

AMENDMENT 50 - TEXT TO AMEND THE FMP FOR THE GROUND FISH FISHERY OF THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA

1. In Chapter 2.0, section entitled "History and Summary of Amendments", add the following:

Amendment 50 implemented (INSERT EFFECTIVE DATE)

Established a Prohibited Species Donation Program that expands the Salmon Donation Program to include halibut taken as bycatch in the groundfish trawl fisheries off Alaska to economically disadvantaged individuals.

2. In chapter 14 entitled "Management Regime", the following sections are amended:

Under Section 14.2 entitled "Area, Fisheries, and Stocks Involved", Section 14.2.B.1, entitled "Prohibited Species", is changed to read as follows:

Prohibited Species--are those species and species groups the catch of which must be returned to sea with a minimum of injury except when their retention is authorized by other applicable law (see also Prohibited Species Donation Program described at 14.4.2.F). 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.

3. In Section 14.4.2 entitled "Prohibited Species", Section D, entitled "Policy", is changed by removing the final paragraph entitled "Salmon Donation Program".

4. In Section 14.4.2 entitled "Prohibited Species", Section F is added to read:

F. Prohibited Species Donation Program.

The Prohibited Species Donation Program authorizes the distribution of specified prohibited species taken as bycatch in the groundfish trawl fisheries in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska to economically disadvantaged individuals through a NMFS authorized distributor selected by the Regional Administrator in accordance with federal regulations which may be implemented under the FMP. The program is limited to the following species:

- (1) Pacific salmon
- (2) Pacific halibut