



D5 Groundfish Objectives

February 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Jim Armstrong

Action Required:

1. Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy - review
2. Council actions in 2018 relative to the Policy - review
3. Consider modifications to Management Objectives (Requires FMP Amendment)
4. Consider new actions to further fulfill Management Objectives

BACKGROUND

In the 2000's, the Council and NMFS conducted a programmatic environmental review of the BSAI and GOA groundfish fishery management plans. The analysis evaluated management of Alaska's groundfish fisheries within a spectrum of harvest management policies ranging from more aggressive to highly precautionary. Published as a final programmatic supplemental environmental impact statement (PSEIS) in 2004, the supporting analysis still serves as the overarching EIS in support of the groundfish fisheries off Alaska.

The comprehensive review amended the Council's BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMPs to explicitly include the Council's Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy, consisting of a management approach statement, nine policy goals and 45 management objectives. Annual review of the Policy is mandated by the FMPs, and modification to the Policy would require an FMP amendment.

In order to track implementation of the Management Policy, a Programmatic Workplan was developed which serves as a reference tool, as well as a record of actions that have been taken by the Council in support of that Policy. A two-meeting snapshot of the workplan is included in the Council's briefing materials at every Council meeting, under the staff tasking agenda item.

At this year's February meeting, the Council will conduct a more comprehensive annual review of the Management Policy and actions reflected in the Workplan. In addition to considering changes to the Management Policy, the Council has the opportunity to identify additional actions needed to further fulfill its programmatic vision for management of its groundfish fisheries. Staff had also provided some consideration regarding the periodicity of this review in the future. The attached document provides further background on the Policy and includes the Workplan relative to actions taken in 2018.