NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Program

Spring PEEC

Preview of Ecosystem and Economic Conditions
“Sets of ecosystem data that indicate there may be problems not accounted for in the assessment models need to be brought to the attention of the SSC and the Plan Teams as early in the process of setting specifications as possible….this information should be presented at the October Council meeting.”

SSC minutes, Oct 2017
FALL 2018: Lack of sea ice in the NBS

“Kudos to the authors and other collaborators on an August workshop and efforts to provide early information on anomalous conditions in the NBS in 2018. This information is extremely valuable and the assessment did a good job of articulating which events were “unprecedented” versus which ones were just unusual.”

SSC minutes, Dec 2018
Goal: Exchange information on early physical, biological, and economic conditions to inform the fall stock assessment cycle.
GUIDELINES TO PRESENTERS

Lightning Talks: 5 minute talks + 3 minutes for discussion.

Provide a brief overview of 2018/2019 winter and spring ecosystem conditions (survey or model updates).

Focus on new developments, updates, and ‘hot’ topics - what stands out, not comprehensive reviews.

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Meeting objectives:

1. To review hot topics from the fall 2018 assessment cycle
   a. What do we know now that we didn’t know then?
   b. Are we collecting the right data to address these topics?

2. To identify any areas of concern or unusual conditions that may be relevant to ecosystem and stock assessments
   a. Are we collecting the right data to track these topics over the summer?
   b. If these red flags persist, should the Council be notified in October?

End goal:

Inform upcoming surveys and the Council as part of AFSC’s EBFM mission
Day 1
North Pacific Climate Overview
Nick Bond

Physics and Lower Trophic conditions
Jim Overland, Steve Barbeaux,
Buck Stockhausen, Phyllis Stabeno,
Kelly Kearney, Al Hermann, Wei Cheng,
Jeanette Gann, Lisa Eisner, Kathi Lefebvre,
David Kimmel, Alison Deary

Upper Trophic conditions
Kerim Aydin, Kirstin Holsman, Ben Laurel,
Jim Thorson, Chris Wilson, Wayne Palsson

Images provided by J. Overland
Day 2

Upper Trophic conditions (cont’d)
Jamal Moss, Ellen Yasumiishi, Jim Murphy, Rob Suryan, Hillary Burgess

Mammals
Jeremy Sterling, Carey Kuhn, Peter Boveng, Catherine Berchok, John Moran

SocioEconomic conditions
Ben Fissel, Jim Ianelli, Steve Barbeaux, Martin Dorn, Sarah Wise, Gay Sheffield

Afternoon: breakouts by LME

Images provided by P. Boveng
The Gulf of Alaska has been experiencing another marine heatwave since September 2018 (and has continued through summer 2019).

Low abundance of 2019 year classes (FOCI larval survey in WGOA), but 2018 pollock year class is “strong” (MACE Shelikof Strait survey).
Second winter of little to no sea ice in the northern Bering Sea. Double whammy!

Gray whale UME potentially related to changes in the NBS food web.

Map provided by K. Savage
October
- Presentations to the SSC, AP, and Council.

PEEC 2020
- Tentatively planned for late May/early June.
- Need to book a larger conference room!

Thank you to the PEEC 2019 participants!!