

Groundfish Programmatic Workplan

The Council conducted its most recent *comprehensive* review of its Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy¹ (Policy) at its February 2019 meeting², 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).

** Not included in the Table: Scallop SAFE, BSAI Crab SAFE, SMBKC rebuilding, Cook Inlet Salmon.

2020		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	June 2020	October 2020
1. Prevent Overfishing	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.		Proposed Groundfish Specifications
	2. Continue to use the optimum yield caps for the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries.		
	3. Provide for adaptive management by continuing to specify optimum yield as a range.		
	5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories.		Sculpin/Squid product types – <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>
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures		Three River Index - review
	9. Promote increased safety at sea.	USCG Report	USCG Report

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

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

2020		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	June 2020	October 2020
3. Ecosystem - based Fishery Management	10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.		ESP appendices, Ecosystem Status Report included in groundfish specifications
	11. Improve the procedure to adjust acceptable biological catch levels as necessary to account for uncertainty and ecosystem factors.		
	13. Incorporate ecosystem-based considerations into fishery management decisions, as appropriate.		
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>
	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.	Marine mammal conservation status – report to SSC	Protected species report
6. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	27. Identify and designate essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Act rules, and mitigate fishery impacts as necessary and practicable to continue the sustainability of managed species.	EFH 5-year review modeling workplan report to the SSC	
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>
	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.		

2020		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	June 2020	October 2020
8. Increase Alaska Native & Community Consultation	36. Consider ways to enhance collection of local and traditional knowledge from communities, and incorporate such knowledge in fishery management where appropriate.		Alaska Native Culture and History Syllabus - review
	37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management.		
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 update with respect to Covid-19 response	2021 Observer Program Annual Deployment Plan – Review; FMAC Report
	39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.		
	40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.		
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.