

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: BSAI Crab SAFE

		Council Actions	
General Priority	Management Objective	December 2020	February 2021
1. Prevent Overfishing	1. Adopt conservative harvest levels for multi-species and single species fisheries and specify optimum yield.	Final Groundfish Specifications	SSC Risk Table Workshop
	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.		
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.	BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV LAPP – <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Pacific cod pot CP – <i>Initial Review</i>	BSAI Pacific cod pot CP – <i>Final Action</i> Community Engagement Committee Recommendations Crab PSC limit reductions – Preliminary/Initial Review
	7. Promote management measures that, while meeting conservation objectives, are also designed to avoid significant disruption of existing social and economic structures		
	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>

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3. Ecosystem - based Fishery Management	10. Develop indices of ecosystem health as targets for management.	ESP appendices, Ecosystem Status Report included in groundfish specifications	Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Taskforce Reports
	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.		Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology – Initial/Final Action Crab PSC limit reductions – Preliminary/Initial Review Small sablefish release – Initial Review EFP applications and reports
	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 Marine mammal status – Review
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.	BSAI Pacific cod trawl CV LAPP – <i>Initial Review</i> BSAI Pacific cod pot CP – <i>Initial Review</i>	BSAI Pacific cod pot CP – <i>Initial Review</i> Small sablefish release – Initial Review PSC limit reductions – Preliminary/Initial Review
	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.		
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.		Community Engagement Committee Recommendations FEP Taskforce on LK/TK/Subsistence update
	37. Increase Alaska Native participation and consultation in fishery management.		

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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.	2021 Observer Program Annual Deployment Plan – Review; FMAC Report	Small sablefish release – Initial Review
	39. Develop funding mechanisms that achieve equitable costs to the industry for implementation of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program.		
9. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	40. Improve community and regional economic impact costs and benefits through increased data reporting requirements.		Groundfish and Crab Economic SAFE reports
	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 IPHC Report