

SSC Business

- The SSC welcomes Curry Cunningham (UAF) to the SSC.
- The SSC elected co-chairs (Anne Hollowed (NOAA) and Sherri Dressel (ADF&G)) for 2020
- The SSC elected vice chair (Alison Whitman, ODFW)
- The SSC extends our gratitude to Gordon Kruse for his service as SSC co-chair and look forward to continuation of his thoughtful and insightful contributions as a SSC member.
- The SSC is so pleased that Gordon was awarded the 1st Terry Quinn II Distinguished Scientist award.

B4 AFSC report

- The SSC continues to **prioritize** collection of basic survey data
 - Data cannot be collected retrospectively!
- The SSC **agrees** with importance of finding efficiencies in monitoring and looks forward to workshop results on evaluating trade-offs
- SSC **recommends** that new and innovative technologies be rigorously evaluated to assess costs & benefits relative to established approaches
- The SSC **recognizes** unique challenges in Alaska associated with climate change, in particular expansion of fish stocks into new areas
 - Challenges cannot be met through more efficient operations alone, but will **require** new funding
- The SSC **encourages** AFSC to explore additional opportunities for collaborations

D6 Social Science Planning Team Report

- The SSC **agrees** with the SSPT that a tier system for evaluating social sciences data requires further discussion.
- The SSC looks forward to **reviewing** results of the SSPT May 2020 workshop on developing an EDR framework for prioritization and progress towards the Data Gap Analysis in June. The SSC recognizes that these focused technical processes are the building blocks for future visionary and exploratory work.
- The SSC **recommends** a similar presentation received by the SSPT on social sciences methods, approaches, data, and products be brought before the SSC.

D7 Economic SAFEs

- The Groundfish SAFE has evolved nicely and is a useful, accessible reference for the economic status of North Pacific fisheries
- The Crab SAFE provides important information on the economic status of the crab fishery, but has fallen behind the Groundfish SAFE in accessibility
 - The SSC **reiterates recommendations** to develop report card metrics for the fishery as a whole
 - The SSC suggests development of scaling and indices so trends can be observed despite confidentiality limitations
- The SSC observes community and social information is being distributed among multiple documents
 - SSC **recommends** articulating a coherent strategy to improve access and accountability for maintaining information

D8 Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix

- MRSAM: model designed to estimate regional economic effects of proposed fishery management actions.
 - SSC had requested to review model before its use in analysis of a Council action.
- Presentation by Chang Seung (AFSC) and Scott Miller (AKRO)
 - Model as presented is a 3-region model (Alaska, West Coast, Rest of US)
 - 10-region model is in development (making 3-region model obsolete)
- SSC **supports** MRSAM effort
 - Model calibrated with surveys unique to Alaska
 - Model holds promise of allowing quantitative estimation of range of community and regional impacts that may result from some types of Council actions not possible at present.

D8 Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix

- SSC requests opportunity to review new 10-region version of MRSAM before its use in analysis of a Council action. The 10 regions include:
 - 6 Southwest Alaska boroughs and census areas
 - 1 At-Sea “region”
 - 3 non-Southwest Alaska US regions
- SSC is providing a list of information requests for the model authors to use in developing content of the next presentation to the SSC.
- SSC is requesting a retrospective event calibration exercise be performed.
- SSC is requesting that the authors explore use of ongoing local multiplier research and natural resource modeling efforts in calibration and future updating of MRSAM.

D9 Marine Mammal Status Report

Northern fur seals

- Northern fur seal populations in the Bering Sea experienced a decline in pup production from 2009-19, with variation across islands. It is uncertain what is driving the different population trajectories among the colonies, or between rookery complexes.
- The SSC *supports* efforts to continue monitoring important population demographics of northern fur seals, and commends the team for providing these data for inclusion in the Ecosystem Reports.

D9 Marine Mammal Status Report

Northern fur seals

- We received an update on two research projects aimed at improving knowledge of the numerical and functional relationships between fur seals, fisheries, and fish resources in the Bering Sea.
- The SSC notes these projects are particularly good examples of how coupled biophysical models that link physics to fish and fisheries can be used in retrospective studies to understand interactions among species groups.
- The SSC *suggested* several areas of future improvement that include additional data collection, and efforts to work with stock assessment authors to ensure the information is brought forward to inform natural mortality rates for stock assessment.

Research Planning Workshop

- Workshop was an opportunity for the SSC to think about improving research prioritization
- SSC appreciates the participation of workshop attendees and presenters
- SSC received presentations on a wide variety of research topics:
 - *Plan Teams*: BSAI/GOA Groundfish, Crab Plan Team, Social Science Planning Team
 - *Specific Topics*: Ecosystem, Acoustic/Trawl Surveys, Fishery Dependent
- Current process is cumbersome and unwieldy
- April Meeting: SSC will discuss improving research prioritization and developing a multi-year research plan to support Council management needs
- The SSC will also discuss the process for top priorities