

Amendment 111 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

1. In Table ES-2, row “Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) Limits”, delete text marked in strikeout, and replace with the following:

~~**Pacific halibut:** Halibut mortality limits established in regulation for trawl and non-trawl fisheries.~~

Pacific halibut: The annual halibut mortality PSC limit for the non-AFA trawl catcher processor (Amendment 80) sector is 1,745 mt; for the BSAI trawl limited access sector is 745 mt; for the non-trawl sectors is 710 mt; and for the CDQ sector is 315 mt. The process for apportioning halibut mortality limits seasonally and among target fisheries is established in regulation.

2. In Section 3.6.2.1.4, delete text marked in strikeout, and replace with the following:

~~Annual BSAI wide Pacific halibut bycatch mortality limits for trawl and non-trawl gear fisheries will be established in regulations and may be amended by regulatory amendment. When initiating a regulatory amendment to change a halibut bycatch mortality limit, the Secretary, after consultation with the Council, will consider information that includes:~~

- ~~1. estimated change in halibut biomass and stock condition;~~
- ~~2. potential impacts on halibut stocks and fisheries;~~
- ~~3. potential impacts on groundfish fisheries;~~
- ~~4. estimated bycatch mortality during prior years;~~
- ~~5. expected halibut bycatch mortality;~~
- ~~6. methods available to reduce halibut bycatch mortality;~~
- ~~7. the cost of reducing halibut bycatch mortality; and~~
- ~~8. other biological and socioeconomic factors that affect the appropriateness of a specific bycatch mortality limit in terms of FMP objectives.~~

The following annual halibut mortality PSC limits are established for BSAI groundfish sectors:

- Non-AFA trawl catcher processor (Amendment 80) sector: 1,745 mt (see also Section 3.7.5.2)
- BSAI trawl limited access sector: 745 mt (see also Section 3.7.5.2)
- CDQ sector: 315 mt (see also Section 3.7.4.6)
- Non-trawl sector: 710 mt

The process for apportioning halibut mortality limits seasonally and among target fisheries is established in regulation.

3. In Section 3.7.4.6, delete text marked in strikeout, and replace with the following:

~~The following allocations of the PSC limits will be made to the CDQ Program:~~

~~Halibut: In 2009 and 2009, 343 mt of mortality.~~

~~— In 2010 and thereafter, 393 mt of mortality.~~

The following allocations of the PSC limits will be made to the CDQ Program:

Halibut: 315 mt of mortality.

- In Section 3.7.5.2, revise the section heading by deleting text marked in ~~strikeout~~ and adding the text in bold:

PSC Allowance for the Non-AFA Trawl Catcher Processor Sector and **the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sector** ~~the CDQ Program~~

- Delete the section heading for Section 3.7.5.2.1, and move text under the Section 3.7.5.2 heading.
- In Section 3.7.5.2 as revised, delete text marked in ~~strikeout~~, and replace with the following:

The trawl PSC limit for halibut, Zone 1 red king crab, C. opilio crab PSC (COBLZ), Zone 1 C. bairdi crab PSC, and Zone 2 C. bairdi crab PSC is apportioned between the non-AFA trawl CP and the BSAI trawl limited access sector as follows:

| Sector | Year after implementation. | Halibut PSC limit in the BSAI (mt) | Zone 1 Red king crab PSC limit... | <u>C. opilio</u> crab PSC limit (COBLZ)... | Zone 1 <u>C. bairdi</u> crab PSC limit... | Zone 2 <u>C. bairdi</u> crab PSC limit... |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | | as a percentage of the total BSAI trawl PSC limit after allocation as PSQ | | | |
| Amendment 80 sector | Year 1 | 2,525 mt | 62.48 | 61.44 | 52.64 | 29.59 |
| | Year 2 | 2,475 mt | 59.36 | 58.37 | 50.01 | 28.11 |
| | Year 3 | 2,425 mt | 56.23 | 55.30 | 47.38 | 26.63 |
| | Year 4 | 2,375 mt | 53.11 | 52.22 | 44.74 | 25.15 |
| | Year 5 and all future years | 2,325 mt | 49.98 | 49.15 | 42.11 | 23.67 |
| BSAI trawl limited access | All years | 875 mt | 30.58 | 32.14 | 46.99 | 46.81 |

The trawl PSC limit for halibut, Zone 1 red king crab, C. opilio crab PSC (COBLZ), Zone 1 C. bairdi crab PSC, and Zone 2 C. bairdi crab PSC is apportioned between the non-AFA trawl CP (Amendment 80) sector and the BSAI trawl limited access sector as follows:

| Sector | Halibut PSC limit in the BSAI | Zone 1 Red king crab PSC limit... | <u>C. opilio</u> crab PSC limit (COBLZ)... | Zone 1 <u>C. bairdi</u> crab PSC limit... | Zone 2 <u>C. bairdi</u> crab PSC limit... |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | mt | as a percentage of the total BSAI trawl PSC limit after allocation as PSQ | | | |
| Amendment 80 sector | 1,745 mt | 49.98 | 49.15 | 42.11 | 23.67 |
| BSAI trawl limited access | 745 mt | 30.58 | 32.14 | 46.99 | 46.81 |

All halibut PSC in the non-AFA trawl CP (Amendment 80) sector that is not assigned to an Amendment 80 cooperative will be subject to a 20 percent penalty, as established in regulation.

- In Appendix A, add the following:

Amendment 111, implemented on *(insert effective date of amendment)*, revised Amendment 80:

- Reduced halibut mortality PSC limits for the Non-AFA Trawl Catcher Processor (Amendment 80), BSAI trawl limited access, and CDQ sectors.
- Established a halibut mortality PSC limit in the FMP for the Non-Trawl sector that was previously only in regulation.

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