

D-1 Arctic Exploratory Fishing

- The area defined by the Arctic FMP is a dynamic and rapidly changing environment that is of considerable scientific and, potentially, commercial interest.
- Scientific research is ongoing in the Arctic FMP area, and this research provides important understanding of the rapidly changing Arctic ecosystem. Further, as the Bering Sea continues to warm, the distribution of fish stocks is likely to expand into arctic waters, resulting in potential commercial fishing activities impacting stocks historically not in the arctic region.
- Thus, a precautionary approach to authorizing any commercial fishing activity in the arctic continues to be an appropriate policy.

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- The difference between “exploratory fishing” and the existing FMP provisions for “fishery development” should be reconciled.
- Detailed information is needed on the approval process and authorities (i.e., who approves) for an entity obtaining authorization for fishing in the Arctic FMP area.
- To the extent feasible, future Council policy should consider interactions of fishing within scientific research occurring in the moratorium area.

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- Should the Council choose to amend the FMP, then the new criteria authorizing fishing activity should consider impacts on fishery dependent communities or subsistence activities, along with an evaluation of the impacts on marine resources.

D-4 Economic SAFE

- *Dashboard metrics in the SAFE* - **The SSC finds this to be a very useful tool, and suggests a measure reflecting changes in product form, and normalizing some measures to a constant basket sample of species or products.**
- *New interactive data visualization tool* - **The SSC finds these tools to be very useful and looks forward to the inclusion of additional metrics and years of historical data in the future.**

D-4 Economic SAFE

- *new Economic Performance Reports (EPRs)* - **The SSC agrees that they are a good tool for introducing key economic and community information to stock assessment Plan Teams.**
- Economic Data Report (EDR) required by Amendment 91. - **the SSC recommends that the EDRs for Amendment 91 be reviewed in order to make revisions for improving the data collected for management purposes.**

E-3 Social Science Plan Team Nominations

- The SSC reviewed the Social Science Plan Team (SSPT) nominations of Mike Fey (PSMFC-AKFIN), Elizabeth Figus (NPFMC), and Mike Downs (Northern Economics, SSC). The SSC finds these nominees to be well qualified, with appropriate expertise that will assist the SSPT.
- The SSC recommends that the Council approve these nominations.

D-4 Economic SAFE – Community Metrics

- The SSC is encouraged by the future direction of this research program, although it notes that the research plan is quite ambitious and will require a continuous source of funding. Given the current funding challenges, the program leads will likely need to prioritize research areas.
- To be consistent with, and complementary to, the other chapters in the document, this chapter needs to be refocused on the groundfish fishery and include all communities substantially engaged in the fishery, as required by the MSA for analyses of sustained participation of fishing communities (National Standard 8).
- the demographic data presented in the Community Participation chapter, which focuses exclusively on communities rather than including data on populations as well, impedes the use of the provided information in environmental justice analyses required under Executive Order 12898.
- The SSC also recommends that the groundfish economic SAFE disaggregate economic fishery engagement indicator data to the community level to provide a time series record of quantitative indicators of community engagement and dependency where possible

D-4 Economic SAFE – Crab Econ SAFE

- *set of metrics that measure “net earnings”* - **The SSC recommends that these metrics be developed for the processing sector as well.**
- The SSC also recommends that the crab SAFE include report card indices that parallel those in the groundfish SAFE.
- The SSC also recommends that data presented in the Crab Economic SAFE tables be available for download by the public, similar to the data in the groundfish SAFE.

E-4 Draft Agenda for Plan Team Workshop

- The SSC endorsed the agenda and agreed with the Plan Team that holding it in June after the National Stock Assessment Workshop would be ideal.
- Ensemble modeling:
 - It would be desirable to get feedback from other fields that use ensemble modeling, such as weather.
 - An overarching goal of the workshop should be to develop protocols and best practices.
 - Some discussion about characterizing uncertainty, say with confidence intervals, using ensemble models should be considered.
 - Finally, given the general nature of this workshop, the SSC suggests broadening participation to include the GOA groundfish, crab, and scallop Plan Teams.

E-4 Draft Agenda for Plan Team Workshop

- The workshop should also discuss whether a Plan amendment would be necessary to utilize an ensemble of models.
- It may also be desirable to obtain one or more datasets with known information to explore during the workshop.
- *adjustments made from the maximum permissible ABC to the recommended ABC* - The SSC recommends identification of clear and transparent rules for defining the specific criteria to be used when adjusting the recommended ABC.