

C7: Classification of Sculpin Species in the BSAI and GOA FMPs

Final Action

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Recent History of this Action

Section 1.2, p.10-11

- **April 2019:** Discussion Paper on appropriate level of conservation and management required for sculpins in BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs
- **June 2019:** Initial Review
 - Identified PPA, released draft for public review
- **October 2019:** Public Review



Photo credit: Doug Duncan

Description of Alternatives

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2 (PPA): Designate sculpins in both BSAI and GOA FMPs as non-target ecosystem component species. Establishment of OFL, ABC, and TAC will no longer be required.

Remove regulations referring to sculpins as target species and implement regulations for the groundfish fishery that:

- Prohibit directed fishing for sculpins,
- Establish a sculpin maximum retainable amount (MRA) when directed fishing for other fisheries at a level to discourage retention while allowing flexibility to prosecute other fisheries:
 - Option 1 MRA = 2%
 - Option 2 MRA = 10%
 - **Option 3 MRA = 20%**
- Require recordkeeping and reporting to monitor and report catch and discards of sculpin species annually.



Photo credit: Doug Duncan

Comparison of Sculpins Management under Alternatives 1 and 2: Table 2-2, p.19

Management Measure	Alt 1- No Action	Alt 2 - Ecosystem Component (Preliminary Preferred Alt)
Prohibit Directed Fishing	No	Yes Prohibit directed fishing in regulations at 679.20(i)
Retention and Sale	Yes Retention and sale allowed.	Yes Retention and personal use allowed, subject to MRA limits. Sale allowed if processed into fishmeal.
Annual Harvest Specifications	Yes - Stock assessments continue - TAC assessed in optimum yield	No - Periodic reports on biomass information from current surveys will be included in the SAFE (similar to squids) - Catch does not accrue to optimum yield cap
Incidental Catch Management	Yes - MRA for sculpins as incidental catch species = 20% for most basis species	Yes - MRA as incidental catch species = options for 20% (Preliminary Preferred Option), 10%, 2%
Recordkeeping and Reporting	Yes - Require catch reporting	Yes - Require catch reporting

Expanded Discussion and Changes

Summary of changes
from Initial Review
to Public Review
on p. 9.



Photo credit: Josh Keaton

Decision Point for Council

Identify a preferred alternative and one of the three MRA options:

- Option 1 MRA = 2%
- Option 2 MRA = 10%
- Option 3 MRA = 20%



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