

Proposed FMP amendment language for GOA Amendment 72

Deletions are removed; additions are in bold.

p. ES-4, Table ES-2: remove entire row titles Bycatch Reduction Programs:

~~Bycatch Reduction Programs: Shallow-water Flatfish: The Council will annually review the GOA fisheries that exceed a discard rate of 5% of shallow-water flatfish, and may proposed management measures to reduce bycatch in these fisheries.~~

p. ES-4, Table ES-2: revise Retention and Utilization Requirements box (second in list) and add to Retention and Utilization Requirements box (last in list):

Retention and Utilization
Requirements:

IR/IU: All pollock, shallow-water flatfish and Pacific cod must be retained and processed.

Shallow-water Flatfish: The Council will annually review the discards of shallow-water flatfish in all GOA fisheries. The Council may recommend that NMFS initiate rulemaking to add or remove a fishery from shallow-water flatfish improved retention/improved utilization (IR/IU) requirements if the three-year rolling average discard rate of shallow-water flatfish in any fishery falls above or below 5 percent.

p. 36, 3.6.3.2, Improved Retention/Improved Utilization Program first paragraph:

Minimum retention requirements

All vessels participating in the GOA groundfish fisheries are required to retain all catch of pollock, Pacific cod, and shallow-water flatfish when directed fishing for those species is open, regardless of gear type employed and target fishery. When directed fishing for pollock, Pacific cod, or shallow-water flatfish is prohibited, retention of those species is required up to any maximum retainable amount in effect for these species, and these retention requirements are superseded if retention of pollock, Pacific cod, or shallow-water flatfish is prohibited by other regulations.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, except as permitted in the regulations. At-sea discarding of any processed product from pollock, Pacific cod, or shallow-water flatfish is also prohibited, unless required by other regulations.

The Council will annually review the discards of shallow-water flatfish in all GOA fisheries. The Council may recommend that NMFS initiate rulemaking to add or remove a fishery from shallow-water flatfish improved retention/improved utilization (IR/IU) requirements if the three-year rolling average discard rate of shallow-water flatfish in any fishery falls above or below 5 percent.

p. A-11, revise Appendix A:

Amendment 72 implemented [insert implementation date], revised Amendment 49:

- ~~1. Removed shallow water flatfish from the improved retention/improved utilization program.~~
- ~~2. Created an annual review for fisheries that exceed a discard rate of 5 percent of shallow water flatfish.~~

Added a statement to the FMP that the Council will annually review the discards of shallow-water flatfish in all GOA fisheries. The Council may recommend that NMFS initiate rulemaking to add or remove a fishery from shallow-water flatfish improved retention/improved utilization (IR/IU) requirements if the three-year rolling average discard rate of shallow-water flatfish in any fishery falls above or below 5 percent.