

Amendment 113 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska

Additions are in **bold and underline**. Words indicated with a strikethrough (e.g. ~~strikethrough~~) should be deleted from the FMP.

(1) In section ES.2, modify table ES-2 to read as follows,

Table ES-2 Summary of Management Measures for the GOA Groundfish Fishery

Stocks - All finfish, except salmon, steelhead, halibut, herring, and tuna, which are distributed or exploited in the management area, and are listed in Table 3-1. Those stocks and stock complexes that are commercially important and for which an annual TAC is established include: walleye pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, shallow and deep water flatfish, rex sole, flathead sole, arrowtooth flounder, Pacific ocean perch, shortraker/rougheye rockfish, northern rockfish, “other slope” rockfish, ~~pelagic shelf~~ **dusky** rockfish, demersal shelf rockfish, thornyhead rockfish, Atka mackerel, sculpin, octopus, shark, squid, and skate.

(2) In section 2.7.2.11 Shoreside processors, modify the paragraph to read as follows,

2.7.2.11 Shoreside Processors

The Rockfish Program includes provisions for shoreside processors that receive rockfish harvested with CQ. A shoreside processor receiving rockfish CQ must have a federal processor permit, an approved catch monitoring and control plan, and be located within the geographic boundaries of the City of Kodiak. A shoreside processor may not receive in excess of ~~30~~ **40** percent of the aggregate catcher vessel sector allocation. Additionally, a shoreside processor must submit to NMFS an annual Rockfish Ex-vessel Volume and Value Report that details the ex-vessel value of harvests.

Shoreside processors may be associated with more than one catcher vessel cooperative.

(3) In section 3.1.2 Stocks, modify the paragraph and table 3-1 to read as follows,

3.1.2 Stocks

1. In the Fishery

a) Target species – are those species that support a single species or mixed species target fishery, are commercially important, and for which a sufficient data base exists that allows each to be managed on its own biological merits. Accordingly, a specific total allowable catch (TAC) is established annually for each target species or species assemblage. Catch of each species must be recorded and reported. This category

includes walleye pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, shallow and deep water flatfish, rex sole, flathead sole, arrowtooth flounder, Pacific ocean perch, shortraker/rougheye rockfish, northern rockfish, “other slope” rockfish, ~~pelagic shelf~~ **duffy** rockfish, demersal shelf rockfish, thornyhead rockfish, Atka mackerel, sharks, octopus, and skates.

Table 3-1 Species included in the FMP species categories

Target Species - Walleye pollock Pacific cod Sablefish Flatfish (shallow-water flatfish, deep-water flatfish, rex sole, flathead sole, arrowtooth flounder) Rockfish (Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, shortraker and rougheye rockfish, other slope rockfish, ~~pelagic shelf~~ **duffy** rockfish, demersal shelf rockfish³, thornyhead rockfish) Atka mackerel Skates (big skates, longnose skates, and other skates) Shark Octopuses

(4) In section 3.6.2.2 Chinook salmon, modify the paragraph to read as follows,

3.6.2.2 Chinook salmon

Attainment of a Chinook salmon PSC limit will result in the closure of the respective fishery for the remainder of the season or the year.

Central GOA pollock trawl fishery: The annual PSC limit for Chinook salmon in the directed fishery for pollock in the Central Regulatory Area and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 18,316 Chinook salmon.

Western GOA pollock trawl fishery: The annual PSC limit for Chinook salmon in the directed fishery for pollock in the Western Regulatory Area and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 6,684 Chinook salmon.

Central and Western GOA non-pollock trawl fishery, catcher/processor sector: The annual base PSC limit for Chinook salmon in all directed non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 3,600 Chinook salmon. No more than 66 percent of the annual PSC limit can be taken by the catcher/processor sector before June 1.

Central and Western GOA non-pollock trawl fishery, catcher vessel sector: The annual PSC limit for Chinook salmon in all directed non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 3,900 Chinook salmon. From this total, 1,200 Chinook salmon are for use during fishing activity that takes place under the authority of a Central GOA Rockfish Program cooperative quota permit, between ~~May~~ **April** 1 and November 15. The limit for all other GOA trawl catcher vessel activity is 2,700 Chinook salmon. If more than 150 Chinook salmon PSC are available to the Central GOA Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector on October 1, the Regional Administrator may reapportion Chinook salmon PSC to the Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector, so long as no fewer than 150 Chinook salmon PSC remain with the Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector. Any Chinook salmon PSC that remain available to the Central GOA Rockfish

Program catcher vessel sector on November 15 may be made available to the Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector upon that date.

(5) In section 3.7.2 Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program, modify the following paragraphs to read as follows,

3.7.2 Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program

The Rockfish Program provides exclusive harvesting privileges for vessels using trawl gear to harvest a specific set of rockfish species and associated species incidentally harvested to those rockfish in the Central GOA. The rockfish species rationalized under the Rockfish Program are: northern rockfish, Pacific Ocean perch, and ~~pelagic shelf~~ **dusky** rockfish. These rockfish species are called the rockfish primary species. The important incidentally harvested groundfish taken in the primary rockfish fisheries (which also are rationalized under the Rockfish Program) are called the rockfish secondary species. The rockfish secondary species are: Pacific cod, roughey rockfish, shortraker rockfish, and sablefish. In addition, the Rockfish Program apportions a share of the halibut PSC limit annually specified for the GOA trawl fisheries to Rockfish Program participants. This apportionment of halibut PSC could be used by Rockfish Program participants during harvest activities in the Rockfish Program fisheries.

Harvesters holding LLP licenses with rockfish quota share (QS) may participate in the Rockfish Program by joining a catcher vessel or catcher processor rockfish cooperative. Vessels that do not qualify for the Rockfish Program, are exempt from Central GOA LLP requirements, or any holder of a Central GOA longline LLP license, may participate in an entry level longline fishery.

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3.7.2.7 Seasons

The rockfish season opens for rockfish cooperatives on ~~May~~ **April** 1, and extends until November 15, or until the allocations are harvested.

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3.7.2.9 Use Caps

Use caps limit the degree of consolidation that could occur in the Central GOA rockfish fisheries. There are four types of use caps under the Rockfish Program: (1) a cap on the amount of QS an eligible rockfish harvester could hold, (2) ~~a cap on the amount of rockfish primary species CQ that a rockfish cooperative could hold,~~ (3) a cap on the amount of rockfish primary species CQ that a vessel could harvest, and (4) a limit on the amount of rockfish primary species, Pacific cod, and sablefish a rockfish processor may receive and process. Persons or vessels with history in excess of these limits at the time of final Council action, June 14, 2010, are grandfathered in to receive QS based on their historic harvest.

Catcher Processor Use Caps: No person is permitted to hold or use in excess of 40 percent of the catcher processor QS pool. In addition, no vessel participating in the catcher processor sector may harvest more than 60 percent of the rockfish primary species CQ during a calendar year. This cap ensures that harvest activity does not exceed the specified threshold and, that a certain number of vessels remain active in the fishery.

Catcher Vessel Use Caps: Catcher vessels are subject to a number of use caps. No person in the catcher vessel sector is permitted to hold QS or use CQ in excess of 4 percent of the catcher

vessel QS pool. In addition, no catcher vessel may harvest in excess of 8 percent of the **POP** CQ issued to the catcher vessel sector. This cap ensures that **POP** harvest activity does not exceed the specified threshold and that a certain number of vessels remain active in the fishery. ~~Each catcher vessel rockfish cooperative is limited to using not more than 30 percent of the CQ allocated to the catcher vessel sector. This provision prevents harvesters from forming cooperatives beyond the cap to avoid consolidation within cooperatives that could be detrimental to other processors in the fishery if a cooperative developed a strong relationship with a processor that limited the ability of other processors to compete for landings.~~

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(6) In section 4.1.2 Status of Stocks, modify the paragraph to read as follows,

4.1.2.5 Rockfish

(p70) ... Pelagic shelf rockfish - The pelagic shelf rockfish assemblage in the GOA includes those rockfish on the continental shelf that typically exhibit a midwater, schooling behavior. In 1998, black rockfish and blue rockfish were removed from federal management as part of the pelagic shelf complex, and are now managed by the State of Alaska. In 2008, dark rockfish (*S. ciliatus*) were removed from federal management and are now managed by the State of Alaska. **In 2011, yellowtail and widow rockfish were removed from the “pelagic shelf rockfish assemblage” and were placed under the “Other Rockfish” species group.**

(7) In section 4.3.1.1.1.1 Catch History, modify table 4-14b to read as follows,

Table 4-14b Groundfish and squid catches in the Gulf of Alaska, 1956-2004 (rockfish, Atka mackerel, “other species”, total of all species), in metric tons.

Year	Slope Rockfish	Pelagic Shelf <u>Dusky Rockfish</u>	Demersal shelf rockfish	Thornyhead rockfish	Atka mackerel	Skates	Other species	Total

2. In Appendix A, add the following text:

Amendment 113, implemented on *(insert effective date of amendment)*.
 Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program Adjustments