

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority	Specific priority actions	Related to mgmt objective:	Status (updated Jan 2016)	2016				
				Feb	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	2009 - BSAI skates TAC breakout 2010 - Ecosystem component created 2015 - Working paper on uncertainty in control rules tasked 2015 - BSIERP MSE modeling underway Pending - Squid to EC - init. Review in 2016					
	b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	Ongoing - AFSC responds to CIE reviews as part of specs process					
	c. continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	2014 - Grenadiers to EC Ongoing - Spatial management policy guides species complex and subarea considerations Pending - Squid to EC - Init. Review in 2016					
Preserve Food Web	a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	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					
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	Pending - Working paper on uncertainty in control rules - awaiting NS Guidelines revisions Ongoing - BSIERP MSE modeling					
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	2007 - FEP and brochure published 2011 - AI ecosystem assessment developed 2015 - BS FEP					
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	2010 - Kodiak Tanner crab closures 2011, 2013 - GOA pollock and non-pollock Chinook PSC limits 2012 - GOA halibut PSC limit reduction 2015 - Partially addressed in BS salmon bycatch analyses 2015 - GOA trawl bycatch mgmt 2015 - Halibut management framework initiated 2016 - Halibut deck sorting EFP					
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	2009 - Partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS 2014 - Template for BSAI crab bycatch limits initiated 2015 - Halibut abundance-based PSC interagency paper 2015 - Halibut management framework					
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17	Ongoing - Partially addressed in rockfish program Ongoing - Partially addressed in Council's Spatial Mgmt Policy					
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	2011 - National Bycatch Report 2013 - Restructured Obs. Program Ongoing - Review of Obs. Annual Deployment Plan					
	e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	2007 - Included in research priorities Ongoing - Forage fish included in Ecosystem SAFE					
	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	2015 - Bycatch limits for BS Chinook revised - pending rulemaking					
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	2007 - Partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses for GOA 2010 - Partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses for BSAI 2015 - Halibut management framework					

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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	2011 - SSL BiOp 2014 - Updated SSL BiOp Ongoing - SSL EIS regs in place					
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23	Pending - SSL CH proposed rule expected in 2016					
	c. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate	24, 25	Ongoing - Monitoring through the Protected Species Report					
	d. adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program	22	2008 - Avoidance measures in area 4E 2015 - Re-consultation for short-tailed albatross					
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	2014 - Partially addressed in crab bycatch limits discussion paper					
	b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures	27	2009 - BS flatfish trawl sweep mods required 2011 - EFH 5-year review and Omnibus Amds approved 2014 - Crab bycatch limits discussion paper addresses BBRKC Pending - EFH 5 year review Pending - Fishery overlap with Pribilof corals		■			
	c. consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle	27	2011 - HAPC cycle changed to 5 years 2013 - HAPC skate nurseries adopted Pending - EFH 5 year review Pending - Fishery overlap with Pribilof corals		■			
	d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas	27	2007 - Included in research priorities 2008 - NBSRA established 2011 - Discussion paper initiated 2012 - NBSRA plan halted					
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	a. explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA	32	2008 - Trawl LLP recency in 2008 2009 - GOA fixed gear latent licenses					
	b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries	32, 34	2009 - GOA Pcod sector allocations 2010 - GOA rockfish program renewed 2015 - GOA trawl bycatch mgmt					
Increase Alaska Native & Community Consultation	a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process	37	2008 - Protocol approved					
	b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions	37	Ongoing - continued outreach on BSAI salmon bycatch Ongoing - 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	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					
	b. explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	2008 - Partially addressed in AM 80 2009 - Partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS					
	c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers	41	2008 - VMS exemption for dinglebar 2014 - Advanced features integrated in enforcement precepts Pending - Discussion paper on VMS/EM for vessels without VMS					