



C3 Sablefish ESP

October 2024 Council Meeting

Action Memo for SSC

Council Staff: Anna Henry
Other Presenters: Dr. Kalei Shotwell (AFSC), Dr. Russel Dame (AFSC)
Action Required:

1. Review socioeconomic indicators for use in ESP
2. Recommendations as necessary

BACKGROUND

At the December 2023 meeting, the SSC made recommendations for improved integration of economic, social, and community information into the management process. The Council supported this with a [motion](#) recommending that NOAA and Council staff review available data and recommend species-level socio-economic indicators appropriate for the Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles (ESPs). Council staff met with NOAA staff from the Alaska Regional Office and AFSC Economic and Social Sciences Research Program to discuss current products that include social, economic, and community information, plans to incorporate new information into existing products, and longer term ideas to address this issue. The group determined that, given the concurrent timing of ESPs with the specifications process and current issues in the sablefish fishery, the sablefish ESP was the first product to target for including new socioeconomic indicators.

At this meeting, the SSC will review the proposed additions to the suite of indicators identified in the sablefish ESP. Staff will incorporate SSC feedback and finalize the ESP for consideration as part of final harvest specifications in December 2024. If appropriate, these new indicators will be included in other stock ESPs in the future, as feasible.

This is the first step in the process towards addressing the SSCs greater concerns regarding social, economic and community information. Future plans include a staff presentation at the December 2024 meeting outlining existing economic and social information that is available and relevant to harvest specifications, and an agenda item in 2025 to discuss other opportunities to improve the communication and use of available economic and social information in the management process.