

Amendment 117 to the Fishery Management Plan for  
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

Revise the following in Chapter 3, Conservation and Management Measures:

1. **In section 3.1.2, remove squid from the paragraph “1. In the Fishery,” and from the Target Species category in Table 3-1; and**
2. **In section 3.1.2, add the squids row to Table 3-1 and the squids paragraph to “2. Ecosystem Component,” to read as follows:**

3.1.2 Stocks

\* \* \* \* \*

1. In the Fishery:

Target species – are those species that support either 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 TAC is established annually for each target species or species assemblage. Catch of each species must be recorded and reported. This category includes pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, yellowfin sole, Greenland turbot, arrowtooth flounder, rock sole, flathead sole, Alaska plaice, “other flatfish”, Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, shortraker rockfish, roughey rockfish, “other rockfish”, Atka mackerel, sharks, skates, sculpins, **and** octopuses, ~~and squid.~~

**Table 3-1 Species included in the FMP Species Categories**

| <b>In the Fishery</b>       |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Target Species <sup>2</sup> | Walleye Pollock<br>Pacific cod<br>Sablefish<br>Yellowfin sole<br>Greenland turbot<br>Arrowtooth flounder<br>Rock sole<br>Flathead sole<br>Alaska Plaice<br>Other flatfish<br>Pacific ocean perch<br>Northern rockfish<br>Shortraker rockfish,<br>Roughey rockfish,<br>Other rockfish<br>Atka mackerel |

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
|                                  | Squid<br>Shark<br>Skate<br>Sculpin<br>Octopuses   |
| <b>Ecosystem Component</b>       |   |
| Prohibited Species <sup>1</sup>  | Pacific halibut<br>Pacific herring<br>Pacific salmon<br>Steelhead trout<br>King crab<br>Tanner crab   |
| Forage Fish Species <sup>3</sup> | Osmeridae family (eulachon, capelin, and other smelts)<br>Myctophidae family (lanternfishes)<br>Bathylagidae family (deep-sea smelts)<br>Ammodytidae family (Pacific sand lance)<br>Trichodontidae family (Pacific sand fish)<br>Pholidae family (gunnels)<br>Stichaeidae family (pricklebacks, warbonnets, eelblennys, cockscombs, and shannys)<br>Gonostomatidae family (bristlemouths, lightfishes, and anglemouths)<br>Order Euphausiacea (krill) |
| Grenadiers <sup>3</sup>          | Pacific grenadier<br>Popeye grenadier<br>Giant grenadier  |
| <b>Squids<sup>3</sup></b>        | <b>Chirotuthidae family</b><br><b>Cranchiidae family (glass squid)</b><br><b>Gonatidae family (armhook squid)</b><br><b>Onychoteuthidae family (hooked squid)</b><br><b>Order Sepioidea (North Pacific bobtail squid)</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> Must be immediately returned to the sea, except when retention is required or authorized.

<sup>2</sup> TAC for each listing. Species and species groups may or may not be targets of directed fisheries.

<sup>3</sup> Management measures for forage fish, grenadiers, **and squids** are established in regulations implementing the FMP.

## 2. Ecosystem Component:

Prohibited Species – are those species and species groups the catch of which must be avoided while fishing for groundfish, and which must be returned to sea with a minimum of injury except when their retention is required or authorized by other applicable law (see also Prohibited Species Donation Program described in Section 3.6.1.1). Groundfish species and species groups under the FMP for which the quotas have been achieved shall be treated in the same manner as prohibited species.

Forage fish species – are those species listed in Table 3-1, which are a critical food source for many marine mammal, seabird and fish species. The forage fish species category is established to allow for the management of these species in a manner that prevents the development of a

commercial directed fishery for forage fish. Management measures for this species category will be specified in regulations and may include such measures as prohibitions on directed fishing, limitations on allowable bycatch retention amounts, or limitations on the sale, barter, trade or any other commercial exchange, as well as the processing of forage fish in a commercial processing facility.

Grenadiers – are those species listed in Table 3-1, which are abundant on the continental slope and have ecological importance to this habitat. The grenadier species category is established to address the incidental catch of grenadiers in the groundfish fisheries. Management measures are specified in regulations and may include such measures as prohibitions on directed fishing, limitations on allowable retention amounts, or limitations on the sale, barter, trade, or any other commercial exchange, as well as the processing of grenadier in a commercial processing facility.

**Squids** – are those species listed in Table 3-1, which are abundant in pelagic waters off the continental shelf. The squid species category is established to address the incidental catch of squid in the groundfish fisheries and to clarify that they are a non-target species not considered in need of conservation and management. Management measures are specified in regulations and may include such measures as prohibitions on directed fishing, limitations on allowable retention amounts, or limitations on the sale, barter, trade, or any other commercial exchange.

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**3. Add the following text to Appendix A.1, after Amendment 117 is implemented, to read as follows:**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Amendment 117, implemented on [insert date]:**

**Adds squids to the ecosystem component category in section 3.1.2 and in Table 3-1.**

**Removes squids from target species category “In the Fishery” in section 3.1.2 and in Table 3-1.**

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