

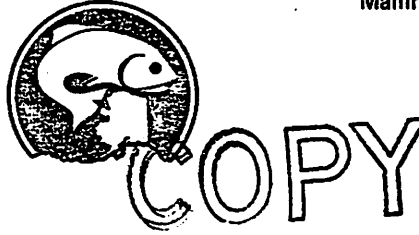
# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman  
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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 6, 1979

TO: Incidental Species Working Group, Chairman Don Hales

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director *JHB*

SUBJECT: June 27th Meeting of Incidental Species Work Group

Chairman Don Hales has asked me to notify you of a meeting of the Incidental Species Work Group scheduled for June 27th in Homer. It will probably be in the evening, meeting place yet to be announced, but expected to be in the Courtroom which is right across the street from the Elks Hall.

The rattail problem, subject of an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska FMP at the May Council meeting raised the issue of the fourth category of species, those that are unutilized and unwanted, proposed in your groups' original working paper. Identifying species such as rattails in this fourth group would eliminate the problem of OY and numbers for bycatch. Bert Larkin has proposed a list of species that could be included and an amendment to the Bering Sea FMP to handle this. I have attached his memo for your consideration at your meeting.

Enclosures



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center  
Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management

May 15, 1979

F112:HAL

TO:           FAK   -   J. Brooks  
              NPFMC -   J. Branson

*Be f*

FROM:        F112   -   H. A. Larkins  
                          Acting Division Director

SUBJECT:     Proposed amendment to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish FMP

The attached proposed amendment is intended to introduce the "fourth category" concept developed by the Council's Incidental Catch Working Group, using the Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish FMP as the test vehicle.

If you two concur with the approach, perhaps the attachment might be sent informally to Bill Gordon for his reaction before asking the Council, SSC, and AP for action.

cc (w/attachment):

P. Rigby (ADFG)  
S. Hoag (IPHC)  
R. Stokes (U.W.)  
R. Bakkala (RACE)  
L. Low (REFM)  
J. Balsiger (REFM)  
R. Marasco (REFM)  
R. Major (REFM)  
R. French (REFM)

HAL:dms

DATE	TIME	INITIALS
		3

MAY 23 1979



AMENDMENT TO THE  
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN GROUND FISH FMP

Page 140 -- Optimum yield section, replace with the following:

11.0 OPTIMUM YIELD (OY)

*(Annex I)*

There are four categories of species and species groups, that are likely to be taken by the groundfish fishery of this region, to each of which the optimum yield concept is applied somewhat differently: ~~Annex I~~

1. Prohibited Species--those species and species groups which must be immediately returned to the sea by vessels operating in the groundfish fishery; with regard to this fishery, OY is zero. Records of catch of each species must be maintained.
2. Target Species--species and species groups which are commercially important, targeted upon by the groundfish fishery, and for which a sufficient data base exists that allows each to be managed on the basis of its own biological, social, economic, and ecological merits. A specific OY applies to each species or species group. Records of catch of each species must be maintained.
3. Other Species.--species and species groups which currently are are of only slight economic value and not generally targeted upon. This category, however, contains species with economic potential or are important ecosystem components, but sufficient data is lacking to manage each separately. Accordingly, a single OY, equal to 5 percent of the combined OY's for the "Target Species"; applies to

*Records of catch of this category as a whole*  
this category as a whole must be maintained.

4. Non-specified Species--species and species groups of no current or foreseeable economic value and which are taken by the groundfish fishery only as an accidental bycatch to target fisheries. Virtually no data exists which would allow population assessments, but occasional records from U.S. observers aboard foreign vessels and from U.S. research vessels show no noticeable decline in abundance. The OY for this category is that amount which is taken incidentally while fishing for target species, whether retained or discarded. No record of catch is necessary. (Note: If observer or enforcement records show that any species in this category is being actively targeted upon or that the abundance of any species is becoming substantially reduced, that species will be transferred to either the Target Species or Other Species category and subject to an absolute OY.)

With the expectation over the near term of only a modest domestic involvement in this fishery (see Section 12.0 below), and having identified no social or economic reasons for reducing the yield of stocks in this fishery below ABC, Optimum Yield for all but the "Non-specified" species will be considered equal to ABC, as shown in Annex I.

It should be noted, especially by foreign participants in the fishery, that such economic factors as higher catch rates or greater average size

than can be expected when production is at the level of ABC, or limited seasonal availability to this fishery by domestic fishing vessels could be introduced as OY considerations if they are considered necessary for U.S. fishery development, and can be shown to not have an unreasonable impact on the U.S. consumer.

ANNEX V -- SPECIES CATEGORIES WHICH APPLY  
TO THE BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN GROUND FISH FISHERY

	<u>Prohibited</u> <u>Species</u> <sup>1/</sup>	<u>Target</u> <u>Species</u> <sup>2/</sup>	<u>"Other"</u> <u>Species</u> <sup>3/</sup>	<u>Unspecified</u> <u>Species</u> <sup>4/</sup>
<u>Finfishes</u>	Salmonids	Pollock	Sculpins	Eelpouts
	Pac. Halibut	Cod	Sharks	Poachers
		Flounders	Skates	Snailfish
		Herring	Eulachon	Sandfishes
		Atka mackerel	Smelts	Rattails
		Sablefish	Capelin	Lumpsuckers
		Rockfishes		Ronquils
				Lancefish
				Shanny
				Searcher
				Prowfish
				Pricklebacks
				Lamprey
				Hogfish
			Lumpfishes	
			Blennies	
			Alligator fish	
<u>Invertebrates</u>	King crab	Squids	Octopus	Anemones
	Tanner crab			Starfishes
	Coral			Egg cases
	Shrimp			Sea mouse
	Clams			Sea slug
	Horsehair crab			Sea potato
	Lyre crab			Sand dollar
				Hermit crab
				Mussels
				Sea urchins
				Sponge-unid
				Jellyfishes
				Tunicates
				Sea cucumber
			Sea pen	
			Isopods	
			Barnacles	
			Polychaetes	
			Crinoids	
			Snails	
			Crab-unidentified	
			Misc.-unidentified	

- 1/ Must be returned to the sea, no fee.  
2/ OY for each items; fee as in fee schedule  
3/ Aggregate OY for group equal to 5% of total  
OY of line items; fee based on \$47/mt ex-vessel value.  
4/ List not exclusive; includes any species not listed  
under Prohibited, Target, or "Other" categories; no fee  
charged.