



National Bycatch Strategy Update

MAFAC


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Juneau, Alaska






Bycatch Strategy Overview

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- *Managing the Nation's Bycatch*—progress review
 - Standardized bycatch reporting methodology
 - Regional implementation plans
 - Education and outreach
 - New international approaches
 - New funding requirements






Evaluating Bycatch Report

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- **Second round of review by Regional Offices and Science Centers completed March 2004**
 - **Leadership Council Comments April 2004**
 - **Comprehensive comments submitted by Rebecca Lent May 2004**
 - **Final draft sent to editors at Scientific Publications Office (Seattle) for NOAA Tech Memo preparation July 2004**
 - **Should be published by September 2004**






Precision Goals

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- For protected species, a 20-30% coefficient of variation (CV) for estimates of bycatch for each species/stock taken by a fishery.
 - For fishery resources, a 20-30% CV for estimates of total discards (aggregated over all species) for the fishery; or if total catch cannot be divided into discards and retained catch then the goal is a 20-30% CV for estimates of total catch.






Precision Goal Caveats

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- the goals may in some instances exceed minimum statutory requirements;
 - there are intermediate steps in increasing precision that may not immediately achieve the goals but that represent progress nonetheless;
 - there are circumstances in which higher levels of precision may be desired, particularly when management is needed on fine spatial or temporal scales;
 - there are circumstances under which meeting the precision goal would not be an efficient use of public resources;
 - there may be significant logistical constraints to achieving the goal; and
 - when a numeric limit is set for a bycatch species, the uncertainty associated with setting that limit and the methods used for addressing that uncertainty are two of the factors that determine the appropriate CV for the bycatch estimate for that species.






Definition of Bycatch

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- **1998 Managing the Nation's Bycatch** report defined bycatch to include retained incidental catch.
 - **2004 Evaluating Bycatch** report does not include retained incidental catch in its definition.
 - **NOAA Fisheries** will address bycatch wherever it is a problem.
 - **Full retention is not the solution; must account for all catch**






SBRM Objectives

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- **Development and documentation of an effective and efficient SBRM for each federally managed fishery, other state fisheries that take ESA-listed species, and each MMPA Category I and II fishery**
 - **Periodic review of the SBRM for each of these fisheries.**
 - **Development of more effective and efficient methods, including electronic monitoring, for estimating bycatch or total catch**






SBRM Protocol

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- **Appendix 5 to Evaluating Bycatch**
 - **Deploy at-sea observers in most cases**
 - **Use other observation technology as appropriate**
 - **Use appropriate sampling design**
 - **Use appropriate models**
 - **Use appropriate methods to identify and decrease sources of bias**






SBRM Protocol (continued)

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- Address the goal of achieving recommended levels of precision (20-30% CV) in estimating bycatch or total catch
 - Adhere to standards established by NMFS to ensure the integrity and quality of the data collected in NMFS-approved observer programs
 - Where appropriate, use other monitoring methods for estimating bycatch *instead* of at-sea observers.
 - Emphasize outreach to industry and other constituents and encourage their participation in the development of SBRM goals, objectives and implementation plans






FY04 Bycatch Spending Plan

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- New FY04 budget line item totaling \$3.6M
 - \$2.3M for bycatch-related observer programs; \$1.3M for gear and outreach
 - AK--Halibut and salmon excluders, \$116K
 - AK, F/PR--National Seabird Program, \$227K
 - NW--Fish behavior and bottom trawls, \$229K
 - PI--Marlin bycatch with longline gear, \$210K

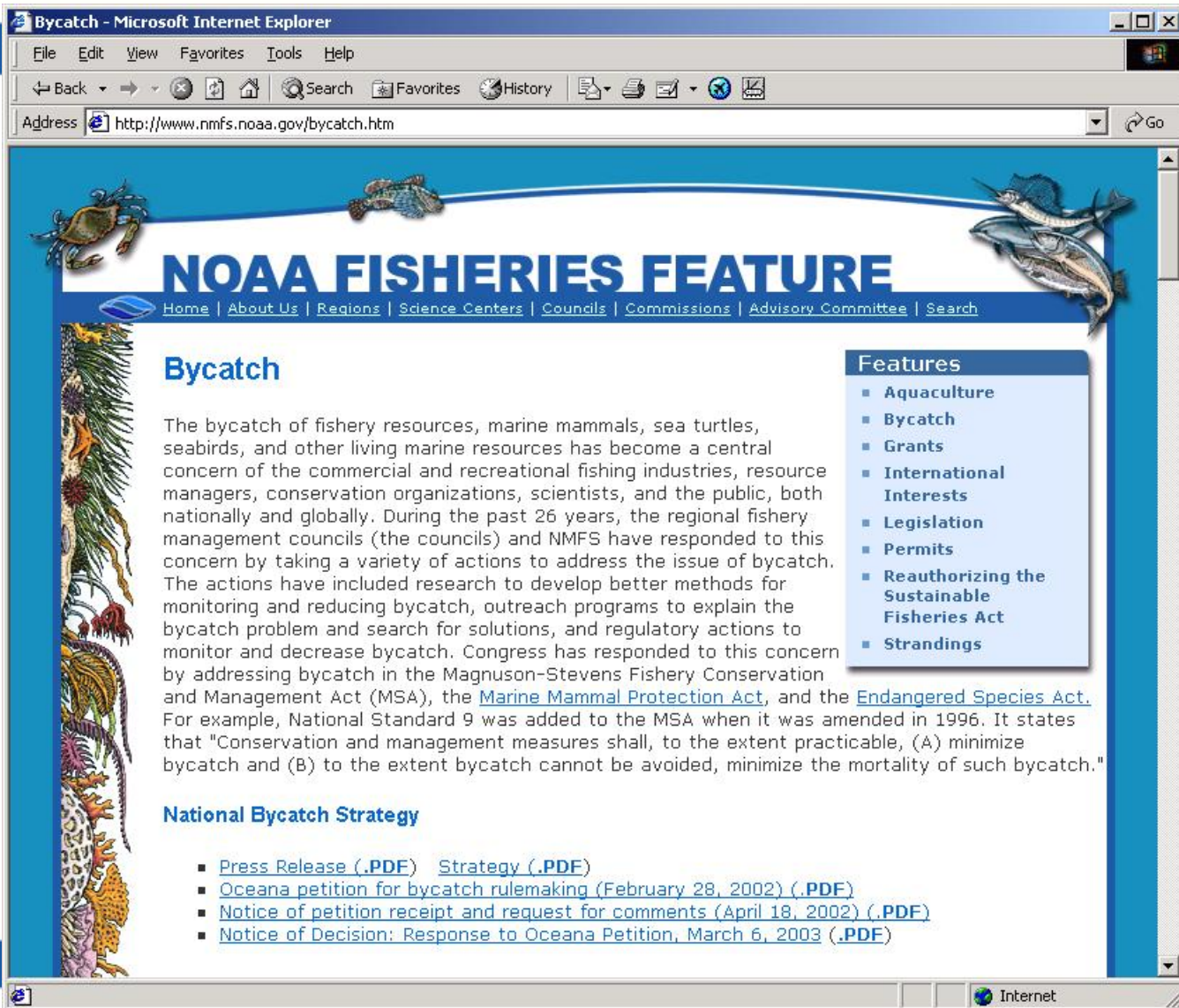




FY04 Spend Plan (continued)

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- **PI--Protected species observer reporting, \$25K**
 - **SE--Reduce turtle takes in pelagic longline fisheries, \$300K**
 - **NE--Reduce bycatch in squid, mackerel, butterfish trawls, \$100K**
 - **NE--Regional bycatch workshop, \$40K**
 - **NE--Side scan sonar turtle project, \$15K**
 - **F/SF--Sea turtle dehooking placard, \$35K**





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Bycatch

The bycatch of fishery resources, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, and other living marine resources has become a central concern of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, resource managers, conservation organizations, scientists, and the public, both nationally and globally. During the past 26 years, the regional fishery management councils (the councils) and NMFS have responded to this concern by taking a variety of actions to address the issue of bycatch. The actions have included research to develop better methods for monitoring and reducing bycatch, outreach programs to explain the bycatch problem and search for solutions, and regulatory actions to monitor and decrease bycatch. Congress has responded to this concern by addressing bycatch in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#), and the [Endangered Species Act](#). For example, National Standard 9 was added to the MSA when it was amended in 1996. It states that "Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch."

National Bycatch Strategy

- [Press Release \(.PDF\)](#) [Strategy \(.PDF\)](#)
- [Oceana petition for bycatch rulemaking \(February 28, 2002\) \(.PDF\)](#)
- [Notice of petition receipt and request for comments \(April 18, 2002\) \(.PDF\)](#)
- [Notice of Decision: Response to Oceana Petition, March 6, 2003 \(.PDF\)](#)

Features

- [Aquaculture](#)
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- [International Interests](#)
- [Legislation](#)
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- [Reauthorizing the Sustainable Fisheries Act](#)
- [Strandings](#)

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International Turtle Activities

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- **Marine Turtle Conservation Act (07/04)**
 - **Longline technology workshops held or to be held in Costa Rica (02/04, 07/04); Peru (06/04); Panama (08/04); Guatemala (08/04)**
 - **IATTC Bycatch Working Group, Kobe, Japan (01/04)**
 - **Fisheries Bilaterals with Mexico (03/04), EU (06/04), Iceland (07/04), Canada (07/04), Chile (07/04)**
 - **FAO Technical Consultation on sea turtle interactions, Bangkok, Thailand (11/04)**
 - **Int'l Fisheries Observer Conference (11/04)**





New Funding Requirements

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- **FY04 NOAA Fisheries budget Reducing Bycatch line--\$3.6M**
 - **FY05 NOAA budget request for Reducing Bycatch line--\$2.8M**
 - **Reducing Bycatch part of Ecosystem Observing Program Capabilities for FY07 Program Baseline Assessment**






Opportunities for Collaboration

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- AK--Industry contact agents in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak for outreach, and cooperation to reduce bycatch
 - AK--Practical assistance in developing applications for exempted fishing permits
 - SE--Development of a Regional Bycatch Workshop at least partly modeled on the NE Bycatch Workshop in 06/04
 - SE--Sea Grant assistance with TED and BRD compliance in shrimp industry
 - Establishment of formal National and Regional teams (w/SG) for future efforts?





Looking Ahead

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- **Revision of Regional Bycatch Implementation Plans to reflect action items for FY04 and FY05 and report progress**
 - **Implementation of SBRM protocol in the fishery management plan and protected resources management processes**

