

Amendment 121 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 sculpin 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 sculpins row to Table 3-1 and the sculpins paragraph to “2. Ecosystem Component,” to read as follows:**

3.1.2 Stocks

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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, rougheye rockfish, “other rockfish”, Atka mackerel, sharks, skates, ~~sculpins~~, and octopuses.

Table 3-1 Species included in the FMP Species Categories

In the Fishery	
Target Species ²	Walleye 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, Rougheye rockfish, Other rockfish Atka mackerel Shark Skate Sculpin Octopuses

Ecosystem Component	
Prohibited Species ¹	Pacific halibut Pacific herring Pacific salmon Steelhead trout King crab Tanner crab
Forage Fish Species ³	Osmeridae family (eulachon, capelin, and other smelts) Myctophidae family (lanternfishes) Bathylagidae family (deep-sea smelts) Ammodytidae family (Pacific sand lance) Trichodontidae family (Pacific sand fish) Pholidae family (gunnels) Stichaeidae family (pricklebacks, warbonnets, eelblennys, cockscombs, and shannys) Gonostomatidae family (bristlemouths, lightfishes, and anglemouths) Order Euphausiacea (krill)
Grenadiers ³	Pacific grenadier Popeye grenadier Giant grenadier
Squids ³	Chirotuthidae family Cranchiidae family (glass squid) Gonatidae family (armhook squid) Onychoteuthidae family (hooked squid) Order Sepioidea (North Pacific bobtail squid)
Sculpins³	Cottidae family Hemitripteridae family Psychrolutidae family Rhamphocottidae family

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

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

³ Management measures for forage fish, grenadiers, and squids, **and sculpins** 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.

Sculpins – are those species listed in Table 3-1, which occupy all benthic habitats along continental shelf and slope areas. The sculpin species category is established to address the incidental catch of sculpins 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 121 is implemented, to read as follows:

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Amendment 121, implemented on [insert date]:

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

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