

Groundfish Policy Workplan *(revised February, 2008)*

1. Prevent Overfishing

- a. continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species
- b. evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species as appropriate
- c. continue to develop a systematic approach to 'lumping' and 'splitting' that takes into account both biologic and management considerations

2. Preserve Food Web

- a. encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators
- b. reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species as appropriate
- c. develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan in the Aleutian Islands

3. Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste

- a. explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries
- b. explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries
- c. consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards
- d. develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives
- e. encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species
- f. develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available
- g. assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable

4. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals

- a. continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSLs through the MSA process, including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA
- b. recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat
- c. monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate
- d. adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program

5. Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat

- a. evaluate effectiveness of existing closures
- b. consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures
- c. consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle
- d. request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas

6. Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources

- a. explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA
- b. consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries

7. Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation

- a. Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process
- b. Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions

8. Improve Data Quality, Monitoring, and Enforcement

- a. expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs
- b. explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data
- c. modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers