policy adopted by Council in 2008</li> <li>● Community committee helps prioritize outreach (currently focused on BSAI salmon analyses)</li> <li>● Website redesigned to include a rural outreach component</li> </ul>
	<p>36. Consider ways to enhance collection of local and traditional knowledge from communities, and incorporate such knowledge in fishery management where appropriate.</p>		
	<p>37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management.</p>	<p>2008 - Protocol approved Ongoing - continued outreach on BSAI salmon bycatch Ongoing - Council Outreach Committee meets periodically</p>	
<p><b>Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement</b></p>	<p>38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources.</p>	<p>2008/2010 - Restructuring adopted/approved 2013 - EM Strategic Plan approved 2015 - Reg Amendments for coverage categories 2015 - EM Analysis 2016 - Observer coverage on BSAI trawl CVs 2016 - Observer tendering Ongoing - Annual Program Review and Deployment Plan</p>	<p><b>FMP amendments related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Observer program restructuring (B86/G76)</li> <li>● Remove dark rockfish from FMP, allow management by State of Alaska (B73/G77)</li> <li>● Change observer coverage category exemptions for small catcher processors (B112/G102, approved by Council but not yet implemented)</li> </ul> <p><b>Regulatory amendments related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Electronic reporting, online accounting</li> <li>● Changes to VMS requirements (required for sablefish in BS, no longer required for dinglebar lingcod in GOA)</li> <li>● Repeal of vessel incentive program</li> <li>● Changes to observer program to provide flexibility in deployment and improve operational efficiency</li> <li>● Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch economic data collection</li> <li>● GOA trawl economic data collection</li> </ul> <p><b>Other management actions related to this goal statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Annual refinement of observer data through the deployment plan</li> <li>● Ongoing work to improve Catch Accounting System</li> <li>● Discussion paper on VMS use and requirements</li> <li>● Electronic monitoring is being developed as a tool for catch monitoring. Pre-implementation program approved for 2016.</li> <li>● Council encourages research through annual research priorities, cooperates with North Pacific Research Board</li> <li>● Council initiated and participates in Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum, as well as maintaining other relationships with partner entities</li> </ul>
	<p>39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.</p>	<p>2008/2010 - Restructuring adopted/approved 2013 - EM Strategic Plan approved 2015 - Reg Amendments for coverage categories 2015 - EM Analysis 2016 - Observer coverage on BSAI trawl CVs 2016 - Observer tendering Ongoing - Annual Program Review and Deployment Plan</p>	
	<p>40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.</p>	<p>2008 - Partially addressed in AM 80 2009 - Partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS</p>	
	<p>41. Increase the quality of monitoring and enforcement data through improved technology.</p>	<p>2008 - VMS exemption for dinglebar 2014 - Advanced features integrated in enforcement precepts Pending - Discussion paper on VMS/EM for vessels without VMS</p>	
	<p>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.</p>		
	<p>43. Cooperate with research institutions such as the North Pacific Research Board in identifying research needs to address pressing fishery issues.</p>		
	<p>44. Promote enhanced enforceability.</p>		
<p>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.</p>			