

## Council Activity Related to Groundfish Workplan

D4 Alternative 1 Workplan  
FEBRUARY 2016

General Priority	Management Objectives	Activity
<b>Prevent Overfishing</b>	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.	
	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 <sub>40</sub> 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.	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
<b>Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities</b>	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.	
	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.	
<b>Preserve Food Web</b>	10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.	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
	11. Improve the procedure to adjust acceptable biological catch levels as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors.	Pending - Working paper on uncertainty in control rules - awaiting NS Guidelines revisions Ongoing - BSIERP MSE modeling
	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.	2007 - FEP and brochure published 2011 - AI ecosystem assessment developed 2015 - BS FEP

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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
	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
	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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<b>Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat</b>	26. Review and evaluate efficacy of existing habitat protection measures for managed species.	2014 - Partially addressed in crab bycatch limits discussion paper
	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.	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
	28. Develop a Marine Protected Area policy in coordination with national and state policies.	
	29. Encourage development of a research program to identify regional baseline habitat information and mapping, subject to funding and staff availability.	
	30. Develop goals, objectives and criteria to evaluate the efficacy and suitable design of marine protected areas and no-take marine reserves as tools to maintain abundance, diversity, and productivity. Implement marine protected areas if and where appropriate.	
<b>Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources</b>	31. Provide economic and community stability to harvesting and processing sectors through fair allocation of fishery resources.	
	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.	2008 - Trawl LLP recency in 2008 2009 - GOA fixed gear latent licenses
	33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.	
	34. Develop management measures that, when practicable, consider the efficient use of fishery resources taking into account the interest of harvesters, processors, and communities.	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
<b>Increase Alaska Native &amp; Community Consultation</b>	35. Continue to incorporate local and traditional knowledge in fishery management.	
	36. Consider ways to enhance collection of local and traditional knowledge from communities, and incorporate such knowledge in fishery management where appropriate.	
	37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management.	2008 - Protocol approved Ongoing - continued outreach on BSAI salmon bycatch Ongoing - Council Outreach Committee meets periodically

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<b>Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement</b>	38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources.	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
	39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.	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
	40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.	2008 - Partially addressed in AM 80 2009 - Partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS
	41. Increase the quality of monitoring and enforcement data through improved technology.	2008 - VMS exemption for dinglebar 2014 - Advanced features integrated in enforcement precepts Pending - Discussion paper on VMS/EM for vessels without VMS
	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.	
	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.	
	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.	