


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Acting Executive Director
DATE: April 5, 2001
SUBJECT: Programmatic Groundfish SEIS

ESTIMATED TIME 1 HOUR

I have attached a copy of an information sheet regarding publication of the Draft SEIS, noting the extension of the comment period to June 25, 2001. Steve Davis from NMFS will provide a status report to the Council at this meeting, though a more focused review and formal Council comment on the SEIS document would be scheduled for the June meeting in Kodiak.

ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERIES

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2001

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT N.P.F.M.C.



Project Newsletter No. 5
March 2001

SEIS OVERVIEW

On October 1, 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced its intention to prepare a new Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). **In January 2001, NMFS published the Draft Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Programmatic SEIS.**

The Draft SEIS is available for public review and comment. Public hearings, and a public teleconference, will be held during March and April of 2001 to receive testimony on the Draft SEIS (see back page of this newsletter for dates and locations). All comments received from the public will be considered by NMFS when preparing the final programmatic SEIS.

HOW TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ON SEIS

- 1) Make comments specific and directed to a particular plan element or alternative.
- 2) Identify what you like about the alternatives in addition to what you don't like.
- 3) Identify incomplete or erroneous information.
- 4) Provide information on how a management plan would affect you.
- 5) Offer specific, reasonable alternatives that would help accomplish management goals.

SEIS COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

Due to the fact that the draft SEIS is a very large and complex document, **NMFS has agreed to extend the public comment period for an additional 60 days, until June 25, 2001.** Comments on the Draft SEIS may be submitted by:

- ✉ Mailing your comments to:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Regional Office
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802
- ✉ Faxing your comments to:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Regional Office
(907) 586-7249
Attn: Lori Gravel
- ✉ Providing oral comments at one of the public meetings or during the public teleconference (see back page for details).

HOW CAN I GET A COPY OF THE DRAFT SEIS?

- 1) The complete SEIS is available on-line at the NMFS Alaska Region web site: www.fakr.noaa.gov
- 2) The complete SEIS and the Executive Summary are available on a compact disc.
- 3) The complete SEIS is available in printed format (eight volumes).

If you would like to receive a copy of the SEIS either on CD or in print, please contact Steven K. Davis, NMFS, 222 West 7th Ave., Room 517, Anchorage, AK 99513.

REMEMBER:

**Your comments are important to us!
Comments on the Draft SEIS will be accepted
by NMFS until JUNE 25, 2001.**

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Location
March 27, 2001 (Tuesday)	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Open House 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	Juneau, Alaska Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Drive, Hickel Room
March 28, 2001 (Wednesday)	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Open House 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	Portland, Oregon Federal Bldg, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Conf Room C
March 29, 2001 (Thursday)	5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	Seattle, Washington NOAA Facilities, AFSC, 7600 Sand Point Way NE Building 9, Conference Rooms A & B
April 3, 2001 (Tuesday)	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Open House 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	Kodiak, Alaska Fishery Industrial Technical Center, Near Island
April 11, 2001 (Wednesday)	5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Open House 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	Anchorage, Alaska Anchorage Hilton, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Aleutian Room

PUBLIC TELECONFERENCE

April 19, 2001 (Thursday), 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Dial toll free: 1-877-751-8040

To participate, call the toll-free number and tell the operator you want to be included on the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries SEIS teleconference. Be ready to give your name, address, telephone number, and indicate whether you would like to give formal testimony during the teleconference. The operator will give the information to the NMFS official leading the teleconference, and the operator will notify you when it is your turn to speak. The call will be in "listen only" mode until it is your turn to testify. All testimony and comments will be recorded for the public record and used by NMFS in preparing the Final SEIS.