



# D2 Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce

April 2023 Council Meeting

Co-Chairs: Kate Haapala (Council staff) & Sarah Wise (Alaska Fisheries Science Center)



# Summary of Council action

1. Take no action
2. Adopt the LKTKS Protocol and/or initiate work on any one or multiple onramp recommendations
3. Release the materials presented at this meeting for an extended public review period



# LKTKS Taskforce membership

Mr. Toby Anungazuk Jr. (Golovin)

Dr. Rachel Donkersloot (Coastal Cultures Research)

Dr. Kate Haapala (Council staff)

Ms. Bridget Mansfield (National Marine Fisheries Service,  
AK Regional Office)

Dr. Robert Murphy Jr. (Alaska Pacific University)

Ms. Darcy Peter (Beaver)

Dr. Julie Raymond-Yakoubian (Kawerak, Inc.)

Mr. Richard Slats (Chevak)

Mr. Simeon Swetzof (St. Paul)

Ms. Alida Trainor (Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Subsistence Division)

Dr. Sarah Wise (Alaska Fisheries Science Center)



# Adopted goals:

1. To create processes and protocols through which the Council can identify, analyze, and consistently incorporate TK and LK, and the social science of TK and LK, into Council decision-making processes to support the use of best available scientific information in Ecosystem-based Fishery Management.
2. To create a protocol and develop recommendations through which the Council can define and incorporate subsistence information into analyses and decision-making.



# Adopted objectives:

1. Create a glossary of terms to be included in the Taskforce's workplan
2. Identify potential "onramps," or points of entry, within the Council process (e.g., public testimony or analyses) for the Taskforce's work
3. Develop a protocol outlining the best practices for soliciting LK and TK, and a protocol for the Council to identify, analyze, and incorporate TK and LK into the Council decision-making documents as appropriate
4. Develop guidelines or protocols for Council staff for soliciting/identifying, analyzing, and using subsistence data and information in analyses
5. Prepare a final report for the Council



# Key terms (section 2)

- Local Knowledge
  - Develops from observations and experiences of people living, working, harvesting, and processing in specific places
  - One does not need years of experience to hold LK
- Traditional Knowledge
  - Preferred term of knowledge holders across Bering Sea
  - Dynamic knowledge system that can grow, change, or be lost over time
  - Discussed, shared, and practiced throughout communities across generations
    - Often shared orally by Elders
- Subsistence
  - State and Federal governments regulate ‘subsistence uses’
  - Subsistence way of life
  - Subsistence and Traditional Knowledge are inseparable



# Protocol guidelines (section 4)

1. Understand and use the appropriate concepts for LK, TK, and subsistence
2. Demonstrate respect for LK and TK systems
3. Appropriately and accurately identify LK and TK holders, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information
4. Engage in early and frequent communication with relevant entities.
5. Acknowledge and account for differences in capacity among relevant entities
6. Adhere to local and cultural protocols that entities have established for sharing and communicating LK, TK, or subsistence information
7. Build appropriate capacity for working with LK and TK systems and subsistence information
8. Understand how to navigate multiple knowledge systems



# Guidelines as a policy statement

(section 5)

- Guidelines would become a short and accessible ‘LKTKS Policy’ statement available on the Council’s [Management Policies web page](#)
- Defines the Council’s approach to working with LK, TK, and subsistence information
- Does not erase the full Protocol
  - Protocol provides the necessary background and context for understanding the policy statement



## Current Guide language

## Revised as LKTKS Policy

Understand and use the appropriate concepts for LK, TK, and subsistence

The Council, staff, and advisory bodies intend to demonstrate respect for LK and TK systems, LK and TK holders, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence gatherers and/or their information.

Demonstrate respect for LK and TK systems

The Council, staff, and Council advisory bodies recognize the importance of understanding and using the appropriate terms for LK, TK, and subsistence information while carrying out their work

Appropriately and accurately identify LK and TK holders, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information

The Council, staff, and advisory bodies are committed to taking the appropriate steps to accurately identify LK and TK holders, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information

Engage in early and frequent communication with relevant entities

The Council recognizes the importance of, and will work to prioritize, early and ongoing communication with relevant entities holding or representing LK and TK systems. This includes but is not limited to Tribes, Alaska Native Organizations, fishermen, fishing or processing associations as well as cooperatives, and others

Acknowledge and account for differences in capacity among relevant entities

The Council will endeavor to acknowledge and account for capacity differences among the entities (i.e., Tribes, Alaska Native Organizations, fishermen, fishing associations or cooperatives, and others)

Adhere to local and cultural protocols that entities have established for sharing and communicating LK, TK, or subsistence information

The Council will endeavor to adhere to local and cultural protocols that entities have established for sharing and communicating LK, TK or subsistence information when they are shared with the Council, staff, or its advisory bodies

Build the appropriate capacity for working with LK and TK systems and subsistence information

The Council acknowledges the importance of having the appropriate capacity for identifying and working with LK and TK systems and subsistence information. The Council will work to identify opportunities to increase this capacity and engage in opportunities for increasing LK, TK, and subsistence capacity as able

Understand how to navigate scenarios where western science and LK or TK systems yield different insights

The Council, staff, and advisory bodies intend to equitably work across and account for multiple knowledge systems

# Background information on onramp recommendations

- Reached consensus on 11 onramp recommendations for the Council to consider
  - Not all ideas discussed were recommended
- Different opportunities to incorporate LK, TK, and subsistence information
- Presented as individual recommendations to provide the Council with a highly flexible approach
- Council is not required to take any one course of action



# Onramp recommendations & Protocol guidelines (pg. 13)

ONRAMP RECOMMENDATION	RELATED GUIDELINES
Adopt the Protocol	Guidelines 1-8
Support for, and dedicated staff time to maintain, the LKTKS search engine	Guideline 3 and 7
Initiate a process whereby Tribes could engage with the Council	Guideline 1-4, 6 and 7; Guideline 5 would inform how the onramp would be carried out
NMFS led Consultations occur early in the decision-making process and a non-quorum of Council members participate, when invited	Guideline 1-4, 6 and 7; Guideline 5 would inform how the onramp would be carried out
Request Federal agencies with co-management partners extend invitations to present to Tribal partners	Guidelines 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7
Expand designated Alaska Native Tribal seats to be held by Tribal representatives across advisory bodies	Guidelines 1-4, 7 and 8
Solicit nominations for expanded LK and TK social science expertise on the SSC	Guidelines 1-4, 7 and 8
Workshop to solicit broad input from the public and knowledge holders during research priorities process	1-4, 6-8; Guideline 5 would inform how the onramp would be carried out
Implement template with guiding questions for LKTKS information	Guidelines 1-4 and 7; Guideline 5 would inform how the onramp would be carried out
Modify public comment procedures to allow for introductions	Guidelines 1, 3, and 5
Plan to increase non-economic social science capacity and LKTKS expertise more specifically	Guidelines 2, 3, 7, and 8



# Summary of Taskforce Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale points	Meeting report
<p>Council release the LKTKS Protocol and onramp recommendations for a 45-day public review period and allow the Taskforce to convene virtually to review comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would not adopt at this meeting, allowing Council two opportunities to engage with materials</li> <li>• Additional public input</li> </ul>	<p>December 2022 &amp; January 2023</p>
<p>Taskforce disband after the Council takes final action on the LKTKS Protocol and onramp recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with Council's original intent</li> <li>• Implementation period for onramp(s) could be carried out by staff</li> </ul>	<p>March 2023</p>
<p>Council form an ad hoc review/advisory body to determine whether the Protocol could be applied to other regions, should it be adopted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several elements of the Protocol could carry over to other regions</li> <li>• Appropriate to let knowledge holders and other fishery stakeholders in those regions weigh in on where preferences differ</li> </ul>	<p>March 2023</p>
<p>Council initiate a 5-year periodic review period for the Protocol, should it be adopted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows Council, knowledge holders, other members of the public to review and provide input on Protocol's continued relevance</li> </ul>	<p>March 2023</p>





# Questions?

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