NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
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D2 Groundfish Management Policy Revisions

December 2026 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Katie Latanich

Action Required:
1. Receive staff presentation and Ecosystem Committee Report
2. Determine whether to initiate an analysis to consider revisions to the Groundfish Management Policy

BACKGROUND

At this meeting, the Council will receive the report from the Ecosystem Committee's October 2026 meeting and consider whether to initiate an FMP amendment to revise the Groundfish Management Policy contained within the Fishery Management Plans for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) (Groundfish FMPs). The full Management Policy includes a Management Approach statement, goals, and objectives.

In June 2026 the Council completed its most recent triennial review of the Groundfish Management Policy, finding that the review document was complete, and that the Council's work during the review period continues to generally align with and support the current management policy. **The Council also supported amending the BSAI and GOA Groundfish Fishery Management Plans to modernize and update the language in the management approach, goals, and objectives. The Council tasked the Ecosystem Committee to further review the current management policy and make recommendations to the Council prior to the Council initiating an FMP amendment.**

The Ecosystem Committee met October 5-6, 2026, and reviewed the full Management Policy and developed further recommendations for the Council's considerations. The Committee's detailed recommendations and a summary of discussion are provided as an appendix to the October 2026 Ecosystem Committee Report.

After receiving the staff presentation, Ecosystem Committee, and public comment the Council may determine whether to initiate an analysis. If the Council initiates an analysis, it must identify a purpose and need statement and alternatives.