

Template for Working with Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Information

1. Background

This is an analytical template to help guide and inform analytical staff when working with LK, TK, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information. This template is not intended to prescribe a narrow approach for staff. Rather, it aims to provide a starting point for staff as they write analyses. This template is meant to be used in conjunction with other staff analytical templates and the LKTKS Protocol, as needed and appropriate. It is envisioned that this template will be modified and evolve over time as it is put into practice by analytical staff. When engaging work with TK systems in particular, it is important to be mindful of whether there is appropriate expertise, training, and resources available to work with TK systems and TK holders.

2. Questions and guidance related to LK and TK

1. Have staff followed the LKTKS Protocol to identify and describe relevant information for the analysis? (This could include a literature review or outreach as needed or appropriate.)
2. Have staff engaged with the LKTKS search engine to identify written sources and other types of LKTKS information?
 - Who has developed the data or information that is being reviewed by analysts? There may be different methods and approaches in use depending on the funding source and/or author.
3. If staff are reaching out to fishing associations, communities, or Tribes, is there a protocol for sharing knowledge in place (e.g., do crew members need permission from vessel captains to share certain information?)
4. What kinds of information could LK and/or TK contribute to the analysis?
 - What chapters (e.g., EA, RIR, or SIA) or sections of the analysis would LK and TK contribute to?
5. Have other definitions for LK, TK, or subsistence been provided? If so, by whom and can those alternative definitions be shared or described?
6. Do staff need to identify LK experts?
 - If yes, see guideline 3 of the LKTKS Protocol.
7. Has appropriate TK expertise been identified and contacted to provide input on this issue?
8. How representative is the collected LK and/or TK of the broader issue and phenomenon of interest that is relevant to the action and/or alternatives developed by the Council?
 - If the analysis covers a large geographic extent and affects multiple types of users, LK or TK could be published in existing formats from multiple users reflecting that diversity. If the LK information is NOT fully representative of the phenomenon of interest, this is to be clearly noted with mention to the regions/users that have not been included.
9. Are there elements or dimensions of LK and/or TK (e.g., intangible, cultural) that do not easily fit within the current structure of analyses (i.e., description of issues and/or management impacts) that should be included in analyses?

10. How do the communities potentially affected by the action being analyzed value the resource/habitat/ecosystem/practices/etc. that are being analyzed? Do we know? What can we say about it?
11. Identify possible conflicts or omissions in the process. How might the selection of knowledge for inclusion inform or weight your findings? How are you managing bias?

3. Analytical questions and guidance related to Subsistence

The following questions provide a starting point for analytical consideration while analysts evaluate the potential impacts of a Council action on subsistence uses or users of a resource. These questions represent some of the categories of impacts to subsistence that could result from Council action and decision-making.

1. Have staff followed the LKTKS Protocol to identify and describe relevant information for the analysis? (This could include a literature review or outreach as needed or appropriate.)
2. Have staff engaged with the LKTKS search engine to identify written sources and other types of LKTKS information?
 - a. Who has developed the data or information that is being reviewed by analysts? There may be different methods and approaches in use depending on the funding source and/or author.
3. Is there a long-term and consistent pattern of use and dependence on the resource for subsistence purposes?
 - a. Have there been disruptions to the pattern of use and dependence on the resource for subsistence purposes? These may include changes beyond a gatherer's control (e.g., changes in species abundance or distribution due to climate change, regulatory changes, and more).
4. When in the calendar year is the resource being harvested?
 - a. Are there specific harvesting practices that can be described (e.g., fishing gear types)?
 - b. Are there means of handling, preparing, preserving, or storing fish that can be described?
5. What is the area where there are long-term and consistent patterns of taking and use of the resource for subsistence purposes?
 - a. Have there been disruptions to subsistence user's ability to reach an area where there are long-term and consistent patterns of taking and use of the resource for subsistence purposes?
6. Are there patterns of use that include handing down knowledge of fishing, skills, values, and more across generations?
7. What is the pattern of harvesting and use where the harvested resource is shared or distributed among kin and/or communities?
8. What is the pattern of harvesting, use, or reliance for subsistence purposes that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, or nutritional elements for the subsistence way of life?
9. Have subsistence users been involved in identifying the range of relevant information that should be included in the analysis?