

EIS Oversight Committee Revised PEIS Alternatives, October 7-8, 2002

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5
Prevent overfishing: not exceed any MSY harvest rate, and prevent every assessed stock from declining to the overfished classification.					
SUMMARY Policy/ Program Goals	A program that combines risk-neutral and risk-averse harvest levels , individual species and assemblage OYs, adjusting OYs to account for bycatch estimates, seasons and individual retention limits	Same as Alternative 1: A program that combines risk-neutral and risk-averse harvest levels , individual species and assemblage OYs, adjusting OYs to account for bycatch estimates, seasons and individual retention limits	A program that combines risk-neutral harvest levels , individual species and assemblage OYs, adjusting OYs to account for bycatch estimates, seasons and individual retention limits	A program that combines risk-averse harvest levels , individual species and assemblage OYs, adjusting OYs to account for bycatch estimates, seasons and individual retention limits	A very risk-averse program with a higher overfished threshold and lower harvest rates
Numerical Standards	ABC=Fmsy; OY ≤ ABC with 40-10; adjusted 75:50; OFL=B _{25%} ; closure on reaching ABC/OY for any stock within an assemblage	ABC=Fmsy; OY ≤ ABC with 40-10; adjusted 75:50; OFL=B _{25%} ; closure on reaching ABC/OY for any stock within an assemblage	ABC=Fmsy; OY ≤ ABC with 40-10; unadjusted 75:50; OFL=B _{25%} ; closure on reaching ABC/OY for any weak stock within an assemblage	ABC=Fmsy; OY ≤ ABC with 50-10; 50% reduction for all unassessed stocks; OFL=B _{25%} ; closure on reaching ABC/OY for any stock within an assemblage	ABC=Fmsy; OY ≤ with 60-10; 60% reduction for all unassessed stocks; OFL=B _{25%} ; Bmsy=B _{40%} or B _{45%}
Toolbox	set ABC and OY; gear restrictions; trip limits; time/area management; seasons; minimum size limits; bag limits	set ABC and OY; gear restrictions; trip limits; time/area management; seasons; area closures (e.g., MPAs); minimum size limits; bag limits	set ABC and OY; gear restrictions; trip limits; seasons; size limits; bag limits	set ABC and OY; gear restrictions; seasons trip limits; time/area management; ; area closures (e.g., MPAs); depth closures; minimum size limits; bag limits	set ABC and OY; gear restrictions; area closures; catch limits with mandatory retention; seasons; bag limits

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Rebuild Overfished Stocks: Rebuild all groundfish stocks currently classified as overfished within the time required by law.					
SUMMARY	Rebuilding periods set less than or equal to the maximum allowable	Rebuilding periods set less than or equal to the maximum allowable	Rebuilding periods may exceed maximum allowable due to use of mixed-stock exception	Rebuilding periods shorter than maximum allowable	Shortest possible rebuilding periods
Policy/ Program Goals	Define overfishing by species; Consider socio-economic effects in rebuilding plans	Define overfishing by species; Consider social and economic effects in rebuilding plans (See Strategic Plan for additional goals)	Define overfishing by species; greater priority to social and economic effects in rebuilding plans; utilize mixed-stock exception	Define overfishing by species; shorter rebuilding periods, less priority to short term economic effects	Define overfishing by species; low priority to economic effects; area closures (MPAs) as primary management tool
Numerical Standards	Tmax or shorter, with >50% probability	Tmax or shorter, with >60% probability	May exceed Tmax; do not reduce any overfished species abundance	Tmid with >50% probability	Tmin;
Toolbox	OY setting; gear restrictions; area closures; depth closures; VMS; seasons; bag limits	OY setting; gear restrictions; area closures; depth closures; VMS; seasons; bag limits	Mixed-stock exception; OY setting; gear restrictions; area closures; seasons; bag limits	OY setting; gear restrictions; area closures; seasons; bag limits	OY setting; time/ area closures and MPAs; gear restrictions; seasons; bag limits

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Bycatch Reporting: Assess the amount of bycatch occurring in the groundfish fishery, monitor bycatch in a scientifically credible manner					
SUMMARY Policy/ Program Goals	Bycatch estimated through a combination of logbooks, port sampling, observers	Bycatch estimated through a combination of logbooks, port sampling, observers (See Strategic Plan for additional goals/objectives)	Bycatch estimated through a combination of 100% reporting (commercial logbooks) with random observer verification, and increased port/field sampling of recreational catches	Comprehensive, integrated and timely reporting and monitoring program, based primarily on observers, to more precisely estimate total catch and bycatch, both commercial and recreational, through large sample size, electronic catch and bycatch reporting by all commercial and CPFV vessels	Verified, total catch accounting through 100% observer coverage of all commercial groundfish and CPFV vessels and comprehensive port sampling of recreational catch
Numerical Standards	100% observer coverage on at-sea processing vessels; other commercial vessels: stratified random monitoring based on available federal funding (about 10% observer coverage)	100% observer coverage on at-sea processing vessels; other commercial vessels: stratified random monitoring to observe at least 10% of commercial groundfish vessels or coverage adequate to assess thotal groundfish mortality	100% observer coverage on at-sea processing vessels; 100% commercial and CPFV logbook coverage including discards; observer coverage as needed to verify accuracy of total bycatch estimate	Total catch and bycatch estimated within +/- 25%; 100% observer coverage on at-sea processing vessels;	Total accounting of all groundfish catch and bycatch; individual vessel limits for certain limiting species

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Toolbox	federally funded (partial) observer program; state port sampling programs; EFPs; catch/bycatch logbooks	federally funded (partial) observer program; state port sampling programs; EFPs; catch/bycatch logbooks; may require vessels to provide observer	catch/bycatch logbooks for all gear types; catch records for recreational fishers; fish tickets; observers (to verify commercial); field sampling to assess recreational bycatch	observer program; VMS; camera/video; electronic catch/bycatch logbooks; fish tickets; full retention (of overfished species) recorded on fish tickets; recreational catch records and port sampling	mandatory observer requirement; VMS; recreational catch reporting (records such as punch cards); port sampling of recreational catches

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Bycatch reduction: Reduce bycatch to the extent practicable.					
SUMMARY Policy/ Program Goals	Adjust trip limits to discourage fishing in certain areas and similar to expected species encounter rates; use gear restrictions where possible to reduce expected or assumed bycatch rates; area closures where appropriate	Reduce capacity, adjust trip limits to discourage fishing in certain areas and similar to expected species encounter rates; use gear restrictions where possible to reduce expected or assumed bycatch rates; area closures where appropriate	Reduce capacity; adjust trip limits to discourage fishing in certain areas and similar to expected species encounter rates; use gear restrictions where possible to reduce expected or assumed bycatch rates	Focus on vessel, sector and/or fleet bycatch caps. Reduce bycatch by specific bycatch reduction measures; performance standards and incentive program; vessel and fleet bycatch caps based on application of observed bycatch rates	Rapidly reduce bycatch to levels near zero through discard prohibition, performance standards, and incentives
Numerical Standards	0.05 salmon/mt of whiting ; OYs for overfished species	0.05 salmon/mt of whiting ; OYs for overfished species	0.05 salmon/mt of whiting ; OYs for overfished species	reduce bycatch 50% in 5 years	near zero bycatch of groundfish within 5 years
Toolbox	OY setting; BRDs; gear modifications/restrictions, area closures; depth closures; bycatch modeling; trip limits; seasons; bag limits	Buyback, permit stacking, ITQs and (further) license limitation; OY setting; BRDs; gear modifications/restrictions; area closures (MPAs); depth closures; trip limits; seasons; bag limits; full or increased retention requirements	Buyback, permit stacking, ITQs; OY setting; BRDs; gear modifications/restrictions, trip limits; seasons; time/area management; area closures; bag limits	Bycatch caps; catch limits; OY setting; gear endorsement modifications; gear restrictions; area closures (including MPAs); discard monitoring system (e.g., camera) seasons; bag limits	bycatch caps; catch limits; full retention of groundfish; OY setting; area closures; gear restrictions; seasons; bag limits

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Habitat Establish objectives and standards for reducing fishing effects on EFH, including a preferred method and schedule for achieving the objectives. Must also define the role of HAPCs, MPAs, etc.					
SUMMARY Policy/ Program Goals	no net loss of habitat	Protect, maintain and/or recover those habitats necessary for healthy groundfishfish populations and the productivity of those habitats; promote research on gear effects and gear modifications to reduce adverse impacts	no net loss of groundfish habitat: reduce gear/seafloor contact from pre-1996 levels; current gears are assumed to have minimal impact on EFH until proven otherwise	Protect and recover groundfish habitat: Eliminate fishing gear impacts in some EFH areas, reduce fishing impacts on bottom habitat in all other areas through a combination of gear restrictions and incentives to develop and use low impact methods	Protect and recover groundfish habitat; eliminate fishing gear impacts in a larger portion of EFH, reduce fishing impacts on bottom habitat in all other areas through a combination of gear restrictions and incentives to develop and use low impact methods; current fishing gears/methods assumed to have negative impacts until proven otherwise
Numerical Standards	none	none	none	Protect 10% of benthic EFH (equally spread over nearshore, shelf and slope seafloor) from all groundfish gear impacts; reduce hours of gear/seafloor contact by 25% from 2002 everywhere;	Protect 25% of benthic EFH (equally spread over nearshore, shelf and slope seafloor) from all groundfish gear impacts; reduce hours of gear/seafloor contact by 50% from 2002 everywhere;

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Toolbox	EFH definition and identification; gear restrictions	EFH definition and identification; HAPCs, MPAs, gear modifications/restrictions; capacity reduction; performance standards	gear restrictions; capacity reduction	effort reduction; gear performance standards; a combination of gear restrictions and incentives (to develop and use low impact methods; area closures); allocations for those meeting performance standards	area closures; HAPCs and MPAs; gear restrictions and modifications; gear performance standards; allocations for those meeting performance standards

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Social and Economic Factors: establish goals and objectives for restructuring the groundfish fishing industry and recreational sector, including preferred mechanisms for downsizing the commercial groundfish fleet, and establishing priorities for allocating various groundfish fishing opportunities as they become available					
SUMMARY Policy/ Program Goals	Program focus is on maximizing fishing opportunities within biological constraints; social and economic stability, striving for equitable balance between commercial and recreational fishing through direct and indirect allocation (see FMP for specific goals and objectives)	Program focus on improving social and economic conditions by reducing commercial fleet capacity; stabilize social and economic conditions by resolving allocation issues (see Strategic Plan allocation goal and general allocation principles)	Program focus on maximizing socio-economic benefits, improving social and economic conditions by reducing commercial fleet capacity; maintain year-round fishing opportunities. Develop private ownership, rights-based measures (IFQs) to provide individual vessels flexibility to prosper.	Same as Alternative 2, plus emphasis on maintaining a diversity of harvesters, vessels, and communities.	Low priority to social and economic effects; no year round fishing goal; all vessels strictly regulated with equal opportunity, through individual caps or IFQs without property rights.
Numerical Standards	none	at least 50% capacity reduction for commercial fleet	at least 50% capacity reduction for commercial fleet	at least 50% capacity reduction for commercial fleet	none
Toolbox	allocations; license limitation; species endorsements; trip limits; seasons; bag limits; permit stacking; ITQs	allocations; license limitation; species endorsements; trip limits; permit stacking; seasons; bag limits	allocations; license limitation; trip limits; ITQs; seasons; bag limits	allocations, including community preservation quotas; license limitation; trip limits; seasons; bag limits	individual catch limits; IFQs without property rights; seasons; bag limits
Other Monitoring (habitat, ecosystem function, gear effectiveness, other)					

REVISED GROUND FISH PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ALTERNATIVES

The following is a brief summary of the alternatives put forward by the ad hoc EIS Oversight Committee meeting on October 7-8, 2002.

Alternative 1. This is the status quo alternative. The current fishery management program, as laid out in the Fishery Management Plan, is a process-oriented, adaptive management program to achieve broad goals, responsive to issues, with a priority to maximize fishing opportunities within biological constraints. The proposed 2003 annual specifications are an illustration of the types of management measures implemented in accordance with Alternative 1. The primary focus of the status quo is to provide maximum flexibility to respond to changing conditions in the groundfish resources and the groundfish fisheries.

Alternative 2. Alternative 2 is a modification of the status quo with a strategic focus emphasizing capacity reduction, improved bycatch information collection, and resolution of allocation issues. This alternative is based primarily the Council's Strategic Plan for Groundfish.

Alternative 3. Alternative 3 is a modification of the status quo with emphasis on obtaining greater short term social and economic benefits. As with Alternative 2, the primary focus is on reducing overcapacity in order to create opportunities for profitable fishing operations. This alternative is intended to be less restrictive than the status quo and could utilize the mixed stock exception to provide greater access to healthy fish stocks.

Alternative 4. Alternative 4 is similar to Alternative 2, but with increased emphasis on (1) risk-averse management; (2) measuring and mitigating impacts on fish, other species, and habitat; and (3) seasons. This is a more conservative management program that relies on seasons, gear modifications and restrictions, incentives to reduce bycatch and effects on EFH, and closures to prevent all on-bottom fishing gear effects.

Alternative 5. Alternative 5 is a very risk-averse management program that emphasizes mitigating (avoiding) impacts on fish, other species, and habitat and measuring those impacts. It would set rebuilding periods at the minimum possible, which would require near zero catch and bycatch. Individual catch and bycatch limits (caps) would be established. Larger area closures to protect bottom habitat would be established.