

# PEIS Discussion Framework for Ecosystem Committee

The Council and staff are seeking input on development of a purpose and need and alternatives for the Programmatic EIS. Ideas are welcome and may be provided in any format, however, the questions below aim to help frame the work on the Programmatic and assist the Committee in developing a purpose and need statement and identification of alternatives. The [staff discussion document](#) should provide you context for answering the following questions. *(Please note that page 1 of the discussion document contains the same questions that are on this form.)*

Any answers are, by no means, meant to be final, and the purpose of the questions is to help organize thoughts and to stimulate discussion at the April 2023 Committee meeting. Staff will organize and compile these answers for Committee discussion.

You do not need to answer every question and you have the option to go back and change your responses after submitting the form. You can also submit more than one response to this form.

Please submit your response(s) no later than Monday, March 27th.

Please enter your name in the space below. \*

Rose Fosdick

If applicable, please enter your organization or affiliation in the space below.

I am retired however a contract with Kawerak, Inc. covers expenses and time to allow my participation in the Ecosystem Committee and other events related to Ecosystem Committee's topics.

### 1. Why does the Council need to reinitiate a Programmatic evaluation at this time?

The Council needs to reinitiate a Programmatic evaluation now because of the extreme changes being experienced in the world and the Bering Sea. Over the past two decades the bountiful sea we rely on has changed dramatically. It is not the same sea as documented in 2004, 2015 or even 2022. Extreme life-altering climate change events, environmental alterations brought on by climate change, large harvests of targeted species and increased ocean vessel traffic has already changed the environment and ecosystem of the Bering Sea. The Bering Sea is managed for harvests of fish, marine mammals, migratory birds, international traffic, protection of endangered species, mining of mineral resource and military presence. Fisheries management cannot ignore the changes and manage as usual because ignoring the changes which are already altering the sea, will destroy this bountiful environment, ecosystem and will greatly impact communities living close to the sea for its resources. We live by the sea for the healthy life associated with a living culture that for thousands of years has stewarded and benefitted from the sea for food and resources.

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### 2. What outcome(s) do you want to achieve through this process?

The ideal outcome would be that the document we are reviewing is re-drafted to acknowledge and include mention of the importance and use of the fishery by subsistence people and communities, along with commercial harvest. The alternatives should acknowledge that people who live in the area or around the area being managed for fishery resources are considered and are recognized as part of the equation for allowance/allocation. The reinitiated Programmatic Evaluation should consider the impacts of the fishery which often occurs prior to harvest by subsistence people. The document should acknowledge that fishery resources are often taken out of the environment before reaching the subsistence community where people harvest them for raw material used for food, clothing and tools just as generations of "subsistence" people have done for ages.

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### 3. What scope would you like to see for the new policy?

- *Focused on groundfish fishery, specific species, or all Council-managed fisheries?*
- *A broader or specific geographic range?*
- *Affecting all the management policy or specific components?*

My suggestion is to focus on a particular fishery or area such as "groundfish fishery" at present. Later considerations could follow a similar process with invitation for public input for each fishery as they come up for similar management decision. There are a great variety of resources in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, many marine mammal species, migratory birds and other species. There are two continents, international harvests in the Bering Sea and they should be considered in this document but perhaps would not be considered in another PEIS for another fishery or management area.

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4. What changes would you like to see to the current groundfish management policy and its nine goals and suite of 45 objectives?

*The goals and objectives can be found [here](#).*

- *Do you feel there are any management goals and/or objectives that need to be added to a new management policy? If so, what are they?*
- *Are there any management goals and/or objectives that have not been prioritized enough in Council decision making? If so, which ones?*
- *Are there any management goals and/or objectives with which you no longer agree, or which need language to be updated? If so, which ones?*

My reaction to the current policy is that there is a component of harvest which is missing and not considered in the decisions being made. There should be mention that the long time (thousands of years) harvest by residents living in the area should be paramount in consideration. The consideration of importance should not be measured or justified by monetary consideration of financial revenue from harvest of resources or the contribution to regional/statewide/national economy but how important the harvest is in holistic terms of a) as resources for food, clothing, tools; b) as resources for unity of a people who harvest, process, celebrate accomplishments together, c) the value of descriptions expressed in local dialect languages of the harvest success or failure, d) the value of information on the species' health, conditions, locations and e) the value of sharing the actual harvest with community or at regional, statewide and international events. There can be no Alaska Native gathering without the food harvested from local resources or traded/given by people who are invited to share in celebration or in memorials. Healthy resources and food are now considered by the world as coming directly from nature. Alaska Native people continue to practice harvest of healthy resources for family and communities. Our children continue to be trained in what to gather, how to put away and how to prepare safely for consumption by multitudes at events like World Eskimo Indian Olympic, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Alaska Federation of Native gatherings and regional conferences.

5. Are there any specific regulatory or management-related steps you can think of at this time to better align the Council with future purpose and management objectives?

*These may not necessarily end up being folded into the Programmatic, but can provide additional illustration as the Committee and Council decide how to structure alternatives.*

*At this time I have no comments on specific regulatory or management steps.*

## 6. Additional Comments

If you have any additional comments you would like to share, please use the space below.

In a previous message regarding this PEIS discussion, one comment included the "Arctic" region. That particular PEIS discussion should be held at another time.

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