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# D3 GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT POLICY

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# PURPOSE OF AGENDA ITEM

- Review of the groundfish management policy is a requirement in the FMPs
- Periodic in-depth review (last in Feb 2019); updates at each meeting
- Objectives of this agenda item:
  1. Review policy / goal statements / objectives
  2. Review Council actions re policy since last review (noting focus on groundfish)
  3. Consider whether changes to the policy/objectives are warranted (require a FMP amendment)
  4. Consider whether additional Council action warranted under policy

*“Adaptive management requires regular and periodic review.”*

*“The NPFMC will review, modify, eliminate or consider new issues, as appropriate, to best carry out the goals and objectives of this management policy.”*



# MANAGEMENT POLICY (PP.1-2; 1/4)

**Precautionary approach** - forward looking conservation measures that address differing levels of uncertainty

Apply judicious and responsible fisheries management practices,

- **based on sound scientific research and analysis,**
- **proactively rather than reactively,**
- to ensure the **sustainability of fishery resources and associated ecosystems**
- for the benefit of future as well as current generations

**Insure the continued sustainability of the managed species,** recognizing changes in productivity may be caused by fluctuations in natural oceanographic conditions, fisheries, and other, non-fishing, activities

Consider **reasonable, adaptive management measures** as described in applicable law



# MANAGEMENT POLICY (PP.1-2; 2/4)

Consider and adopt, as appropriate, measures that accelerate the NPFMC's precautionary, adaptive management approach through

- **community or rights-based mgmt,**
- **ecosystem-based management principles** that protect managed species from overfishing, and
- where appropriate and practicable, increase **habitat protection & bycatch constraints.**

All management measures will be based on the **best scientific information available.**



# MANAGEMENT POLICY (PP.1-2; 3/4)

Given intent, fishery management goal is to

- provide **sound conservation** of the living marine resources;
- provide **socially and economically viable fisheries and fishing communities**;
- minimize human-caused threats to **protected species**;
- maintain a healthy marine resource **habitat**;
- incorporate **ecosystem-based considerations** into mgmt decisions.



# MANAGEMENT POLICY (PP.1-2; 4/4)

Management approach recognizes the **need to balance:**

- many competing uses of marine resources and
- different social and economic goals for sustainable fishery management including protection of the long-term health of the resource and the optimization of yield

Policy will utilize and improve upon the NPFMC's existing open and transparent process to **involve the public in decision-making**



# PREVENT OVERFISHING (P.5)

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**Conservative TACs** 1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.

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**OY cap** 2. Continue to use existing optimum yield cap for BSAI (as stated in current law) and GOA groundfish fisheries

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**Adaptive mgmt** 3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range

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**Conservative ABCs/OFLs** 4. Initiate a scientific review of the adequacy of F40 and adopt improvements as appropriate

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**Species categories** 5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories

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## ***COUNCIL ACTIONS:***

- *Annual specifications*
- *CIE reviews*
- *NS1 technical guidance*
- *Sculpins to ecosystem category*



# PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND COMMUNITIES (P.5)

**Conservation while yielding greatest benefit to the Nation**

6. Promote conservation while providing for optimum yield in terms of providing 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

**Avoid social and economic disruption**

7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures

**Fair and equitable allocation**

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

**Safety**

9. Promote increased safety at sea

## ***COUNCIL ACTIONS:***

- *Considerations applied in all management recommendations*
- *USCG, NIOSH reports*





# PRESERVE FOOD WEB (P.5)

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Ecosystem indicators      10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management

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Adjust ABCs for ecosystem, uncertainty      11. Improve the procedure to adjust ABCs as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors

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Protect forage fish      12. Continue to protect the integrity of the food web through limits on harvest of forage species

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EBFM      13. Incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions as appropriate

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## **COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

- *Ecosystem Status Reports, in briefs*
- *$ABC \leq \max ABC$*
- *Risk tables in SAFE report*
- *ESPs*
- *Forage fish status in SAFE reports*
- *BS FEP, LKTKS, CCTF*



# MANAGE INCIDENTAL CATCH AND REDUCE BYCATCH AND WASTE (P.6; 1/2)

**Bycatch management** 14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program

**Bycatch incentive programs** 15. Develop incentive programs for bycatch reduction including the development of mechanisms to facilitate the formation of bycatch pools, VBAs, or other bycatch incentive systems

**Non-target Research** 16. Encourage research programs to evaluate current population estimates for non-target species with a view to setting appropriate bycatch limits as information becomes available

**Reduce discards** 17. Continue program to reduce discards by developing management measures that encourage the use of gear and fishing techniques that reduce bycatch which includes economic discards

## **COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

- *Annual IPA reports*
- *Salmon genetics reports, 3-river index*
- *BSAI halibut ABM*
- *Observer reports*
- *Trawl EM development*
- *Fixed gear CV rockfish retention*
- *Halibut deck sorting*
- *Forage fish status in SAFE report*



# MANAGE INCIDENTAL CATCH AND REDUCE BYCATCH AND WASTE (P.6; 2/2)

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**Seasons and gear restrictions** 18. Continue to manage incidental catch and bycatch through seasonal distribution of TAC and geographical gear restrictions

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**Bycatch accounting** 19. Continue to account for bycatch mortality in TAC accounting and improve the accuracy of mortality assessments for target, PSC bycatch, and non-commercial species

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**PSC limits** 20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through PSC limits or other appropriate measures

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**Reduce waste** 21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels

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## ***COUNCIL ACTIONS:***

- *Seasons, area closures, gear restrictions ongoing*
- *Observer ADPs*
- *Groundfish specs*
- *SBRM*
- *PSC limits ongoing*
- *BSAI halibut ABM*
- *Fixed gear CV rockfish retention*



# AVOID IMPACTS TO SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS (P.6)

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Seabirds, USFWS listed species	22. Continue to cooperate with USFWS to protect ESA-listed species, and if appropriate and practicable, other seabird species
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SSL	23. Maintain or adjust current protection measures as appropriate to avoid jeopardy to ESA-listed Steller sea lions
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Marine mammals/ fishery interactions	24. Encourage programs to review status of endangered or threatened marine mammal stocks and fishing interactions and develop fishery management measures as appropriate
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Cooperate with NMFS, USFWS	25. Continue to cooperate with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS to protect ESA-listed marine mammal species, and if appropriate and practicable, other marine mammal species
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## ***COUNCIL ACTIONS:***

- *Seabird conservation working group updates*
- *SSL measures in regulation*
- *Protected species reports, SSC marine mammal status report*
- *Cooperation with NMFS, USFWS, and ongoing protection measures*



# REDUCE AND AVOID IMPACTS TO HABITAT (P.6)

Hab. protection review	26. Review and evaluate efficacy of existing habitat protection measures for managed species
Identify EFH/ HAPC, mitigate impacts	27. Identify and designate EFH and HAPC pursuant to MSA rules, and mitigate fishery impacts as necessary and practicable to continue the sustainability of managed species
MPA policy	28. Develop a Marine Protected Area policy in coordination with national and state policies
Habitat research	29. Encourage development of a research program to identify regional baseline habitat information and mapping, subject to funding and staff availability
Develop MPAs as appropriate	30. Develop goals, objectives and criteria to evaluate the efficacy and suitable design of marine protected areas and no-take marine reserves as tools to maintain abundance, diversity, and productivity. Implement marine protected areas if and where appropriate

## **COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

- *EFH 5-year review research, model development*
- *Ongoing EFH mitigation measures*
- *Area-based mgmt. database development*
- *NMFS HCD mapping program ongoing*
- *Habitat research priorities*
- *BS FEP goals, objectives*
- *Ongoing area closures*



# PROMOTE EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT USE OF FISHERY RESOURCES (P.7)

## Stability/ fair allocation

31. Provide economic and community stability to harvesting and processing sectors through fair allocation of fishery resources

## LLP program, rights-based management

32. Maintain LLP program and modify 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

## Rationalization, LAPPs

33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance

## Efficient use of resources

34. Develop management measures that, when practicable, consider the efficient use of fishery resources taking into account the interest of harvesters, processors, and communities

## **COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

- *BSAI halibut ABM*
- *BSAI Pcod trawl LAPP*
- *AI Pcod community considerations*
- *BSAI pcod mothership adjustments*
- *BSAI Pcod parallel waters limitation*
- *BSAI Pcod pot CP*
- *Coop reports*
- *CGOA rockfish reauthorization*



# INCREASE ALASKA NATIVE CONSULTATION (P.7)

<b>Incorporate LKTK</b>	35. Continue to incorporate local and Traditional Knowledge in fishery management
<b>Enhance LKTK collection</b>	36. Consider ways to enhance collection of local and Traditional Knowledge from communities and incorporate such knowledge in fishery management where appropriate
<b>Alaska Native participation</b>	37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management

## ***COUNCIL ACTIONS:***

- *Council staff position as Rural Community and Tribal Liaison*
- *BS FEP LKTKS*
- *SSPT reports*
- *CEC recommendations*
- *Ongoing outreach on BSAI salmon, halibut bycatch*



# IMPROVE DATA QUALITY, MONITORING, AND ENFORCEMENT (P.7; 1/2)

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Utility of observer data 38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources

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Address disproportionate observer costs 39. Improve groundfish Observer Program and consider ways to address the disproportionate costs associated with the current funding mechanism

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Increased data reporting 40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements

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Tech to improve monitoring, enforcement 41. Increase the quality of monitoring and enforcement data through improved technological means

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## **COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

- *Observer reports*
- *Observer cost efficiencies development*
- *Ongoing fixed gear EM implementation, trawl EM development*
- *EDR adjustments*
- *Economic SAFE reports, ACEPO (ongoing)*
- *CGOA rockfish reauthorization*
- *MRSAM tool*





# IMPROVE DATA QUALITY, MONITORING, AND ENFORCEMENT (P.7; 2/2)

## Long-term ecosystem monitoring

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 needs

43. Cooperate with research institutions such as the NPRB in identifying research needs to address pressing fishery issues

## Enforceability

44. Promote enhanced enforceability

## Coordinate with partners

45. Continue to cooperate and coordinate management and enforcement programs with the ADF&G, and Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection, the USCG, NOAA Fisheries Enforcement, IPhC, 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

## **COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

- *Research priorities*
- *Enforcement precepts (ongoing)*
- *Agency B reports*
- *Council cooperation with partner agencies and entities, including international, national, and Alaska organizations*



# APPX A.2: EVALUATING THE CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF THE PROGRAMMATIC SEIS

- **PSEIS was designed to anticipate the need to adapt management to a continually changing environment**
- Supplemental Information Report reviewed by Council in 2014, finalized in 2015
  - Reviewed changes to the FMPs since 2004 PSEIS
  - Identified new information and new circumstances since 2004, including changes to groundfish management and environmental circumstances
  - Evaluated whether impacts predicted in the PSEIS were still valid
  - Concluded that new circumstances and information were not sufficient to trigger supplementing the PSEIS



# COUNCIL ACTION

**No action required except for the review**

Options:

- Does the Council want to propose changes to the policy/objectives?
  - Requires FMP amendment and analysis
- Are there any other actions the Council wants to initiate, upon review of the policy/objectives?

