

Agenda

- Reboot - Review/reminder of purpose of FEP EHRC
- Review indicator spreadsheets/groups from May 2021
- Progress/template from Goal 2 group
- Target obtaining indicator values and descriptions for workshop 2022?

Fisheries effects on the ecosystem??

- Cumulative, multi-species effects (synthesis needed)
- Informs management strategy, not tactical management decisions
- Diversity of audiences
- Monitors success of EBFM management actions (progress towards goals and objectives)
- *Without* overwhelming

Suggested Path

- Pilot report on current state of the Bering Sea
 - Data, and synthesized "state and past trends" of the ecosystem.
 - Initial synthesis is an FEP team product (not ESR or other).
 - Initial "flag" assessment.
 - In a sense, similar to the "Ecosystem overview" that was part of base AI FEP, but dropped from Bering FEP to do as a "living" (updated) report rather than part of the base FEP.

So where is our report starting point?

- Focus of FEP is strategic
 - Strategic versus Tactical advice led to development of this new product to deliver longer-term strategic advice rather than the near-term tactical advice contained in the ESRs.
 - Purpose in FEP: to allow fishery management to more explicitly take into account and be responsive to changes in the ecosystem
- Six ecosystem goals are overarching; FEP associates them with one or more strategic Ecosystem Objectives
- May 3 2021 workshop recommendation: Organize report by six goals, and objectives under those goals. Subteams at workshop brainstormed initial data sources/resources.

Council's Ecosystem Goals

1. Maintain, rebuild, and restore fish stocks at levels sufficient to protect, maintain, and restore food web structure and function
2. Protect, restore, and maintain the ecological processes, trophic levels, diversity, and overall productive capacity of the system
3. Conserve habitats for fish and other wildlife
4. Provide for subsistence, commercial, recreational, and non-consumptive uses of the marine environment
5. Avoid irreversible or long-term adverse effects on fishery resources and the marine environment
6. Provide a legacy of healthy ecosystems for future generations

FEP Ecosystem Objectives

Ecosystem Goal 1: Maintain, rebuild, and restore fish stocks at levels sufficient to protect, maintain, and restore food web structure and function

1. Maintain target biomass levels for target species, consistent with optimum yield, using available tools.
2. Maintain healthy populations and function of non-target and forage species.
3. Adjust fishing-related mortality from the system to be commensurate with total productivity and continue to limit optimum yield to 2 million metric tons for the BSAI groundfish fisheries.

FEP Ecosystem Objectives

Ecosystem Goal 2: Protect, restore, and maintain the ecological processes, trophic levels, diversity, and overall productive capacity of the system

4. Maintain key predator/prey relationships.
5. Conserve structure and function of ecosystem components.

Ecosystem Goal 3: Conserve habitats for fish and other wildlife

6. Minimize adverse impacts to essential fish habitat, to the extent practicable.
7. Minimize and/or avoid impacts to ecologically-sensitive habitat, including habitat areas of particular concern.
8. Minimize and/or avoid impacts to seabirds, marine mammals, and protected species.

FEP Ecosystem Objectives

Ecosystem Goal 4: Provide for subsistence, commercial, recreational, and non-consumptive uses of the marine environment

9. Support benefits in the Bering Sea fishery and fishery-related industries.
10. Provide opportunities for new entrants in federal fisheries.
11. Promote economic and community stability to all commercial harvesting and processing sectors.
12. Promote sustainable opportunities and community resilience for subsistence users and Alaska Native communities.
13. Provide for directed fisheries including subsistence fisheries by minimizing bycatch mortality, to the extent practicable.
14. Preserve the ability for stakeholders to derive non-consumptive and cultural value from the Bering Sea ecosystem.

FEP Ecosystem Objectives

Ecosystem Goal 5: Avoid irreversible or long-term adverse effects on fishery resources and the marine environment

Ecosystem Goal 6: Provide a legacy of healthy ecosystems for future generations

15. Establish appropriate thresholds to minimize risk of crossing ecosystem tipping points caused by fishery or other human activity.
16. Encourage responsible parties to minimize adverse impacts to fish and other wildlife associated with changes in shipping activity, tourism, energy, and other types of development.
17. Ensure that fishery management is sufficiently adaptive to account for the effects of climate change or other ecosystem changes, including loss of sea ice and ocean acidification.

Agenda

- Steps prior to next workshop
 - List potential indicators for each goal (expansive shortlist)
 - Get current or recent data/check data availability
 - Summarize individual indicators and reason for inclusion

- Steps during/after workshop
 - Review shortlist - anything missing (including Council body/stakeholder)
 - Graphical/statistical synthesis (time range, etc.)
 - Final indicator selection
 - Final report