



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Ecosystem Committee

AGENDA

20 April 2021 9am – 12pm (AST)

via <https://npfmc.adobeconnect.com/ecosystem>

To connect via phone call 1-800-832-0736, room 1233114#

<http://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2004>

The North Pacific Fishery management Council's Ecosystem Committee is meeting on 20 April, 2021 from 9am – 12pm. The virtual meeting will occur via adobeconnect through the address above. The purpose of the meeting is to review potential agenda items and develop a workplan for the committee for the next year.

1. Ecosystem Workshop

The Council will consider holding a two-day State of the Ecosystem workshop in 2022, likely in association with the Council's April 2022 meeting in Anchorage, AK. The workshop steering group has met twice and will present a draft workshop proposal for the committee's consideration.

2. Committee planning

The committee, at the last meeting, requested that the next meeting focus on agenda planning. The committee has identified a list of topics that they would like to consider over the next year. The items that the committee identified include:

- Northern fur seal co-management – the committee has regularly received updates from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Tribal co-managers from St. Paul Island.
- EFH Review – in January 2021 Gretchen Harrington (ARA HCD) suggested that the committee may be interested in receiving an update on EFH review planning and progress on development of new species distribution models that the committee heard about in 2019. The SSC reviewed the EFH review plans at the April 2021 meeting.
- Northern Bering Sea marine debris – the committee heard testimony about increases in the amount of marine debris washing up on shores in the northern Bering Sea and wished to discuss whether there was an action for the ecosystem committee or Council.
- Gulf of Alaska climate change impacts – the committee noted that the GOA is the “epicenter” of ecosystem change impacts on commercial species (e.g., Pacific cod) and other species (forage fishes). The committee felt it may be useful to consider these issues in a way to make them actionable for the Council.
- Coast-wide issues – the committee noted that many climate-related impacts are not limited to single LMEs but are expressed coast-wide. Examples include forage fish distribution, and changes in primary and secondary productivity. Identifying these issues and considering ways to address them in the medium- to long-term (6-24 months) may be useful for the Council.

3. Continuing actions for the committee

The committee has requested regular updates from several Council advisory bodies and from agency scientists and Tribal co-managers. Some of the items are the same as the items that the committee identified to address in Agenda item 2, above. The committee may wish to consider whether and when those updates should be scheduled. Regular updates that the committee has requested include:

- Bering Sea FEP Team
- FEP LKTKS Task Force
- FEP Climate Change Task Force
- AFSC northern fur seal research
- AKRO northern fur seal management
- Northern fur seal co-management
- AFSC EBM workgroup
- EFH 5-year review

4. Emerging Issues and upcoming Council actions

There are likely to be emerging issues and upcoming Council actions that the ecosystem committee would wish to discuss and provide advice to the Council. The current 3-meeting outlook may provide information about Council actions that the committee may consider.

Opportunities for public comment will be provided during the meeting at the Chair's discretion. Written public comment can be submitted from the committee's [e-agenda](#).