



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:**Cons 15-033

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**Agenda Date**4/6/2015

**Agenda Number:**D4

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**Dan Hull, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**  
Ecosystem Committee Report; Bering Sea FEP

**ESTIMATED TIME:**  
2 hours

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  
Review Ecosystem Committee report, including discussion of Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan

**BACKGROUND:**  
The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem Committee met in Seattle, WA on March 17-18, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to consider a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan and, in particular, begin to address the questions posed by the Council in October, 2014.

The Committee received reports from researchers and planners working in the Bering Sea. Those presentations included:

- Update of EFH 5-year review - The Committee supported the SSC recommendations of the EFH review
- Update on red king crab habitat studies in Norton Sound - The Committee took no action
- Update on deep-sea corals research in Alaska - The Committee took no action
- Presentation on the Bering Strait Marine Life and Subsistence Use Data Synthesis - The Committee recommended that discussion of subsistence should be expressly included in planning and completing a Bering Sea FEP
- Update on Aleutians Islands Risk Assessment - The Committee took no action
- Update on the U.S. Coast Guard Bering Sea Port Access Route Study - The Committee requested that the Council receive the presentation from the USCG
- Update on the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission - The Committee requested that staff continue to monitor and update the Committee as necessary
- Information on the Alaska Ocean Observing System symposium on ocean acidification - The Committee took no action
- Update on Lenfest Task Force - The Committee requested that staff keep in contact with Lenfest Task Force

The Committee received a series of presentations from Dr. Kerim Aydin, Dr. Stephani Zador, Dr. Ivonne Ortiz, and Dr. Kirsten Holsman from the Alaska Fisheries Science center including:

- Scoping for a FEP
- Developing Ecosystem Indicators
- Evaluating ecosystem status and thresholds

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- Spatial modeling
- Risk Assessments and Management Strategy Evaluation

The presentations outlined the Science Center's current thinking on development and utility of a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan

The Committee reviewed a synthesis of the public comments received on a discussion paper on the development of a Bering Sea FEP, and a suggested framework for potential development of a Bering Sea FEP. Finally, the Council forwarded two draft summaries of goals and objectives for a FEP and requested that staff incorporate them into discussion papers to begin to develop a strawman FEP for discussion at a future Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the Council's Ecosystem Vision Statement, and how to better put the vision statement into regular practice by the Council. The Committee recommended that: 1) the Council should ensure that the Ecosystem Vision Statement is more prominent on the Council website to make it easier for the public to access, 2) during scoping for action items, staff should identify where the Vision Statement could affect the proposed action, 3) ensure that discussion of the Vision Statement is included in final deliberation for Council actions, and 4) investigate whether the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum should be reconstituted.