

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

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NPFMC Ecosystem Committee**REPORT**

11/27/2018 Via Teleconference

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem Committee met via teleconference on Tuesday, November 27 to review the revised draft Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan and make recommendations to the Council for moving forward.

Committee Members in attendance:

Bill Tweit, Co-Chairman	Jim Ayers	John Iani
Theresa Peterson, Co-Chairman	Gretchen Harrington	Dave Fluharty
Rose Fosdick	Dave Benton	Steve MacLean (Staff)

Members absent: Stephanie Madsen, Jeremy Rusin

Others in attendance:

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian	Becca Robins Gisclair	Kerim Aydin
Brendan Raymond-Yakoubian	Joe Krieger	Sara Cleaver
Megan Peterson	Mike Levine	Elizabeth Figus
Steve Marx	Diana Evans	

Diana Evans, Kerim Aydin, Sara Cleaver, and Elizabeth Figus provided a presentation and overview of changes to the FEP document made since the Council reviewed the FEP in October 2018. Changes and clarifications were made to address comments and questions from the Ecosystem Committee Council and the SSC.

After the presentation there was discussion amongst the committee regarding recommendations to the Council, specifically regarding prioritizing action modules for immediate action, and whether some should be considered for future action as time and resources allow. Council staff and ecosystem committee members noted that Committee had proposed five Action Modules for consideration previously. Of those five modules, the Climate Change module and the Local Knowledge / Traditional Knowledge (LK/TK) modules have been discussed since the beginning of the FEP process, are the furthest along, and should be considered for moving forward. Committee members stated that they wanted to ensure that the other proposed action modules were not dismissed, as they remain a priority for the committee.

One committee member expressed interest in reviewing ecosystem indicators and indicator species identified by the FEP Team and any Action Module Taskforce, as action modules are developed.

Another committee member requested more information about the workplans that would be developed for action modules. Staff indicated that a model for the basics of an action module workplan are included in Appendix A of the FEP.

An opportunity for public testimony was provided; no members of the public wished to provide testimony.

After discussion the committee approved the following motions by consensus:

The ecosystem committee recommends that the Council adopt the Bering Sea FEP, including all five action modules.

The ecosystem committee recommends that the Council prioritize the Climate Change Action Module and the Local Knowledge / Traditional Knowledge (LK/TK) Action Module for immediate action and encourages the Council to task the BS FEP Team to consider workplans for the other three action modules identified in the Core FEP, to come back for Council review at a later date.

Committee members also requested that the co-chairmen identify a list of actions that the ecosystem committee will consider moving forward.