

## Groundfish Workplan

At its February 2018 meeting<sup>1</sup>, the Council conducted an annual review of its Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy<sup>2</sup>, as required under the GOA and BSAI Groundfish FMPs. The review highlighted Council activities in 2017 that reflect continued fulfillment of the Groundfish Management Policy. The Groundfish Workplan<sup>3</sup> is a tool that tracks Council actions within the year, in the context of the Management Policy, and is updated for every meeting. The workplan has grown in size since it was created in 2004, making it somewhat unwieldy for within-year tracking. In consideration of this, the table below provides a two-meeting tracking tool for Council actions. This and prior versions of the table provided this year are available on the Council website ([www.npfmc.org](http://www.npfmc.org)).

The Management Objectives established under the Groundfish Management Policy were intended to support decision-making under the BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMPs. Although the Policy’s EBFM approach and comprehensive nature of its objectives are reflected in actions outside of the Groundfish FMPs, these other actions are not included in the table.

2018		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	April	June
2. Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities	6. Promote conservation while providing for optimum yield in terms of 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.	These considerations are applied to all management actions	... applied to all management actions
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures		Social Sciences Planning Team report Community engagement draft solicitation
4. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.	Establishment of Salmon Stock Composition Workgroup Review pollock ICA/IPA reports; updates on salmon genetics and BSAI salmon adult equivalency Initial review - GOA CV Chinook PSC limit adjustments Halibut ABM	Observer Annual Report and OAC Report EM Workgroup Report Fixed gear CV rockfish retention Halibut retention in sablefish pots Kuskokwim model review for 3-river index Halibut ABM methodology Halibut ABM O26 performance standard

<sup>1</sup> [http://legistar2.granicus.com/npfmc/meetings/2018/2/971\\_A\\_North\\_Pacific\\_Council\\_18-02-05\\_Meeting\\_Agenda.pdf](http://legistar2.granicus.com/npfmc/meetings/2018/2/971_A_North_Pacific_Council_18-02-05_Meeting_Agenda.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/node/33552>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/fmp/ProgWorkplan2018-02.pdf>

2018		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	April	June
4. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.	Initial review - GOA CV Chinook PSC limit adjustments	GOA Tanner crab observer/effort data
	21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.	Initial Review - Halibut retention in BSAI sablefish pots	Fixed gear CV rockfish retention Halibut retention in sablefish pots GOA pollock, cod seasons/allocations
5. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	22. Continue to cooperate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect ESA-listed species, and if appropriate and practicable, other seabird species.	Seabird conservation update Protection species report	Protection species report
7. Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.	Co-op Reports (AFA, AM 80, GOA Rockfish, BSAI Crab)	BSAI Pcod trawl CV analysis Self-guided halibut rental boats
9. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources.		EM Workshop Report Observer Annual Report ad OAC Report
	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.		Annual Research Priorities review
	43. Cooperate with research institutions such as the North Pacific Research Board in identifying research needs to address pressing fishery issues.		

\* While technically not a groundfish action, this action reflects the consistency of groundfish management policy objectives with other Council management decisions.