

Proposed Plan Amendment Language for the Improved Retention and Utilization program - Amendment 49 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Fishery Management Plan:

Insert a new section 14.9 to read as follows:

14.9 Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU) Program.

14.9.1 Minimum retention requirements

All vessels participating in the groundfish fisheries of the BSAI are required to retain all catch of all IR/IU species (pollock and Pacific cod beginning January 1, 1998 and rock sole and yellowfin sole beginning January 1, 2003) when directed fishing for those species are open, regardless of gear type employed and target fishery. When directed fishing for an IR/IU species is prohibited, retention of that species is required only up to any maximum retainable bycatch amount in effect for that species, and these retention requirements are superceded if retention of an IR/IU species is prohibited by other regulations.

No discarding of whole fish of these species is allowed, either prior to or subsequent to that species being brought on board the vessel. At-sea discarding of any processed product from any IR/IU species is also prohibited, unless required by other regulations.

14.9.2 Minimum utilization requirements

Beginning January 1, 1998, all IR/IU species caught in the BSAI must be either (1) processed at sea subject to minimum product recovery rates and/or other requirements established by regulations implementing this amendment, or (2) delivered in their entirety to onshore processing plants for which similar processing requirements are implemented by State regulations.

Klind: 01-21-96, 4-21-97  
c:\fmwork\amd49\amd49pr.fmp  
h:\fmwork\amd49\amd49pr.fmp  
g:\fmgroup\amd49\amd49pr.fmp