

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority	Specific priority actions	Related to mgmt objective:	Status <i>(updated 12-1-15)</i>	2016					
				Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec
Prevent Overfishing	a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	2009 - BSAI skates TAC breakout 2010 - Ecosystem component created 2015 - Working paper on uncertainty in control rules tasked 2015 -BSIERP MSE modeling underway Pending - Squid to EC - init. Review in 2016						
	b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	Ongoing - AFSC responds to CIE reviews as part of harvest specs process						
	c. continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	2014 - Grenadiers to EC Ongoing – Spatial management policy guides species complex and subarea considerations Pending - Squid to EC - Init. Review in 2016						
Preserve Food Web	a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	2010, 2011 - AI and EBS ecosystem assessments developed 2015 - GOA Ecosystem Report Card Ongoing - Ecosystem SAFE presented annually Pending – BS FEP will include ecosystem indicators and triggers						
	b. Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	Pending - Working paper on uncertainty in control rules - awaiting NS Guidelines revisions Ongoing - BSIERP MSE modeling						
	c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	2007 - FEP and brochure published 2011 - AI ecosystem assessment developed 2015 - BS FEP discussion paper						
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	2010 - Kodiak Tanner crab closures 2011, 2013 - GOA pollock and non-pollock Chinook PSC limits 2012 - GOA halibut PSC limit reduction 2015 - Partially addressed in BS salmon bycatch analyses 2015 - GOA trawl bycatch mgmt 2015 - Halibut management framework initiated						
	b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20	2009 - Partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS 2014 - Template for BSAI crab bycatch limits initiated 2015 - Halibut biomass-based PSC limits discussion paper 2015 - Halibut management framework initiated						
	c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17	Ongoing - Partially addressed in rockfish program Ongoing - Partially addressed in Council's Spatial Mgmt Policy						
	d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	2011 - National Bycatch Report 2013 - Restructured Obs. Program Ongoing – Review of Obs. Annual Deployment Plan						
	e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	2007 – Included in research priorities Ongoing – Forage fish included in Ecosystem SAFE						
	f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	2015 - Bycatch limits for BS Chinook revised - pending rulemaking						
	g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	2007 - Partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses for GOA 2010 - Partially addressed by arrowtooth MRA analyses for BSAI 2015 - Halibut management framework initiated						

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Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSL through the MSA process including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA	23	2011 - SSL BiOp 2014 - Updated SSL BiOp Ongoing - SSL EIS regs in place						
	b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23	Pending - Proposed rule expected in 2016						
	c. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate	24, 25	Ongoing - Monitoring through the Protected Species Report						
	d. adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program	22	2008 - Avoidance measures in area 4E 2015 - Re-consultation for short-tailed albatross						
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	2014 - Partially addressed in crab bycatch limits discussion paper						
	b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures	27	2007 - BS habitat closures 2009 - BS flatfish trawl sweep mods required 2011 - EFH 5-year review and Omnibus Amds approved 2014 - Crab bycatch limits discussion paper addresses BBRKC Pending - EFH 5 year review in April 2016						
	c. consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle	27	2011 - HAPC cycle changed to 5 years 2013 - HAPC skate nurseries adopted Pending - EFH 5 year review in April 2016 (includes HAPC)						
	d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas	27	2007 - Included in research priorities 2008 - NBSRA established 2011 - Discussion paper initiated 2012 - NBSRA plan halted						
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery	a. explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA	32	2008 - Trawl LLP recency in 2008 2009 - GOA fixed gear latent licenses						
	b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries	32, 34	2009 - GOA Pcod sector allocations 2010 - GOA rockfish program renewed 2015 - GOA trawl bycatch mgmt						
Increase Alaska Native & Community Consultation	a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process	37	2008 - Protocol approved						
	b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions	37	Ongoing - continued outreach on BSAI salmon bycatch Ongoing - Council Outreach Committee meets periodically						
Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs	38, 39	2008/2010 - Restructuring adopted/approved 2013 - EM Strategic Plan approved 2015 - Reg Amendments for coverage categories 2015 - 2016 EM Pre-implementation plan Ongoing - Annual Program review in June and Deployment Plan in Oct						
	b. explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	2008 - Partially addressed in AM 80 2009 - Partially addressed in BS Chinook bycatch EIS						
	c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers	41	2008 - VMS exemption for dinglebar 2014 - Advanced features integrated in enforcement precepts Pending - Discussion paper on VMS/EM for vessels without VMS						