

Public comment and Council direction

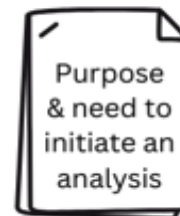
Give input on scope and content of planned review.

**Public comment and Council direction on the review
(not the program)**

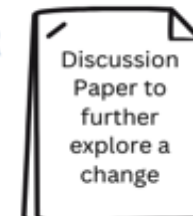
The review should adequately assess impacts of the program.
The review should also evaluate if the program is meeting its goals and objectives.



If the Council decides to make changes to the program:



OR



[Program Review Schedule & Current Reviews](#)

D3 Central GOA Rockfish Program 17-Year Review (2007-2023)

Darrell Brannan, June 2024



This study is intended to meet the requirements for the
Central GOA Program and Allocation Review.



Central GOA Rockfish Program Background

- The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2006 (MSA) requires Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) reviews to be conducted five years after implementation and then a minimum of every seven years.
- The last Rockfish Program review was presented to the Council at its October 2017 meeting. Since that review the Council reauthorized the Rockfish Program in 2021, prior to it expiring.
- The Rockfish Program does not have an expiration date since its reauthorization.



Links to Previous Rockfish Program Documents

- EA/RIR for Amendment 111 to the GOA FMP to reauthorize the Rockfish Program <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/environmental-assessment-regulatory-impact-review-proposed-amendment-111-fishery>
- EA/RIR for Amendment 88 to the GOA FMP to implement the Rockfish Program <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/secretarial-review-regulatory-impact-review-final-environmental-assessment-and>
- EA/RIR for Amendment 68 to the GOA FMP to implement the Rockfish Pilot Program <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/regulatory-impact-review-and-final-environmental-assessment-proposed-amendment-68>
- 2017 Rockfish Program and Allocation Review https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/catch_shares/Rockfish/RockfishProgramReview1017.pdf



Rockfish Reauthorization Purpose and Need Statement

Retain the management, economic, safety, and conservation gains realized under the Rockfish Program ...[noting that] the Rockfish Program improved safety at sea, controlled fleet capacity, enhanced NMFS' ability to conserve and manage species allocated under the Rockfish Program, increased vessel accountability, reduced sea floor contact, allowed full retention of allocated species, and reduced halibut and Chinook salmon bycatch. In addition, the rockfish fishery dependent communities in the Central Gulf of Alaska and the onshore processing sector have benefited from a more stable workforce, more onshore deliveries of rockfish, improved rockfish quality, and increased diversity of rockfish products. Central Gulf of Alaska fishermen, and the onshore processing sector have benefited from reduced conflicts with salmon processing. The offshore sector has benefited from greater spatial and temporal flexibility in prosecuting the fishery, resulting in lower bycatch, a more rational distribution of effort, and more stable markets.



Data

- This study will use CAS, COAR, and EDR data provided by AKFIN staff for standard performance measures. This information will be used to generate dashboards as well as other catch, production, value, community, and crew data.
- Annual Rockfish Program Cooperative reports (2007-2022 or most recent available) will be used to provide certain cooperative specific information
- NMFS Restricted Access Management (RAM) data from (2003-2024) to provide license and permit and quota transfer data (summarized by AKFIN staff)
- NMFS cost recovery report data will be used to provide information on recoverable fees, cost recovery fee amounts, and cost recovery fee compliance.
- Safety data will be provided and summarized by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).



Annotated Outline

Executive Summary

The executive summary will include key findings of the Rockfish Program review. These will include significant changes in the fishery, regulatory issues of concern, and any issues that are identified that the Council may wish to consider in terms of future regulatory amendments.

I. Introduction

The introduction will summarize the requirements to prepare the program review, discuss the Council's stated goals and objectives for the Rockfish Program, and describe the other background issues as appropriate.



Annotated Outline

2. History of the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Fishery Management

- The 2021 Rockfish Program reauthorization and previous Rockfish Program reviews included a description of the management measures implemented at the creation of the program as well as changes to the program that had been implemented these will be included by reference and summarized as necessary.
- Four recent actions approved by the Council will be described.
- Other information relevant to the program review will also be updated, summarized, and/or referenced. For example, the work being conducted to determine whether Electronic Monitoring is a viable option for the rockfish fisheries.



Annotated Outline

3. Overview of Rockfish Program Cooperatives

This section provides a brief overview of Rockfish Program cooperatives including membership, goals of the cooperative, and measures implemented by cooperatives to achieve their goals.

4. TACs, Allocations, Harvests, Processing, and Transfers

Will provide a general overview of the fishery including information on the TACs, catch of primary and secondary species, QS allocations and transfers. To the extent possible, a dashboard approach will be utilized in this section.



Annotated Outline

5. Reductions in Sea Floor Contact

A stated goal of the Rockfish Program is to maintain the reduced trawl gear impacts on the sea floor and the organisms that live there that were realized under the RPP. Previous analyses of the Rockfish Program provided information prepared by NMFS Habitat Division staff based on information prepared for the 2015 Essential Fish Habitat 5-year review and focused on the GOA Pacific ocean perch and Northern rockfish fisheries. The updated Fishing Effects model will show general trends of impacts by commercial fishing activities on marine habitats in the GOA based on all gear types and fisheries combined, unless more specific information becomes available.



Annotated Outline

6. Prohibited Species Catch

Halibut and Chinook salmon PSC limits established for the CV and CP sectors will be described in terms of limits over time and usage of the available limit. Information on salmon otolith collection, conducted within the program, will be described.

7. Retention and Utilization

Retention rates of primary and secondary species will be reported showing the retained and discarded catch. Changes in utilization rates of round fish by processors will also be provided.



Annotated Outline

8. Products and Markets

An overview of rockfish products and markets using product form data product values. Information on the relative amounts of product forms and their first wholesale value will be included. Data from market reports and discussion with industry will be utilized to provide current market data.



Annotated Outline

9. Excessive Harvesting and Processing Limits

LAPP programs are required, under the MSA, to consider provisions that prevent a person from acquiring an excessive share of the fisheries allocated. The discussion will also include how changes in participation may impact excessive share limits.



Annotated Outline

10. Fishing Communities

- Kodiak will be the focus.
- Information will be presented on how labor and taxes are impacted.
- Kodiak provides processors water and electric services so a discussion of how changes in the processing sector could impact the city's utility infrastructure will be included.
- Other communities will also be considered in terms of harvesting and processing workers.
- Update quantitative information and description of social impacts through 2023 will be included using information from the recently updated community profiles, the Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO) report, and other information as appropriate.



Annotated Outline

1.1. Sideboard Limits

- Catcher vessels are prohibited from fishing for the primary rockfish species in the West Yakutat District and Western GOA during July. The Rockfish Program also prohibited catcher vessels from directed fishing in any target fishery in the deep-water complex in the month of July (except for Central GOA Rockfish). This limitation prohibits catcher vessels from directed fishing in the Arrowtooth flounder, deep water flatfish, and rex sole fisheries.
- CP cooperative sideboards limits the amount of primary rockfish species a CP cooperative may use in the West Yakutat District and Western GOA fisheries during July. Sideboard effectiveness will review how the cooperative structure has kept its members within the limits. Any new sideboard issues have been identified since that last review will be discussed.



Annotated Outline

12. Fishing Vessel Safety

NIOSH staff will be asked to query its Commercial Fishing Incident Database for work-related fatalities and vessel disasters. That data source does not include other safety measures, including nonfatal injuries, vessel system failures not resulting in abandonment, and search-and-rescue missions.

13. Cost Recovery

NMFS cost recovery fee will be updated, including a table on management costs and cost recovery fees. Much of the information included in this section will be derived from NMFS annual cost recovery reports.



Annotated Outline

14. Management, Monitoring, and Enforcement

Information on biological, in-season management, and monitoring issues will be provided. Any new or unique enforcement or management issues that have been identified since the last review will be described. Monitoring issues will include work on the development of EM.

15. Summary and Conclusions

A summary of the major findings and any recommendations or conclusions resulting from the review will be provided in this section.

