

Community & Subsistence Workshop on the Northern Bering Sea Research Area Research Plan

Issues brought up during Feb 24 – 25, 2010 workshop

(as posted on flipcharts at the end of the meeting)

Science

- Take an ecosystem approach (everything is connected)
- Don't just focus on climate effects
- Consider seasonal distribution and habitat
- Understand spawning and rearing habitat of other fish (halibut)
- Consider polar bear habitat and possible future critical habitat of these and ice seals
- Rely on previous studies to greatest extent possible
- Incorporate LTK into the plan
- Add a cultural component to the plan
- Include Native communities in the research effort
- Nearshore research is important and involve communities
- Salmon genetics – rivers of origin, tributary level – agency coordination is needed

Management aspects

- No bottom trawling or least amount of disturbance possible
- Buffer areas
- Seasonal restrictions
- Strong monitoring and enforcement
- Go slow
- Take only what you need
- Don't waste
- Respect the future

Communication and process

- Develop a process to involve Native communities in the plan and implementation of the plan
- Need a rural outreach component to the plan
- Increase communication between Native communities and agencies (active communication)
- Two way communication, not passive

Other

- Summer research - 2010 survey consultation
- AFN resolution 0935 – trawling moratorium
- Effect of current commercial fisheries on subsistence
- NMFS and NPFMC consultation often
- Representation on NPFMC
- Don't move the line (Modified Gear Trawl Zone)
- Going to communities is preferred – stay several days. Timing is important (generally not summer, spring, fall – talk to community first)
- Make financial resources available for group meetings
- Follow up community meeting within a year