

**AMENDMENT 77 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
GROUND FISH OF THE GULF OF ALASKA**

1. In Table 4-1 on page 60, remove “Dark rockfish (*S. ciliatus*)” from the species listed under the Pelagic Shelf Assemblage.
2. In Section 4.1.2.5, on page 65, in the paragraph titled “Pelagic shelf rockfish,” revise the last sentence of the paragraph to read as follows (add text in bold and remove text that has been stricken):

~~A proposal is in preparation to remove dark rockfish to State management also.~~ **In 2008, dark rockfish (*S. ciliatus*) were removed from federal management and are now managed by the State of Alaska.**
3. In the table of contents for the Appendices, revise the entry for D.14 by removing the words “Light Dusky Rockfish (*Sebastes ciliatus*)” and replacing with “Dusky Rockfish (*Sebastes variabilis*).”
4. In Appendix A (History of the Fishery Management Plan), on page A-11, add the following:

Amendment 77 implemented [insert date]:

Removed dark rockfish (*S. ciliatus*) from the FMP, which allows the State of Alaska to manage this species.

5. In Appendix D, Table D.1, page D-3, substitute “Dusky Rockfish” for “Light Dusky Rockfish.”
6. In Appendix D, Table D.3, page D-7, substitute “Dusky Rockfish” for “Light Dusky Rockfish.”
7. D.14, page D 53 revise the title and text to read:

D.14 Dusky Rockfish (*Sebastes variabilis*)

Previously it was thought that there were two varieties of dusky rockfish, a dark colored variety inhabiting inshore, shallow waters, and a lighter colored variety inhabiting deeper water offshore. In 2004 these two varieties were designated as distinct species, the dark colored variety is now recognized as dark rockfish (*Sebastes ciliatus*) and the lighter colored variety is now recognized as dusky rockfish (*Sebastes variabilis*) (Orr and Blackburn 2004). In 2008 dark rockfish were removed from the GOA FMP to allow for more responsive management by the State of Alaska.

8. Section D14.1 Life History and Distribution

Revise the first paragraph to read:

Dusky rockfish range from central Oregon through the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in Alaska and Russia to Japan. The center of abundance for dusky rockfish appears to be the GOA (Reuter 1999). The species is much less abundant in the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea (Reuter and Spencer 2002). Adult dusky rockfish have a very patchy distribution, and are usually found in large aggregations at specific localities of the outer continental shelf. These localities are often relatively shallow offshore banks. Because the fish are taken with bottom trawls, they are presumed to be mostly demersal. Whether they also have a pelagic distribution is unknown, but there is no particular evidence of a pelagic tendency based on the information available at present. Most of what is known about dusky rockfish is based on data collected during the summer months from the commercial fishery or in research surveys. Consequently, there is little information on seasonal movements or changes in distribution for this species.

In paragraphs 2 and 3 substitute “dusky rockfish” for “light dusky rockfish.”

9. In Section D.14.2 Fishery

Delete the first sentence in the first paragraph and substitute:

Dusky rockfish are mostly caught with bottom trawl gear and to a much lesser extent by jig gear. The Central GOA Rockfish Pilot Program, which began in 2007, makes dusky rockfish increasing available to jig and hook-and-line gear through a specific allocation of TAC.

Revise the last sentence in the first paragraph to read:

Most of the trawl catch of dusky rockfish is taken at depths of 100 to 200 m offshore, while most of the catch by jig gear occurs in shallow, inshore waters.

Revise the second paragraph to read as follows:

The major bycatch species in the GOA ~~light~~ dusky rockfish trawl fishery in 1994-1996 included (in descending order by percent bycatch rate) northern rockfish and Pacific ocean perch. **The major bycatch species in the jig fishery are black rockfish and dark rockfish.**

10. In sections D14.3 and D14.4 substitute “dusky rockfish” for “light dusky rockfish.”

11. In section D14.6 Literature add the following citations:

Reuter, R.F., and P.D. Spencer. 2006. Chapter 14 Other Rockfish. *in* Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the groundfish resources of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK, 99501. November 2006. pp. 925-948.

Orr, J.W., and J.E. Blackburn. 2004. The dusky rockfishes (Teleostei: Scorpaeniformes) of the North Pacific Ocean: resurrection of *Sebastes variabilis* (Pallas, 1814) and a redescription of *Sebastes ciliatus* (Tilesius, 1813). *Fish Bull.*, U.S. 1002:328-348.