

# **Draft SSC Report**

## **April 2023**



**D1 February SSC Workshop  
Discussion & Final Report**

# D1 SSC Workshop Report

- The SSC had a February 2023 workshop to discuss rapid changes in the northern Bering Sea and southern Chukchi Sea
- Significant changes to marine ecosystems, commercial fish stocks, and local communities that depend on marine resources for food and livelihoods present challenges for the Council to balance trade-offs among interested parties that have had limited or no interactions in the past

# D1 SSC Workshop Report

- The SSC ***finds*** the report comprehensive and thanks the organizers and authors
- The SSC ***supports*** the recommendations of the report, particularly expanding monitoring of these ecosystems and improving communications among agencies, managers, tribes and communities
- The SSC ***recommends*** a subgroup of Council, SSC, and PT members be formed ASAP to follow up on recommendations and a possible 2024 February workshop
- The SSC ***suggests*** the authors work with Council staff to produce a plain-language summary with clarifications, and prioritized findings and recommendations

# D1 SSC Workshop Report

## Key science & management recommendations (for science community & the Council)

	Science	Management
<b>Local (NBS/ SCS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop a monitoring program focused on understanding process changes in the NBS that inform our current understanding of carrying capacity and expectations for future commercial fisheries.</li> <li>● Develop recommendations and secure additional funding for a periodic assessment of the southern Chukchi Sea ecosystem.</li> <li>● Improve overall science coordination in the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improve engagement with tribes and communities.</li> <li>● Consider mechanisms for incorporating the full spatial distribution of transboundary stocks into management.</li> </ul>
<b>‘Global’</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Re-assess the time periods that are currently used to define the productivity of crab and groundfish stocks.</li> <li>● Consider alternatives to current HCRs based on available and ongoing analyses.</li> <li>● Increase dialogue between SSC and Council on issues that straddle the science-policy interface.</li> <li>● Identify which stocks are likely to do better or worse in a changing environment, with the associated uncertainties to help fishers build the best fishing portfolio.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase dialogue between SSC and Council on issues that straddle the science-policy interface.</li> <li>● Renew discussions on reference period determinations in light of increased periodicity of extreme events.</li> <li>● Improve the use of approaches that explicitly consider and communicate risks</li> </ul>

# D1 SSC Workshop Report

	<b>Science</b>	<b>Management</b>
<b>Local (NBS/ SCS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Develop a monitoring program focused on understanding process changes in the NBS that inform our current understanding of carrying capacity and expectations for future commercial fisheries.</li><li>● Develop recommendations and secure additional funding for a periodic assessment of the southern Chukchi Sea ecosystem.</li><li>● Improve overall science coordination in the region.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Improve engagement with tribes and communities.</li><li>● Consider mechanisms for incorporating the full spatial distribution of transboundary stocks into management.</li></ul>
<b>Global</b>		

# D1 SSC Workshop Report

	<b>Science</b>	<b>Management</b>
<b>Global</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Re-assess the time periods that are currently used to define the productivity of crab and groundfish stocks.</li><li>● Consider alternatives to current HCRs based on available and ongoing analyses.</li><li>● Increase dialogue between SSC and Council on issues that straddle the science-policy interface. ←</li><li>● Identify which stocks are likely to do better or worse in a changing environment, with the associated uncertainties to help fishers build the best fishing portfolio.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Renew discussions on reference period determinations in light of increased periodicity of extreme events.</li><li>● Increase dialogue between SSC and Council on issues that straddle the science-policy interface.</li><li>● Improve the use of approaches that explicitly consider and communicate risks.</li></ul>

# D1 SSC Workshop Report

## Next steps

- Consider outcomes from this workshop as the Council identifies research priorities for 2023-24.
- Incorporate the recommendations from this workshop into the development of the planned Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement process to better address the impacts of climate change on the marine ecosystems and on the people dependent on those ecosystems.
- Form a subgroup of Council, SSC (and PT) members to develop a roadmap that builds a bridge from assessment and climate science to adaptive management under climate change.
  - The roadmap would recommend a direction and timeline for moving forward, recognizing the urgency for action
  - Consider a more focused follow-up workshop in February 2024

# D1 SSC Workshop Report

## Next steps

- Questions for the subgroup to consider include:
  - Are more dynamic reference points an alternative to current management practices reasonable, given the current Council processes under the Magnuson Stevens Act?
  - Could/should social or economic objectives (e.g. MEY, Biomass thresholds) be incorporated into adaptive management approaches for some stocks?
  - As stocks expand and shift, are regional allocations of catches in the EBS and NBS appropriate and could they be dynamic enough to address temporal variability?
  - Can risk considerations be improved upon in the context of both stock assessments (ABC considerations) and management (TAC considerations).