Introduction to Groundfish Trawl Proposals 43, 44, and 45

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Oral Report RC 3, Tab 3
Staff Comments RC 2, Tab 6
Groundfish Fishery Management:

- **Federal:** Federal waters (EEZ; 3–200 nmi) guided by NPFMC process

- **Parallel:** State waters (0–3 nmi) concurrent with adjacent federal fishery and generally adopt federal regulations and management measures as guided by BOF process

- **State-Waters (GHL):** State waters (0–3 nmi) guided by BOF process
Central Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fisheries

- **Management:** Federal/parallel
- **Participation:** 50 to 60 vessels (CV/CP)
- **Catcher-vessel size:** 58-125 feet in length
- **Total retained groundfish catch (2012):** 268 million pounds
- **Exvessel value (2012):** $52 million
- **Delivery location:** 97% of trawl catcher-vessel harvest delivered to Kodiak
Nonpelagic Trawl Gear

Target Species:
- Arrowtooth Flounder: 34%
- Pacific Cod: 21%
- Flatfish: 19%
- Rockfish: 15%
- Walleye Pollock: 8%
- Skate: 3%
- Sablefish: 1%

2012 Catch: 116 million pounds

Prohibited Species Catch Concerns: Halibut, King salmon, Crab

Pelagic Trawl Gear

Target Species:
- Walleye Pollock: 95%
- Pacific Ocean Perch: 3%
- All other species: 2%

2012 Catch: 151 million pounds

Prohibited Species Catch Concerns: King salmon
Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik
Groundfish Proposals

- **Proposal 43:** Create state-waters nonpelagic trawl fisheries for all groundfish species
- **Proposal 44:** Create state-waters walleye pollock fisheries
- **Proposal 45:** Require 100% observer coverage for all trawl vessels fishing inside state waters
Proposal 43 – Create state-waters nonpelagic trawl fisheries in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas
Proposal 43 - Nonpelagic Trawl

Proposal Elements

- GHLs based on CGOA groundfish ABCs
- Establish prohibited species catch (PSC) limits
- Require 100% observer coverage
- Limit vessels to maximum of 58 feet in length
- Establish season dates and landing limits
Proposal 43 – Groundfish GHLs

• Proposed GHL based on 25% of ALL CGOA groundfish ABCs (17 CGOA ABCs)

• ABCs include offshore/deepwater species
  - sablefish, deepwater flatfish, rockfish

• ADF&G nearshore trawl survey (7 species)
  - Arrowtooth flounder, Pacific cod, flathead sole, yellowfin sole, rock sole, longnose skate, and big skate
  - 2013 ABCs = 532 million pounds
  - 25% GHL = 133 million pounds

• Increase groundfish harvest inside state waters
  - Reduce federal groundfish quotas
  - SSL critical habitat
Proposal 43 - PSC Limits

• Establish prohibited species catch (PSC) limits:
  - King and Tanner Crab
  - King Salmon
  - Halibut

• PSC limits undefined in proposal

• Federal/parallel groundfish fisheries
  - King and Tanner Crab: Total PSC not capped
  - King Salmon: Total PSC capped and apportioned by area and target fishery
  - Halibut: Total PSC capped and apportioned by area/gear type/target fishery/season
Proposal 43 - Observer Coverage

- 100% onboard observer coverage funded by vessel

- No State of Alaska groundfish observer program
  - Significant program development, funding, and coordination

- Federally permitted vessels subject to federal observer requirements during existing federal/parallel fisheries
  - **Full coverage (100%)**: Most catcher-processers
  - **Partial coverage (less than 100%)**: Most trawl and fixed gear catcher-vessels
    - Funded through fees on retained catch
Proposal 43 - Closed Waters

Nonpelagic Trawl Closures in the Kodiak, Chignik, and Cook Inlet Areas

- Closed year-round (5 AAC 39.164, 39.165, 28.450 and 28.330)
- Open Jan. 20 - April 30; Oct. 1 - Nov. 30 (5 AAC 28.410)
Proposal 44 – Create state-waters walleye pollock fisheries in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas.
Proposal 44 – State-waters pollock

Proposal Elements

- GHLs based on Area 620 and 630 pollock ABCs
- Require 100% observer coverage
- Limit vessels to maximum of 58 feet in length
- Legal gear: pelagic trawl, nonpelagic trawl, seine, and jig
- Establish season dates and landing limits
Proposal 44 – Pollock GHLs

• Proposed GHL based on 25% of federal areas 620 and 630 pollock ABCs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pollock ABCs (2008-2012)</th>
<th>Proposed GHLs (25%)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Area 620:</strong> 31-101 million pounds</td>
<td><strong>Area 620:</strong> 8-25 million pounds</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Area 630:</strong> 24-58 million pounds</td>
<td><strong>Area 630:</strong> 6-15 million pounds</td>
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• State-waters GHLs: 14-40 million pounds (avg. 25 million)

• Increase pollock harvest inside state-waters
  - Reduce federal pollock quotas
  - SSL critical habitat
Proposal 44 - Observer Coverage

• 100% onboard observer coverage funded by vessel
• No State of Alaska groundfish observer program
• Federally permitted trawl vessels subject to federal observer requirements for existing federal/parallel fisheries
• No proposed PSC caps (king salmon)
  - Observer program objectives
Proposal 45 - Require 100% observer coverage for all trawl vessels targeting groundfish inside state waters

- Improve halibut, salmon, and Tanner crab bycatch estimation
- Parallel trawl fisheries in the Kodiak, Chignik, and Cook Inlet areas
  - Most state waters closed to nonpelagic trawl gear
  - Most state waters open to pelagic trawl gear (pollock)
- No State of Alaska groundfish observer program
  - Significant program development, funding, and coordination
- No State of Alaska prohibited species catch (PSC) caps for trawl gear
Proposal Considerations

➢ Gulf of Alaska groundfish trawl fisheries complex
  • ABC allocation
  • Prohibited species catch
  • Observer programs
  • Endangered species considerations (SSL)
  • Closed waters

➢ Require development and coordination

➢ Staff available to provide additional information