

Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

Samuel Rauch

NOAA
FISHERIES
Headquarters


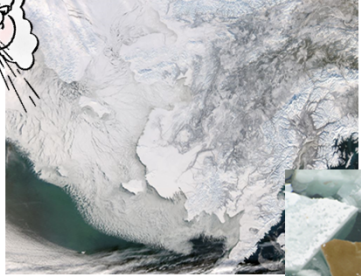



North Pacific Fisheries Management Council: October 7, 2015


Take Aways

- NOAA Fisheries needs to, can and is committed to doing EBFM
- There are many benefits of doing EBFM
- NOAA Fisheries aim is to provide a menu of analytical options to address ecosystem considerations
- Making EBFM operational remains a key challenge, but is one we are up for in partnership with you!

Bloom timing [from icy winters]

- benefits large zooplankton
- provide prey for age-0 pollock
- larger zooplankton, fatter baby pollock
- Increased overwinter survival
- Enhanced Recruitment

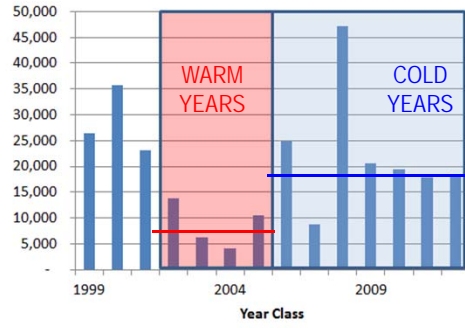


Ecosystem information explained why walleye pollock abundance dramatically fell in the early 2000's,

leading to a 40% drop in the quota— for the largest single fishery in the US,

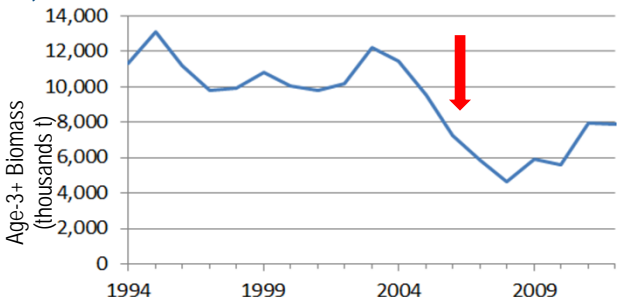
and also why it then rebounded.


Age-1 number (millions)

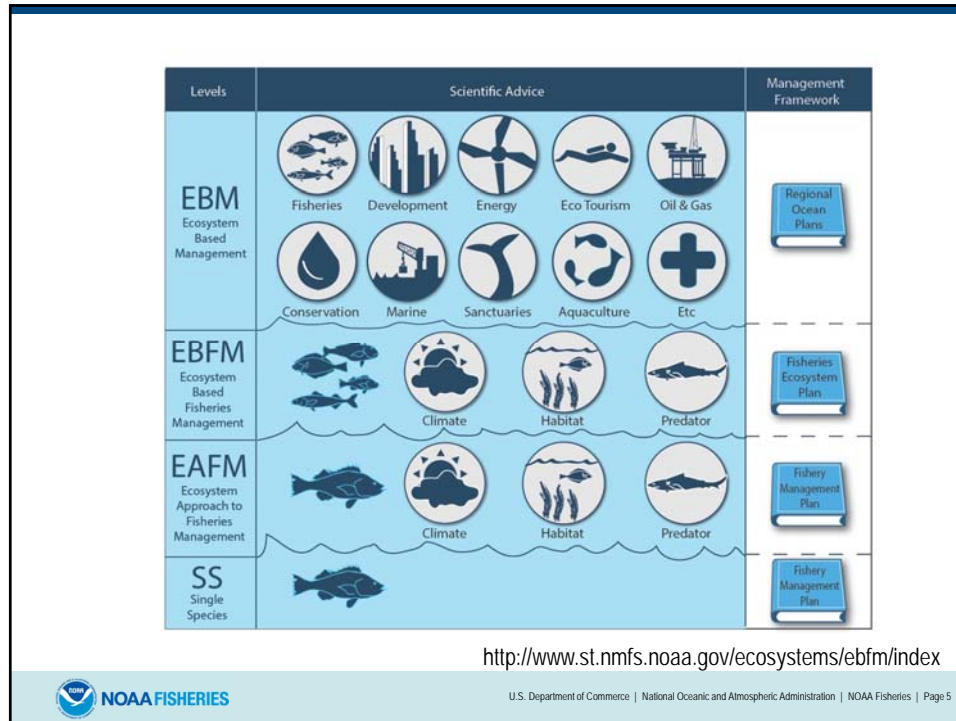


Year Class

Age-3+ Biomass (thousands t)







Policy Components

- Policy Statement
- Background
- Purpose of and Need for Policy
- Definition of EBFM
- Context of EBFM
- Benefits
- Guiding Principles
- Legal Authorities and Mandates
- NOAA Fisheries Responsibilities



Policy Statement

NOAA Fisheries strongly supports the implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM), to better inform decisions and help achieve and optimize the benefits from marine fisheries by evaluating trade-offs among and between fisheries (commercial, recreational, and subsistence), aquaculture, protected species, biodiversity, and habitats, while maintaining resilient and productive ecosystems.



Policy Defines EBFM as:

A systematic approach to fisheries management in a geographically specified area that ensures the resilience and sustainability of the ecosystem ; recognizes the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions among the affected components of the ecosystem, including humans; and seeks to optimize benefits among a diverse set of societal goals.

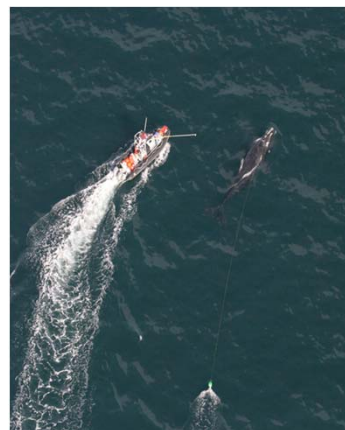


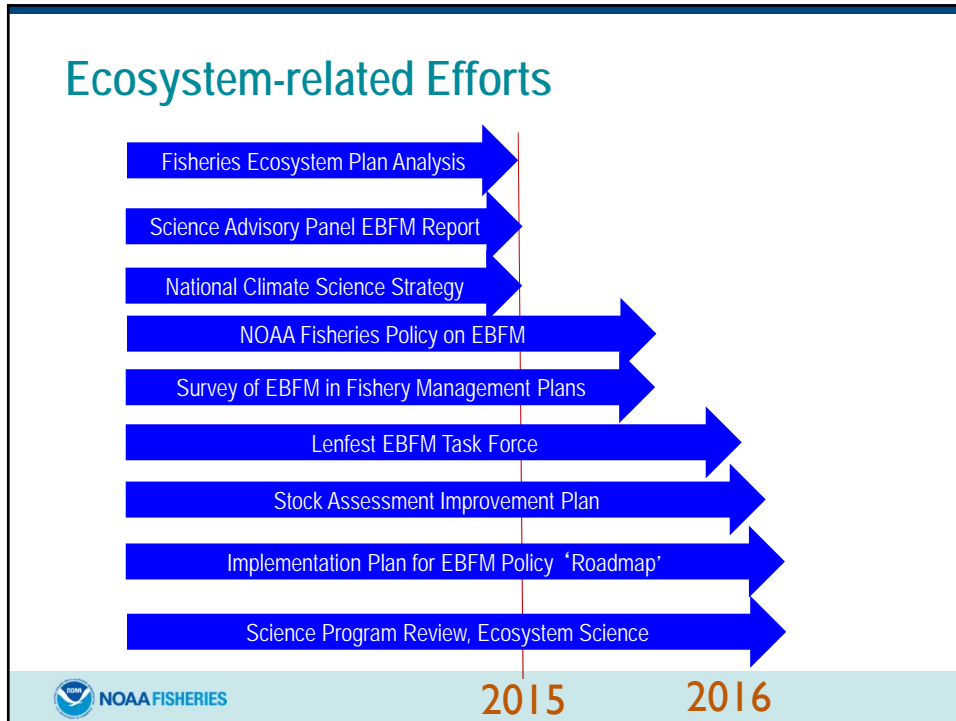
EBFM Guiding Principles



Next Steps for Policy

- Will be open for informal comment through Dec 16, 2015
- Comments to Heather Sagar and Jason Link
- Developing associated EBFM Road Map to answer the “what’s next” question
- Hope to finalize in early 2016





Questions?

<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/ebfm/creating-an-ebfm-management-policy>

NOAA FISHERIES U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | NOAA Fisheries | Page 12