

4.4 Summary of the Comparative Baseline

Chapter 3 of this document contains a comprehensive assessment of the human (physical, biological, and socioeconomic) environment potentially affected by the Alaska groundfish fisheries. For each of the resource categories used to analyze the impacts of the alternatives in this document, a comparative baseline has been developed. The baseline incorporates the state of the resource at a given point in time. In general, the baseline year is 2002 for physical and biological resources, and 2001 for socioeconomics. It is used to analyze the impacts of the alternatives.

The baseline does not represent a static ‘snapshot’ of the resource. Instead, it represents the trend of the resource, incorporating the past history of influences on the resource. The cumulative past effects of groundfish fishery activity, as well as effects external to the groundfish fishery such as other fishery impacts, human-induced impacts, and climatic events influencing the resource, all contribute to the state of the baseline condition.

In the table below, only those resource categories that were brought forward for alternatives impacts analysis are included. Some resource categories were identified in Chapter 3 as having in the past been impacted by the groundfish fisheries, but that interaction no longer occurs. More information on each resource category and the derivation of the baseline condition, can be accessed in the relevant section of Chapter 3.

The following is a list of tables containing information on resource categories and components:

Table number	Resource category	Components	Chapter 3 reference
4.4-1	Target groundfish species	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) walleye pollock, BSAI and GOA Pacific cod, BSAI and GOA sablefish, BSAI and GOA Atka mackerel, BSAI yellowfin sole, GOA shallow water flatfish, BSAI rock sole, BSAI and GOA flathead sole, BSAI and GOA arrowtooth flounder, BSAI Greenland turbot, GOA deepwater flatfish, BSAI Alaska plaice, BSAI other flatfish, GOA rex sole, BSAI and GOA Pacific ocean perch, GOA thornyhead rockfish, BSAI and GOA northern rockfish, BSAI and GOA shortraker/rougheye rockfish, BSAI other rockfish, GOA slope rockfish, GOA pelagic shelf rockfish, GOA demersal shelf rockfish	3.5.1
4.4-2	Prohibited species	Pacific halibut, Pacific salmon and steelhead trout, Pacific herring, crab	3.5.2
4.4-3	Other species, forage fish species, non-specified species	Other species category Forage fish category Grenadier	3.5.3, 3.5.4, 3.5.5
4.4-4	Habitat	BSAI, GOA	3.6
4.4-5	Seabirds	Black-footed albatross, Laysan albatross, short-tailed albatross, northern fulmar, shearwaters, storm-petrels, cormorants, spectacled eider, Steller's eider, jaegers, gulls, kittiwakes, terns, murre, guillemots, murrelets, auklets, puffins	3.7

Table number	Resource category	Components	Chapter 3 reference
4.4-6	Marine mammals	Steller sea lion, northern fur seal, Pacific walrus, harbor seal, spotted seal, bearded seal, ringed seal, ribbon seal, northern elephant, sea otter, blue whale, fin whale, sei whale, minke whale, humpback whale, gray whale, northern right whale, bowhead whale, sperm whale, beaked whales (Baird's, Cuvier's and Stejneger's), Pacific white-sided dolphin, killer whale, beluga whale, harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise	3.8
4.4-7	Socioeconomics	<p>Harvesting and processing Sector (catcher vessels [CVs], catcher processors [CPs], Inshore processors and motherships)</p> <p>Regional socioeconomic profiles (population, processing ownership and activity, CV ownership and activity, tax revenue, employment and income)</p> <p>Community development quota (CDQ) allocations</p> <p>Subsistence (subsistence use of groundfish, subsistence use of Steller sea lions, salmon subsistence fisheries, indirect subsistence factors: income and joint production)</p> <p>Environmental justice</p> <p>Market channels and benefits to United States consumers (product quantity, product year-round availability, product quality, product diversity)</p> <p>Non-market goods (benefits derived from marine ecosystems and associated species)</p>	<p>3.9.2</p> <p>3.9.3</p> <p>3.9.4</p> <p>3.9.5</p> <p>3.9.6</p> <p>3.9.7</p> <p>3.9.8</p>
4.4-8	Ecosystem	Forage fish availability, spatial/temporal concentration of fisheries, introduction of non-native species, removal of top predators, energy redirection, energy removal, species diversity, guild diversity, genetic diversity	3.10