

Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan – Ecosystem Goals and Objectives¹

Ecosystem Goal 1: Maintain, rebuild, and restore fish stocks at levels sufficient to protect, maintain, and restore food web structure and function

1. Maintain target biomass levels for target species, consistent with optimum yield, using available tools.
2. Maintain healthy populations and function of non-target and forage species.
3. Adjust fishing-related mortality from the system to be sustainable and commensurate with total productivity and continue to limit optimum yield to 2 million metric tons for the BSAI groundfish fisheries.

Ecosystem Goal 2: Protect, restore, and maintain the ecological processes, trophic levels, diversity, and overall productive capacity of the system

4. Maintain key predator/prey relationships.
5. Conserve structure and function of ecosystem components.

Ecosystem Goal 3: Conserve habitats for fish and other wildlife

6. Minimize adverse impacts to essential fish habitat, to the extent practicable.
7. Avoid and/or minimize impacts to ecologically-sensitive habitat, including habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs).
8. Avoid and/or minimize impacts to seabirds, marine mammals, and protected species.

Ecosystem Goal 4: Provide for subsistence, commercial, recreational, and non-consumptive uses of the marine environment

9. Support benefits in the Bering Sea fishery and fishery-related industries.
10. Provide opportunities for new entrants in Federal fisheries.
11. Promote economic and community stability to all commercial harvesting and processing sectors.
12. Support sustainable opportunities and community resilience for subsistence users and Alaska Native communities.
13. Provide for directed fisheries including subsistence fisheries by minimizing bycatch mortality.
14. Preserve the ability for stakeholders to derive non-consumptive and cultural value from the Bering Sea ecosystem.

Ecosystem Goal 5: Avoid irreversible or long-term adverse effects on fishery resources and the marine environment

Ecosystem Goal 6: Provide a legacy of healthy ecosystems for future generations

Combined objectives for goals 5 and 6:

15. Establish appropriate thresholds to minimize risk of crossing ecosystem tipping points caused by fishery or other human activity.
16. Encourage responsible parties to minimize adverse impacts to fish and other wildlife associated with changes in shipping activity, tourism, energy, and other types of development.
17. Ensure that fishery management is sufficiently adaptive to account for the effects of climate change or other ecosystem changes, including loss of sea ice and ocean acidification.

¹ From pp 23-24 of [Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan](#)