

Groundfish Programmatic Workplan

The Council conducted its most recent *comprehensive* review of its Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy¹ (Policy) at its February 2019 meeting², highlighting Council activities in calendar year 2018 that continue to fulfill the Priorities and Objectives established in the Policy. Annual Policy review is a requirement of the GOA and BSAI Groundfish FMPs, and the Council fulfills that requirement through the Programmatic Workplan, a concise tool that presents Council actions relative to Policy Objectives and is provided at every Council meeting. As determined by the Council in February 2019, comprehensive review of the Policy is done on a three-year cycle in order to accommodate the multi-year lifespan of major Council actions. The next 3-year comprehensive review will be conducted at the Council’s February 2022 meeting.

The table below provides a two-meeting (previous and current) snapshot of the Programmatic Workplan, listing only Council actions relate to the Groundfish FMPs and indicating their correspondence to Programmatic Management Objectives. Those Management Objectives were intended to support decision-making under the Groundfish FMPs. Although the Policy’s EBFM approach is reflected in actions outside of the Groundfish FMPs, these other actions are not included in the table. The tabular presentation of the Programmatic Workplan below as well as prior versions of the table are available on the Council website: (www.npfmc.org).

** Not included in the Table: BSAI Crab SAFE

		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	April 2021	June 2021
1. Prevent Overfishing	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.		SSC Risk Table Workshop Report
2. 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.	Coop Reports Halibut ABM – Init. Rev. IFQ Access Opportunities	Sablefish Trawl Overages
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures	RQE funding mechanism AFSC Community Report	BSAI Pcod Trawl CV LAPP BSAI Pcod small boat access
	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.	USCG Report NIOSH Report	USCG Report

¹ <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/node/33552>

² <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/363>

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General Priority	Management Objective	April 2021	June 2021
3. Ecosystem - based Fishery Management	10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.	NMFS briefing on EO 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis, Section 216(c)	BSFEP Team report, Climate Change Taskforce report
	11. Improve the procedure to adjust acceptable biological catch levels as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors.		
	13. Incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions, as appropriate.		
4. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.	Coop Reports Halibut ABM Salmon bycatch reports	Sablefish Trawl Overages PCFMAC and FMAC Reports
	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.		
	20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.		
	21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.		
5. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	24. Encourage programs to review status of endangered or threatened marine mammal stocks and fishing interactions and develop fishery management measures as appropriate.	Portion of NMFS Management Report on seabird bycatch	
6. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	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.	Portion of NMFS Management Report on EFH update	
7. Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	31. Provide economic and community stability to harvesting and processing sectors through fair allocation of fishery resources.	Coop Reports Halibut ABM GOA Sablefish Pot fishery 3-year review IFQ access opportunities IFQ Committee report SSPT EDR workshop report	BSAI Pcod trawl CV LAPP BSAI Pcod small boat access
	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.		
	33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.		

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General Priority	Management Objective	April 2021	June 2021
8. Increase Alaska Native & Community Consultation	36. Consider ways to enhance collection of local and traditional knowledge from communities, and incorporate such knowledge in fishery management where appropriate.	AFSC Community Report	
	37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management.		
9. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources.		PCFMAC and FMAC reports
	39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.		
	40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.	SSPT EDR workshop report	
	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.	Research Priorities	BSFEP Team report, Climate Change Taskforce report
	43. Cooperate with research institutions such as the North Pacific Research Board in identifying research needs to address pressing fishery issues.		SSC research priorities process
	44. Promote enhanced enforceability.	Enforcement Committee report	Enforcement Committee report
	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.	NMFS Management Report NOAA GC Report AFSC Report ADF&G Report USCG Report USFWS Report US Navy Report NIOSH Report	NMFS Management Report NOAA GC Report AFSC Report ADF&G Report USCG Report USFWS Report