

Amendment Text for BSAI Groundfish FMP

Proposed Amendment 108 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Management Area

Additions are in bold.

1. Update Table of Contents as needed.
2. In the Executive Summary, Table ES-2, the description corresponding with the row labeled “Permit” is revised to read as follows:

All vessels participating in the BSAI groundfish fisheries, other than fixed gear sablefish, require a Federal groundfish license, except for: vessels fishing in State of Alaska waters; vessels less than **or equal to 32' LOA**; and jig gear vessels less than 60' LOA that meet specific effort restrictions. Licenses are endorsed with area, gear, and vessel type and length designations. Fixed gear vessels engaged in directed fishing for Pacific cod must qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement.

Fishing permits may be authorized, for limited experimental purposes, for the target or incidental harvest of groundfish that would otherwise be prohibited.

3. Section 3.3.1 titled “License Limitation Program” includes a list of three vessel categories that are exempt from Federal groundfish license requirements. This proposal would correct exemption ‘b’:

A Federal groundfish license is required for catcher vessels (including catcher/processors) participating in all BSAI groundfish fisheries, other than fixed gear sablefish. However, the following vessel categories are exempt from the license program requirements:

- a. vessels fishing in state of Alaska waters (0-3 miles offshore);
- b. vessels less than **or equal to 32 ft LOA**;
- c. jig gear vessels less than 60 ft LOA using a maximum of 5 jig machines, one line per machine, and a maximum of 15 hooks per line; or

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4. Appendix A is amended to add the following text in Section A.1, Amendments to the FMP, in chronological amendment order, as follows (insert amendment implementation date):

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Amendment 108, implemented on _____:

This amendment corrects an omission in the FMP text that establishes vessel length limits for small vessels exempted from the license limitation program (LLP) in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) groundfish fishery. This amendment makes the FMP text consistent with the original intent of the LLP, operations in the fisheries, and Federal regulations.