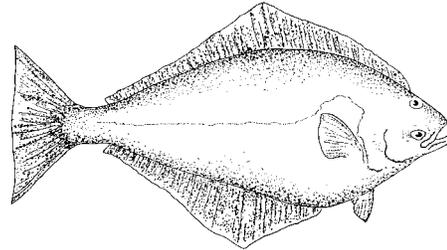


LOCAL AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

What are Local Area Management Plans (LAMPs)?

LAMPs are area-specific resource management plans that address local concerns about conservation and allocation between user groups. LAMPs can be initiated by the local ADF&G advisory committees and are developed using a consensus decision-making process inclusive of representatives of all users of the resources included in the LAMP.



Why participate in the LAMP process?

Localized depletion and allocation issues can affect everyone using resources near coastal communities. The broad-based regulations developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Alaska Board of Fish (BOF) to address these problems often do not or cannot meet local needs, and may impose inappropriate, and often costly, restrictions. LAMPs allow community residents the opportunity to design management policies that effectively address their concerns.

What are the guidelines for forming a LAMP?

In 1998 the Council and the BOF adopted a protocol for developing LAMPs. The protocol covers halibut and related fisheries and requires LAMP proposals to:

- Use the local advisory committee or task force approach.
- Include representatives of commercial, sport, charter, subsistence, and any other user groups and document their participation.
- Reflect a "high degree of consensus [among] representatives of all users of the fish species in the local area covered by the proposed plan."
- Involve agency staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Council, BOF, and International Pacific Halibut Commission in the development of the plan.
- Address, as appropriate, "catch and possession limits, gear types, effort limitation, closed areas, seasons, and overall boundaries of the local area plan."

Experience with the LAMP process in Sitka has yielded several valuable lessons that may be relevant to other communities working on LAMPs:

- A problem statement, or list of concerns, to which all parties agree, must be developed at the beginning of the process.
- Detailed information on catch and bycatch are needed to verify the problem and develop workable solutions.
- LAMPs can take time (2 to 3 years or more) to develop and implement...be prepared for the long haul.

How will the LAMP process proceed?

Once a LAMP is developed, it is reviewed by the BOF for consistency with the joint Council/BOF protocol, state laws and other considerations. The BOF then enacts regulations or recommends action to the Council for fisheries not under BOF jurisdiction.

The BOF has authority over all species in state waters (within three miles) except halibut. The BOF also has jurisdiction over salmon, lingcod, and black rockfish in state waters as well as the EEZ (3-200 miles). The BOF has jurisdiction over all sport fisheries (except halibut) in state waters as well as the EEZ (3-200 miles). The BOF shares jurisdiction of demersal shelf rockfish in the EEZ with the Council. The council generally has jurisdiction over all other fishing outside of state waters.

Because halibut fisheries are managed under an international treaty, the Council has jurisdiction over halibut allocation, including subsistence regulations, in all waters out to 200 miles. The Council makes recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce who ultimately approves and implements the regulations through the National Marine Fisheries Service.

What is the current status of LAMP planning in Alaska?

At their October 2000 meeting, the Council requested that the BOF develop recommendations modifying the halibut subsistence regulations in order to address specific local area concerns. In response, the BOF send an announcement to local advisory committees in Southeast, Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak requesting the committees schedule meetings to "design a LAMP for halibut management, including recommendations on subsistence halibut." Specifically, the BOF requested the advisory committees "to identify issues, identify consensus items, and give opportunity for the public to express concerns and opinions." The short timeline is necessitated by the Council request that recommendations be submitted by June 2001.

The BOF Halibut LAMP Committee is comprised of BOF members Ed Dersham, Grant Miller, and Dan Coffey. The committee held hearings in Sitka, Kodiak, Cordova, and Homer in April 2001 to receive reports from advisory committees and receive testimony from members of the public. The full BOF will meet in Anchorage in early May to review LAMP proposals and present a status report to the Council at their June meeting.