

Groundfish Programmatic Workplan

At its February 2019 meeting¹, the Council conducted a comprehensive review of its Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy² (Policy), 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 presents a two-meeting snapshot of the Programmatic Workplan for 2019, 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, and 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 and prior versions of the table are also available on the Council website: (www.npfmc.org).

2019		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	April	June
1. Prevent Overfishing	5. Continue to improve the management of species through species categories.	Sculpins to ecosystem component category	Sculpins to ecosystem component category
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.		AI trawl set aside GOA pollock, cod seasons/allocations – Initial Review
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures		BSAI cod review
	9. Promote increased safety at sea.	USCG Report NIOSH Report	USCG Report
4. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	14. Continue and improve current incidental catch and bycatch management program.	Fixed gear CV rockfish retention – Final Action	Salmon Bycatch Issues
	20. Control the bycatch of prohibited species through prohibited species catch limits or other appropriate measures.	Halibut ABM	
	21. Reduce waste to biologically and socially acceptable levels.	Sablefish discarding	

¹ <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/363>

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

2019		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	April	June
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	SSPT Report CEC – Report
	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.	BSAI Trawl CV Pacific cod mothership adjustments Cooperative Reports (AFA, A80, CGOA Rockfish) IFQ eligibility criteria IFQ Committee report Sablefish discarding	BSAI Pacific cod allocation review IFQ access opportunities
	33. Provide for adaptive management by periodically evaluating the effectiveness of rationalization programs and the allocation of access rights based on performance.		
9. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	34. Develop management measures that, when practicable, consider the efficient use of fishery resources taking into account the interest of harvesters, processors, and communities.		
	38. Increase the utility of groundfish fishery observer data for the conservation and management of living marine resources.		Observer 2018 Annual Report
	39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.	Observer Program Fees	Observer Program Fees
	40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.	Economic Data Reports Economic SAFE Reports	SSPT Report CEC – Report

2019		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	April	June
	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.	ADF&G Report NIOSH Report NMFS Management Report NOAA GC Report USCG Report USFWS Report USN Report	ADF&G Report IPHC Report NMFS Management Report State Dept Report USCG Report

** Not included in the Table: Specifications and other issues related to the BSAI Crab FMP, draft workplans and a team report for the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP).