

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority	Specific priority actions	Related to mgmt objective:	Status (updated 3-24-15)	2015			
				Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	Aggregate ABC/OFL for GOA 'other species' in 2008; BSAI skates TAC breakout in 2009; ecosystem component created in 2010 ACL II discussion paper under preparation BSIERP MSE modeling underway				
	b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	AFSC responding to CIE reviews as part of harvest specifications process				
	c. continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	report from non-target species committee in Dec 09 Grenadiers moved to ecosystem category in Feb 2014				
Preserve Food Web	a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	Ecosystem SAFE presented annually GOA ecosystem assessment for 2015; EBS and AI ecosystem assessments developed in 2010, 2011				
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	ACL II discussion paper under preparation BSIERP MSE modeling underway				
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	FEP and brochure published 2007; AI ecosystem assessment developed in 2011 BS FEP discussion paper Oct 2015				
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS, Kodiak Tanner crab closures (2010); GOA pollock and non-pollock Chinook PSC limits (2011, 2013), GOA halibut PSC limit reduction (2012) GOA trawl bycatch mgmt prelim review in Oct 2015 BS Chinook/chum bycatch final action Apr 2015				
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS draft template for BSAI crab bycatch limits underway				
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17	partially addressed in rockfish program				
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	National Bycatch Report revised in 2011 restructured observer program to be implemented in 2013				
	e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	Included in research priorities, adopted in June 2007				
	f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	bycatch limits for BS Chinook adopted Apr 09; BS Chinook/chum bycatch final action Apr 2015				
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses (GOA - 2007, BSAI - 2010)				

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Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSL through the MSA process including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA	23	<i>RPA from final NMFS Biological Opinion implemented by Secretarial action for Jan 2011 SSL EIS regulations underway</i>				
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23	NMFS review underway, proposed rule in fall/winter 2015				
	c. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate	24, 25	<i>monitoring through the Protected Species Report</i>				
	d. adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program	22	<i>seabird avoidance measures in 4E in 2008</i>				
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	partially addressed in crab bycatch limits discussion paper				
	b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures	27	<i>BS habitat clousresin 2007; BS flatfish trawl sweep mods required in 2009; EFH 5-year review/omnibus amds approved Apr 2011 crab bycatch limits discussion paper addresses BBRKC</i>				
	c. consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle	27	<i>HAPC cycle changed to 5 years, adopted Apr 2011 HAPC skate nurseries, adopted Feb 2013</i>				
	d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas	27	<i>Included in research priorities, adopted in June 2007 Development of NBSRA research plan halted</i>				
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery	a. explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA	32	<i>Trawl LLP recency in 2008; GOA fixed gear latent licenses in 2009</i>				
	b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries	32, 34	<i>GOA Pcod sector allocations in 2009; GOA rockfish program renewed in 2010 GOA trawl bycatch mgmt prelim review in Oct 2015</i>				
Increase Alaska Native & Community Consultation	a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process	37	<i>protocol approved in 2008</i>				
	b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions	37	outreach report on BSAI salmon bycatch actions in April 2015 Council Outreach Committee meets periodically				
Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs	38, 39	<i>improvements adopted in 2008, restructuring approved in 2010; EM Strategic Plan approved in 2013 annual program review in June and deployment plan in Oct reg amds for changes to coverage categories in April, June 2015</i>				
	b. explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	<i>partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch in 2009, also Amd 80</i>				
	c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers	41	<i>VMS exemption for dinglebar Jun 08 Advanced features to be integrated in enforcement precepts Dec 14 Discussion paper on VMS/EM for vessels without VMS - TBD</i>				