

C-4 Scallop ACLs

The Council adopts the purpose and need statement as amended and the following preferred alternatives for final action, as specified below. Revisions to language in the October 2010 analysis are underlined (additions) and in strikethrough (deletions).

Action 1: Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Scallops

On January 16, 2009, NMFS issued final guidelines for National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). They provide guidance on how to comply with new annual catch limit (ACL) and accountability measure (AM) requirements for ending overfishing of fisheries managed by federal fishery management plans. Annual catch limits are amounts of fish allowed to be caught in a year. A legal review of the Alaskan Scallop FMP found there were inadequacies in the FMP texts that need to be addressed. Several work groups (e.g., ABC/ACT Control Rules, Vulnerability Evaluations) have been created to produce reports on how to carry out the more technical components of the NS 1 guidelines. Statutory deadlines require compliance with the MSA by the start of the 2011 fisheries ~~although these reports have not been finalized.~~

This action is necessary to facilitate compliance with requirements of the MSA to end and prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks and achieve optimum yield.

Alternative 3: ABC control rule = 90% of OFL

Alternative 3a: Statewide ACL with the OFL redefined to include all estimated sources of fishing mortality (OFL = 1.29 million pounds).

Accountability Measures

The annual GHL for each scallop management area will be established by the State of Alaska at a level sufficiently below the ACL so that the sum of the estimated discard mortality in directed scallop and groundfish fisheries as well as the directed scallop fishery removals does not exceed the ACL. Anytime an ACL is exceeded the overage will be accounted for through a downward adjustment to the GHL during the fishing season following the overage.

Options for non-target stocks

Option 2: Move to the Ecosystem component