

AMENDMENT 31
REVISIONS TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
GROUNDFISH OF THE
GULF OF ALASKA

On page 3-4, the second paragraph under Section 3.0, AREAS AND STOCKS INVOLVED, is revised to read as follows:

Other groundfish which are the target of fisheries in the Gulf include sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) and Atka mackerel, a member of the greenling family (*Hexagrammidae*). Sablefish, which was depressed as a result of intensive fishing by foreign fleets in the 1960s and 1970s, has recovered to high levels of abundance. Sablefish are found from California waters northward into the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, but this species reaches its greatest abundance in the Gulf of Alaska. Atka mackerel stocks supported a targeted foreign fishery in the Central Regulatory area in the 1970s, but abundance of this species has declined to negligible quantities, except in the Western Regulatory area. The decreased abundance of Atka mackerel may be due to a westward shift in the distribution of stocks, to excessive fishing mortality, or to successive years of poor recruitment. Length frequency information suggests that the population consists mainly of large fish. The absence of catches in the Eastern and Central Regulatory areas indicates stocks are not sufficiently abundant to sustain a commercial fishery, although small amounts are caught incidentally during other groundfish fishing activities. Due to its low availability the domestic groundfish industry showed little interest in targeting on this species, and Atka mackerel was included as a component of the other species category in 1988. Since 1990, domestic commercial interest in harvesting Atka mackerel in the Western Regulatory area resulted in establishment of that species as a target species category beginning with the 1994 fishing year.

On page 3-5, under Section 3.1 SPECIES MANAGED BY THIS PLAN, the categories of Target Species, Other Species, and Prohibited Species are revised to read as follows:

Target Species	Other Species	Prohibited Species
Pollock	Squid	Domestic:
Pacific cod	Sculpins	Pacific halibut
Flounders	Sharks	Pacific herring

Rockfish	Skates	Pacific salmon
- slope assemblage	Eulachon	Steelhead trout
- shelf demersal assemblage	Smelts	King crab
- shelf pelagic assemblage	Capelin	Tanner crab
- thornyhead rockfish	Octopus	Foreign:
Sablefish		All of the above and
Atka mackerel		other unallocated
		species.