

AMENDMENT 25
REVISIONS TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
GROUNDFISH OF THE GULF OF ALASKA

On page 4-26, a new section 4.4.3 Marine Mammal Conservation Measures, is added to read as follows:

4.4.3 Marine Mammal Conservation Measures

Regulations implementing the FMP may include special groundfish management measures intended to afford species of marine mammals additional protection other than that provided by other legislation. These regulations may be especially necessary when marine mammals species are reduced in abundance. For example, Steller sea lions are so reduced in abundance that they have been listed as threatened within the meaning of the Endangered Species Act. Even absent such a listing, regulations may be necessary to prevent interactions between commercial fishing operations and marine mammal populations when information indicates that such interactions may adversely affect marine mammals, resulting in reduced abundance and/or reduced use of areas important to marine mammals. These areas include breeding and nursery grounds, haul out sites, and foraging areas that are important to adult and juvenile marine mammals during sensitive life stages.

Regulations intended to protect marine mammals might include those that would limit fishing effort, both temporarily and spatially, around areas important to marine mammals. Examples of temporal measures are seasonal apportionments of TAC specifications. Examples of spatial measures could be closures around areas important to marine mammals. The purpose of limiting fishing effort would be to prevent harvesting excessive amounts of the available TAC or seasonal apportionments thereof at any one time or in any one area.

AMENDMENT 20
REVISIONS TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
THE GROUND FISH FISHERY OF THE
BERING SEA AND ALEUTIANS ISLANDS AREA

On page 14.9, section 14.4.3.1 is retitled and revised to read as follows:

14.4.3.1 Marine Mammal Conservation Measures

Regulations implementing the FMP may include special groundfish management measures intended to afford species of marine mammals additional protection other than that provided by other legislation. These regulations may be especially necessary when marine mammals species are reduced in abundance. For example, Steller sea lions are so reduced in abundance that they have been listed as threatened within the meaning of the Endangered Species Act. Even absent such a listing, regulations may be necessary to prevent interactions between commercial fishing operations and marine mammal populations when information indicates that such interactions may adversely affect marine mammals, resulting in reduced abundance and/or reduced use of areas important to marine mammals. These areas include breeding and nursery grounds, haul out sites, and foraging areas that are important to adult and juvenile marine mammals during sensitive life stages.

Regulations intended to protect marine mammals might include those that would limit fishing effort, both temporarily and spatially, around areas important to marine mammals. Examples of temporal measures are seasonal allowances of TAC apportionments. Examples of spatial measures could be closures around areas important to marine mammals. The purpose of limiting fishing effort would be to prevent harvesting excessive amounts of the available TAC or seasonal apportionments thereof at any one time or in any one area.