

C1 CGOA Rockfish Program Adjustments Final Action



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Introduction

- ▶ February 2022 – Council initiated an analysis to modify the CGOA Rockfish Program
- ▶ April 2022 – After initial review, Council released analysis for final action at this meeting. Council also selected a PPA
 - ▶ **Change season start date from May 1 to April 1**
 - ▶ **Eliminate the CV cooperative holding cap of 30%**
 - ▶ **Increase the processor cap to 35% - 40% of the CV quota for sablefish, Pacific cod, and/or primary rockfish**
 - ▶ **Revise the CV aggregate primary rockfish harvesting cap by capping only POP at 8%**
- ▶ Purpose and need is to increase flexibility and efficiency, improve functionality, and better ensure the rockfish quota are fully harvested and landed in Kodiak as intended (Section 2.2; page 9)



Environmental Assessment

- ▶ EA was conducted to assess the impact on the alternatives to the following biological resource components
 - ▶ Target species
 - ▶ Unallocated species, including PSC
 - ▶ Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)



Alternatives

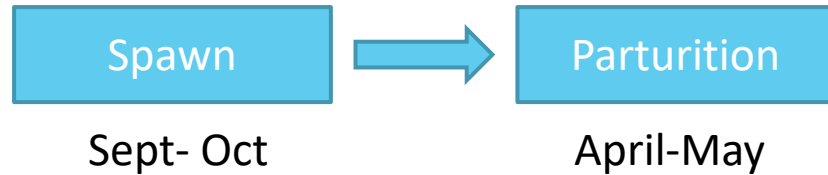
- ▶ Alternative 1: Status Quo
- ▶ Alternative 2: Amend the current Rockfish Program with the following options:
 1. Change season start date from May 1 to April 1
 2. Eliminate the CV cooperative holding cap of 30%
 3. Increase the processor cap to 35% - 40% of the CV quota for sablefish, Pacific cod, and/or primary rockfish
 4. Revise the CV aggregate primary rockfish harvesting cap by capping only POP at 8%
- ▶ **Throughout the EA, it was found that Alternative 2, options 2,3,4 would have no adverse environmental effect.**



Target Species Life History

- ▶ Primary Species Life History is largely unknown

- ▶ Northern, Dusky and Pacific Ocean Perch (POP)

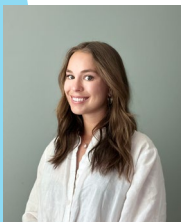


- ▶ POP thought that larvae remain in offshore surface water
 - ▶ 3 years they migrate to deeper/offshore habitats
 - ▶ **Alternative 2, Option 1, adjusting the start date of April 1 for the RP, is unlikely to have impacts to the process of spawning/parturition and or larval dispersal for RP species**
 - ▶ **During their larval pelagic state, it is unlikely fishing or fishing gear will negatively impact development**



Target Species and Vessel Participation

- ▶ CPs did not utilize the April start date
 - ▶ Earliest enter date for CP participating in the RP was May
- ▶ Despite vessel participation in April, analyst feel it would be unlikely that the early start date would negatively impact target species life history and parturition.
- ▶ CVs utilized the flexible April 1 start date in 2021 (seen in Fig 3-4)
- ▶ **Alternative 2, Option 1, adjusting the start date of April 1 for the RP, is unlikely to have impacts to the process of spawning/parturition and or larval dispersal for RP species**
 - ▶ CV and low CP vessel participation is unlikely to have negligible impact on April parturition phase for primary RP species

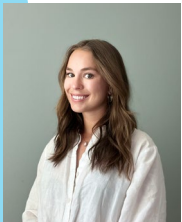


Month	2015			2016			2017			2018		
	OA	RP	Total	OA	RP	Total	OA	RP	Total	OA	RP	Total
January	1		1	3		3	2		2	0		0
February	12		12	2		2	61		61	44		44
March	20		20	5		5	558		558	119		119
April	145		145	225		225	725		725	395		395
May	155	4,012	4,167	132	6,165	6,297	262	3,554	3,815	61	5,759	5,820
June	*	2,315	*		2,980	2,980	240	2,408	2,648	257	2,730	2,987
July	3,792	2,144	5,936	5,398	4,982	10,380	4,578	3,739	8,318	4,969	3,173	8,142
August	366	3,007	3,372	205	665	871	1,311	721	2,032	1,309	1,609	2,918
September	272	494	765	891	566	1,456	891	788	1,679	987	1,094	2,081
October	78	405	482	550	*	*	1,020	950	1,970	718	859	1,577
November	29	1,402	1,431	*	*	*	*	1,817	*	*	604	*
December	*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*
Total	4,954	13,778	18,732	7,541	15,484	23,025	9,882	13,976	23,858	8,909	15,828	24,737
Month	2019			2020			2021			2022 thru May 26		
	OA	RP	Total	OA	RP	Total	OA	RP	Total	OA	RP	Total
January	4		4	10		10	0		0	55		55
February	342		342	34		34	31		31	71		71
March	119		119	24		24	13		13	109		109
April	377		377	274		274	12	4,301	4,313	*		*
May	193	6,671	6,864	246	7,709	7,954	*	4,767	*	*	2,423	*
June	206	2,985	3,191	263	5,590	5,854	*	5,356	*			
July	4,318	1,916	6,234	2,046	3,532	5,577	2,335	5,817	8,152			
August	1,769	1,100	2,869	842	*	*	808	375	1,184			
September	708	1,407	2,115	523	*	*	663	660	1,323			
October	654	1,252	1,906	587	1,844	2,431	463	1,033	1,496			
November	*	1,196	*		1,184	1,184	*	2,031	*			
December	*		*	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Total	8,941	16,528	25,469	4,848	20,343	25,191	4,559	24,341	28,900	493	2,423	2,917



Stock Author Consultation

- ▶ Stock author agrees that the early start date will likely have minimal impacts on the primary RP species
 - ▶ Model projections of biomass and apply catch account for some catch prior to spawning
 - ▶ Encounters with spawning fish may provide an opportunity for increased collection of information about RP species reproductive biology
 - ▶ Stock authors suggest continued monitoring of vessel participation during April months in conjunction with monitoring of the primary stock status



Unallocated Species and PSC Species

- ▶ Since the RP was implemented in 2012, PSC rates have declined for both Chinook and Halibut.
- ▶ Chinook Salmon
 - ▶ Timing of Chinook salmon bycatch follows a predictable pattern in most years, corresponding primarily with seasonal openings of the pollock fishery
 - ▶ 2021 season Stats:
 - ▶ April: 66 salmon; November: 993 (highest)
- ▶ Halibut
 - ▶ The rockfish fishery generally accounts for between 2-16 % percent of the halibut bycatch of these vessels in the GOA
 - ▶ 2021 Season:
 - ▶ April PSC Rate: 0.37; November PSC Rate: 14.00 (highest)
- ▶ **It is not likely that Alternative 2 would result in significant changes to the current levels of bycatch of salmon or halibut as PSC limits are not proposed to change in Alternative 2.**



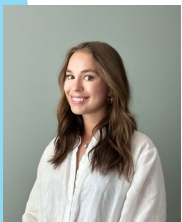
Table 3. Rockfish Genetics results, 2013-2020.

Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish	2015 Rockfish	2016 Rockfish	2017 Rockfish	2018 Rockfish	2019 Rockfish	2020 Rockfish
No. Samples	2,070	398	635	493	280	499	686	1,106
Russia	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%	2.7%	3.7%	2.7%	5.0%	4.2%	2.0%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%	0.8%	0.3%	2.4%	3.3%	2.0%	3.0%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%	4.8%	6.9%	10.9%	10.7%	2.2%	4.1%
BC	31.3%	17.4%	18.9%	26.8%	28.1%	28.0%	22.1%	18.3%
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%	72.8%	61.5%	55.6%	52.5%	69.2%	72.4%
SE, BC,WC comb.	97.6%	96.2%	96.5%	95.1%	94.7%	91.1%	93.4%	94.8%
Total	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



Essential Fish Habitat

- ▶ As seen in the most recent 2017 EFH 5-year review, The FE model assumed no bottom contact for GOA slope rockfish pelagic trawl.
 - ▶ the total number of fishing events for both CV and CP has remained relatively constant.
- ▶ Likely a continued trend in decreased habitat for RP species as seen in 2017 EFH 5 year Review
- ▶ Concentrations of bottom trawl effort in the CGOA rockfish fisheries would likely be reduced as trawl vessels continue to move towards pelagic and semi-pelagic trawls to reduce halibut bycatch.
- ▶ **The rockfish fisheries are likely to continue to have minimal and temporary effects on the essential fish habitat. No long-term negative impacts to essential fish habitat are likely under the program alternatives.**



Conclusions

- ▶ Alternative 2, options 2,3,4 would likely have no adverse environmental effect on target species, unallocated species and PSC, and EFH
- ▶ Alternative 2, option 1 would likely have minimal effect on target species, specifically in life-history alterations including the timing/ success of parturition.
- ▶ Alternative 2, option 1 would have negligible impacts on unallocated species and PSC species as rates of PSC is highest during the standing RP season, under alternative 1.
- ▶ Alternative 2, option 1 would likely have no impact to EFH.



Thank You

Questions?



Major Changes from April Initial Review

- ▶ Corrected language describing cooperative formation around processors (Section 1.6)
- ▶ Enhanced the usability of Figures 2-4 and 2-5 to show monthly data and included a pre-COVID year (Section 1.6.3)
- ▶ Included tables showing monthly PSC data (Section 1.6.4)
- ▶ Provided additional information about regulations relevant to prohibitions on discarding (page 15)
- ▶ Ensured there is a description of the original rationale for season and use caps
- ▶ Characterized the administrative costs that are likely to be saved associated with removing the cooperative holding cap of 30% (Section 1.7.2.2)
- ▶ Clarified the specifics of what has driven processor consolidation (Section 1.6.7)
- ▶ Characterized the potential impacts of changes to the use caps on vessel crew and processors workers (Section 1.7.2.4)
- ▶ Included an EA (Chapter 3)

