

ERRATA
for the
ALASKA GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (January 2007)
NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska

With this errata, NMFS is modifying the summaries of Alternative 2 by replacing the phrase “by the Council’s Groundfish Plan Teams” with the phrase “through the Council harvest specification process.” NMFS is making this change to clarify that the complete harvest specification process is used, including the Council’s Groundfish Plan Teams and Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations for acceptable biological catches (ABC), and Advisory Panel recommendations for total allowable catch amounts (TACs). The clarification is necessary to respond to informal public comment expressing confusion caused by the short-hand use of the term “Plan Teams” to reference the harvest specifications process. The Alaska Groundfish Harvest Specifications Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) describes in detail the full harvest specifications process and this change is consistent with the description of Alternative 2 and analysis of the alternatives in the Final EIS.

This errata makes the following three factual corrections to the Final EIS:

(1) Executive Summary, page ii, replace “by the Council’s Groundfish Plan Teams” with “through the Council harvest specification process”:

Alternative 2: (Status Quo; Preferred) Set TACs that fall within the range of ABCs recommended ~~by the Council’s Groundfish Plan Teams~~ *through the Council harvest specifications process* and TACs recommended by the Council.

(2) Chapter 1, page 1-2: add the term “and Scientific and Statistical Committee” to the following paragraph:

The Council’s Groundfish Plan Teams *and Scientific and Statistical Committee* use stock assessments to calculate biomass, overfishing levels (OFL), and acceptable biological catches (ABC), for each target species or species group for specified management areas of the exclusive economic zone off Alaska. OFLs and ABCs are published with the harvest specifications, and provide the foundation for the Council and NMFS to develop the TACs. OFL and ABC amounts reflect fishery science, applied in light of the requirements of the FMPs, and are not part of this action.

(3) Chapter 2, page 2-2, replace “by the Plan Teams” with “through the Council harvest specification process”:

Alternative 2: (Status Quo; Preferred): Set TACs that fall within the range of ABCs recommended ~~by the Plan Teams~~ *through the Council harvest specifications process* and TACs recommended by the Council. Under this scenario, F is set equal to a constant fraction of $maxFABC$. The recommended fractions of $maxFABC$ may vary among species or stocks, based on other considerations unique to each. This is the method for determining TACs that has been used in the past.