

# Groundfish Programmatic Workplan

Updated November 2019

The Council conducted its most recent *comprehensive* review of its Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy<sup>1</sup> (Policy) at its February 2019 meeting<sup>2</sup>, highlighting Council activities in calendar year 2018 that continue to fulfill the Priorities and Objectives established in the Policy. Annual Policy review is a requirement of the GOA and BSAI Groundfish FMPs, and the Council fulfills that requirement through the Programmatic Workplan, a concise tool that presents Council actions relative to Policy Objectives and is provided at every Council meeting. As determined by the Council in February 2019, comprehensive review of the Policy is done on a three-year cycle in order to accommodate the multi-year lifespan of major Council actions. The next 3-year comprehensive review will be conducted at the Council’s February 2022 meeting.

The table below provides a two-meeting (previous and current) snapshot of the Programmatic Workplan, listing only Council actions relate to the Groundfish FMPs and indicating their correspondence to Programmatic Management Objectives. Those Management Objectives were intended to support decision-making under the Groundfish FMPs. Although the Policy’s EBFM approach is reflected in actions outside of the Groundfish FMPs, these other actions are not included in the table. The tabular presentation of the Programmatic Workplan below as well as prior versions of the table are available on the Council website: ([www.npfmc.org](http://www.npfmc.org)).

2019		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	October	December
1. Prevent Overfishing	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.	Proposed Groundfish Specifications	Final Groundfish Specifications
	2. Continue to use the optimum yield caps for the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries.		Charter Halibut Management Measures for Areas 2C and 3A
	3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range.		
	4. Provide for periodic reviews of the adequacy of F40 and adopt improvements, as appropriate.		NS1 Tech. Guidance on ABC Control Rule Provisions
	5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories.	Sculpins to EC – <i>Final Action</i>	
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.	Halibut ABM – <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Cod Parallel Waters Limitation – <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Pacific Cod LAPP Scoping Paper Stranded BSAI and GOA Pcod BSAI Pcod pot CP participation	Halibut ABM Workplan Halibut Rental Boat Registration – <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Cod Parallel Waters Limitation – <i>Final Action</i> CGOA Rockfish Program Reauthorization Aleutian Islands Community Follow-up
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures		

<sup>1</sup> <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/node/33552>

<sup>2</sup> <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/363>

2019		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	October	December
	9. Promote increased safety at sea.	USCG Report	USCG Report
4. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.	Halibut ABM – <i>Initial Review</i>	Halibut ABM Workplan Charter Halibut Management Measures for Areas 2C and 3A Small Sablefish Discards
	20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.		
	21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.		
5. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	24. Encourage programs to review status of endangered or threatened marine mammal stocks and fishing interactions and develop fishery management measures as appropriate.	Protected species report	Protected species report
7. Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	31. Provide economic and community stability to harvesting and processing sectors through fair allocation of fishery resources.	Halibut ABM – <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Cod Parallel Waters Limitation – <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Pacific Cod LAPP Scoping Paper Stranded BSAI and GOA Pcod BSAI Pcod pot CP participation	Halibut ABM Workplan Charter Halibut Management Measures for Areas 2C and 3A BSAI Cod Parallel Waters Limitation – <i>Final Action</i> CGOA Rockfish Program Reauthorization Aleutian Islands Community Follow-up
	32. Maintain the license limitation program, modified 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.		
	33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.		
	34. Develop management measures that, when practicable, consider the efficient use of fishery resources taking into account the interest of harvesters, processors, and communities.		
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.	Observer fee analysis – <i>Final action</i>	
	39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.	2020 Observer Program Annual Deployment Plan – Review; FMAC Report	
	40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.	Community Engagement Committee – Report	Community Engagement Committee – Report

2019		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	October	December
9. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	45. Continue to cooperate and coordinate management and enforcement programs with the Alaska Board of Fish, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement, International Pacific Halibut Commission, 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.	NMFS Management Report NOAA GC Report AFSC Report ADF&G Report USCG Report USFWS Report	NMFS Management Report NOAA GC Report AFSC Report ADF&G Report USCG Report USFWS Report

\*\* Not included in the Table: BSAI Crab Specifications and Cook Inlet Salmon FMP.