



D2 Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce

April 2023 Council Meeting, Presentation to the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Co-Chairs: Dr. Kate Haapala (Council staff) & Dr. Sarah Wise (Alaska Fisheries Science Center)





Presentation outline

1. Background information
2. Key terms
3. Protocol guidelines
4. Onramp recommendations
5. Recommendations from Taskforce reports

Summary of Council action

1. Take no action
2. Adopt the LKTKS Protocol and/or initiate work on any one or multiple onramp recommendations
3. Release the materials presented at this meeting for an extended public review and comment period



Summary of SSC action

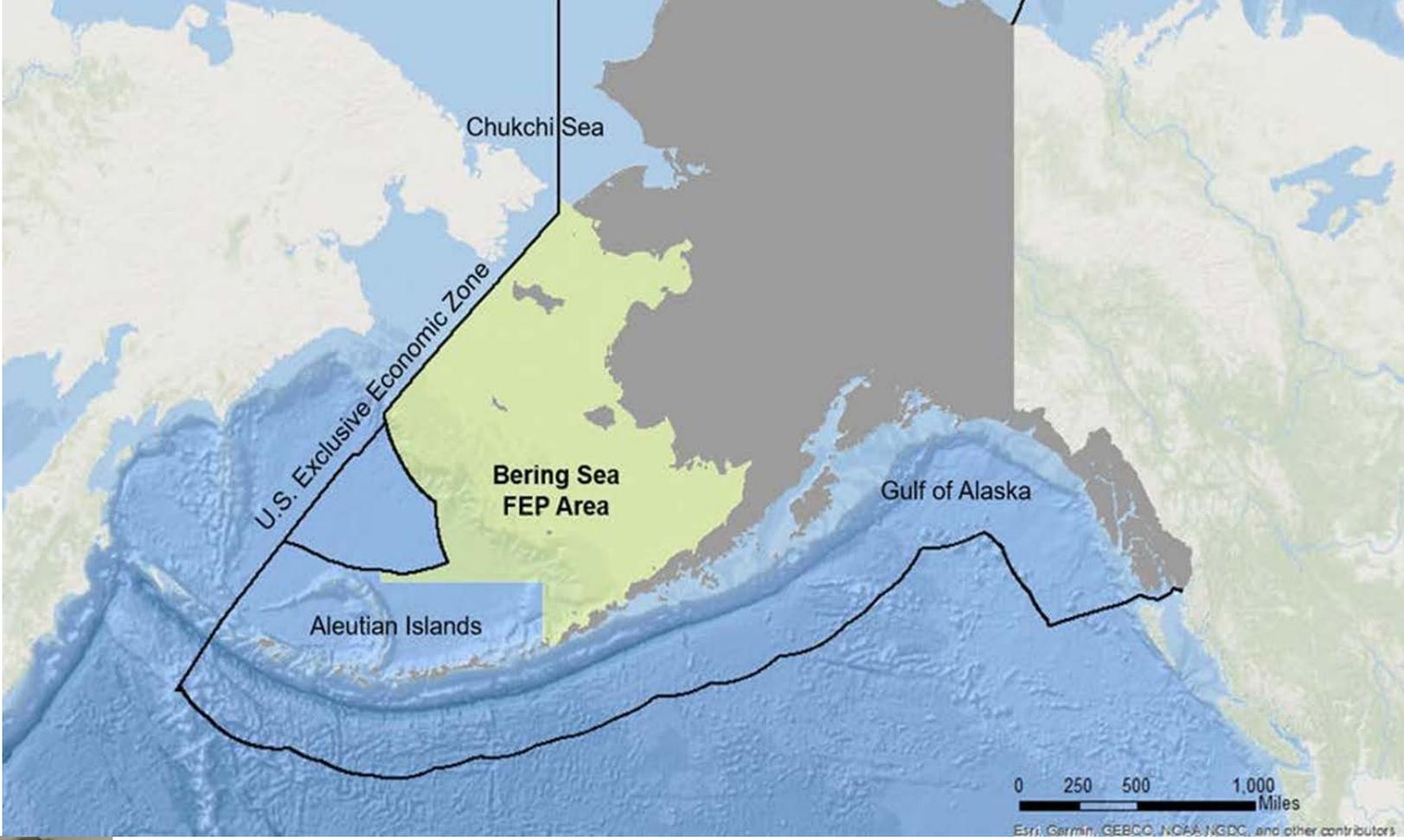
- No specific action for the SSC
- Presentation is informational - SSC can weigh in on the scientific elements of the Protocol
- Council will decide whether to adopt the Protocol or initiate onramp recommendations
- SSC could see changes in the Council's process based on the Protocol



A dark, overcast landscape with a road, a fence, and a sign. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a cloudy day. In the foreground, a paved road curves to the right. A metal fence runs along the edge of the road. In the background, there are mountains and a signpost with several signs. The text "1. Background information" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

1. Background information

Map of Bering Sea



Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan

- Taskforce emerged from the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)
- Ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) considers interactions among ecological, economic, social, and cultural components in a system
- FEPs are a method for putting EBFM into practice



Many ways of knowing

Western science is one way to make sense of the world around us. The best scientific information available includes western science and Local knowledge (LK) and Traditional Knowledge (TK). TK is rooted in generations of experience and understandings of Indigenous Peoples. TK emerges from the experiences people have with their day-to-day surroundings. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities are deeply connected to history, culture, and TK.



Action module 2 under the FEP, pg. 46

Develop protocols for using Local Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge in management and understanding impacts of Council decisions on subsistence use

- **Part A.** Methods for integrating/incorporating LK and TK into Council processes in the short- to long- term
- **Part B.** Methods for the Council to consider potential impacts to subsistence species, habitats that support those species, and access to subsistence resources



LKTKS Taskforce membership

Mr. Toby Anungazuk Jr. (Golovin)

Dr. Rachel Donkersloot (Coastal Cultures Research)

Dr. Kate Haapala (Council staff)

Ms. Bridget Mansfield (National Marine Fisheries Service,
AK Regional Office)

Dr. Robert Murphy Jr. (Alaska Pacific University)

Ms. Darcy Peter (Beaver)

Dr. Julie Raymond-Yakoubian (Kawerak, Inc.)

Mr. Richard Slats (Chevak)

Mr. Simeon Swetzof (St. Paul)

Ms. Alida Trainor (Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Subsistence Division)

Dr. Sarah Wise (Alaska Fisheries Science Center)



Summary of Taskforce meetings

2020

- January
- April
- November

2021

- March
- ~~November~~ (postponed to January 2022 due to Covid)

2022

- January
- December

2023

- January
- March



Adopted goals:

1. To create processes and protocols through which the Council can identify, analyze, and consistently incorporate TK and LK, and the social science of TK and LK, into Council decision-making processes to support the use of best available scientific information in Ecosystem-based Fishery Management.
1. To create a protocol and develop recommendations through which the Council can define and incorporate subsistence information into analyses and decision-making.



Work to achieve the Council's goals

Goals	Deliverables
<p>To create processes and protocols through which the Council can identify, analyze, and consistently incorporate TK and LK, and the social science of TK and LK, into Council decision-making processes to support the use of best available scientific information in Ecosystem-based Fishery Management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ LKTKS search engine✓ LKTKS Protocol✓ Analytical template (onramp recommendation)
<p>To create a protocol and develop recommendations through which the Council can define and incorporate subsistence information into analyses and decision-making.</p>	



Adopted objectives:

- Create a glossary of terms to be included in the Taskforce's workplan
- Identify potential "onramps," or points of entry, within the Council process (e.g., public testimony or analyses) for the Taskforce's work
- Develop a protocol outlining the best practices for soliciting LK and TK, and a protocol for the Council to identify, analyze, and incorporate TK and LK into the Council decision-making documents as appropriate
- Develop guidelines or protocols for Council staff for soliciting/identifying, analyzing, and using subsistence data and information in analyses
- Prepare a final report for the Council



Work to achieve the Council's objectives

Objective	Deliverable
Create a glossary of terms to be included in the Taskforce's workplan	✓ Finalized workplan with a glossary of terms, November 2020
Identify potential "onramps," or points of entry, within the Council process (e.g., public testimony or analyses) for the Taskforce's work	✓ Eleven onramp recommendations developed for Council consideration
Develop a protocol outlining the best practices for soliciting LK and TK, and a protocol for the Council to identify, analyze, and incorporate TK and LK into the Council decision-making documents as appropriate	✓ Developed LKTKS Protocol
Develop guidelines or protocols for Council staff for soliciting/identifying, analyzing, and using subsistence data and information in analyses	✓ Eight primary guidelines in LKTKS Protocol
Prepare a final report for the Council	TBD





2. Key terms

Local Knowledge (pg. 8)

- Develops from the observations and experiences of people living, working, harvesting, and processing in specific places
- Knowledge systems evolve over time
- May or may not be Indigenous Peoples
- Includes people residing in communities, commercial fishermen, subsistence gatherers and more
- One does not necessarily need years of experience to hold LK



Traditional Knowledge (pg. 9)

- Knowledge holders on the Taskforce and from across the Bering Sea have stated ‘Traditional Knowledge’ is the preferred term for their knowledge systems
- Intentional choice to use ‘Traditional Knowledge’ not ‘Traditional Ecological Knowledge’ or ‘Indigenous Knowledge’
 - Relevant knowledge goes beyond the ‘environmental’ or ‘ecological’ components of it
 - All Indigenous Peoples have Indigenous Knowledge, but only some people are recognized by their peers and communities as being Traditional Knowledge holders



Traditional Knowledge (pg. 10)

- Dynamic knowledge system that can grow, change, or be lost over time
- Discussed, shared, and practiced throughout communities across generations
- Should be engaged with and understood as a process not as static information
 - Knowledge production is a social process
 - How knowledge is practiced and produced means it is closely linked with experience and cultural meaning
- Often shared orally by Elders

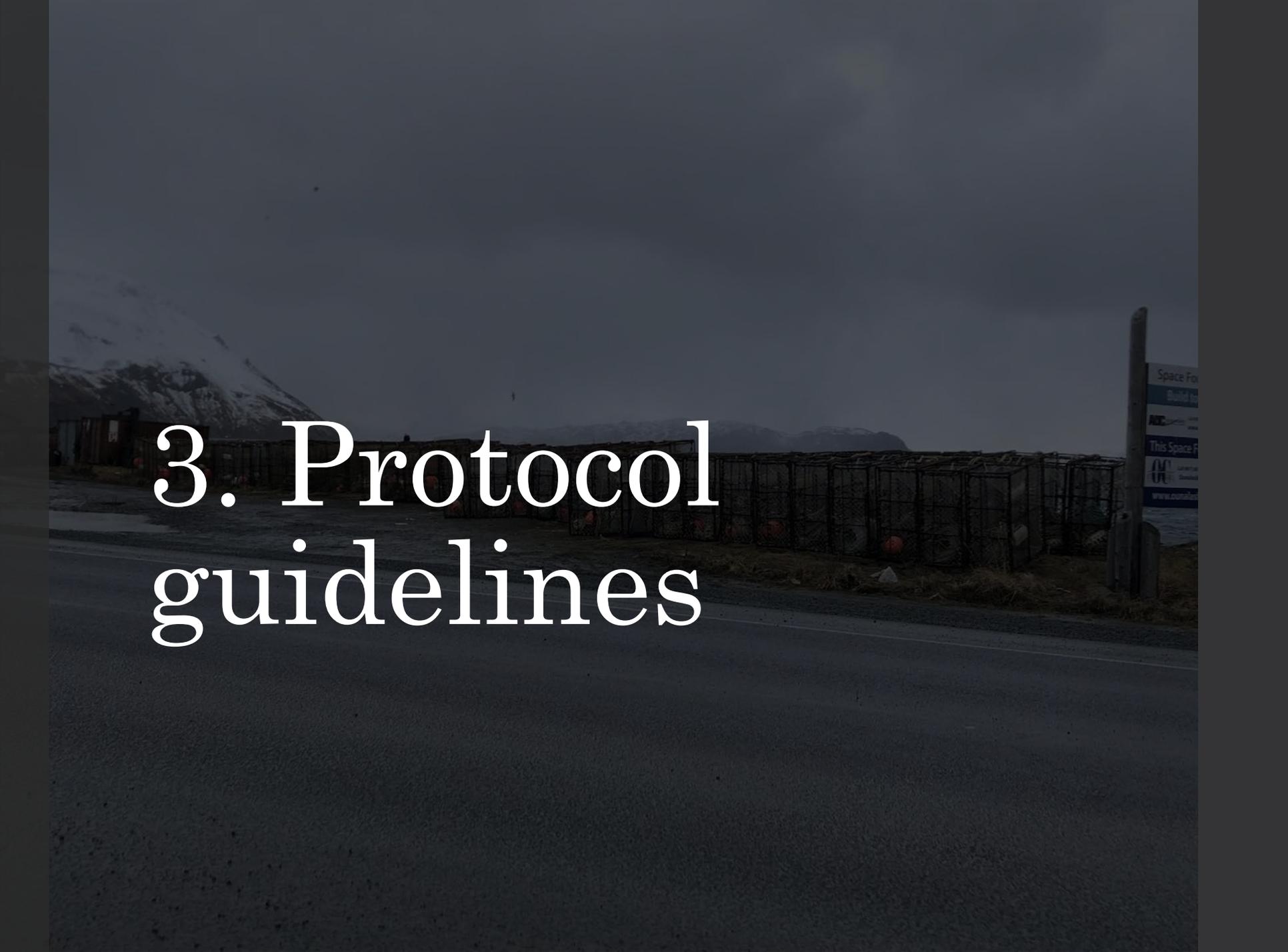


Subsistence (pg. 11)

- State and Federal governments regulate ‘subsistence uses’
- A **subsistence way of life** is integral to nutritional, spiritual, and economic wellbeing
- Subsistence practices and TK systems are **inseparable**
 - TK informs where, when, how, and why people practice subsistence
 - Subsistence is the activity (whether harvesting, processes, sharing, consuming...) that provides the space and place, and the need, to learn and share TK.
 - Subsistence and TK are directly related to food sovereignty and water security
- TK depends on the opportunity for people and their communities to practice traditions as part of their subsistence way of life.



3. Protocol guidelines

The background image is a dark, overcast landscape. In the foreground, there is a paved road. To the right of the road, there is a fence made of wire mesh. In the background, there are mountains and a signpost. The signpost has several signs, including one that says "Space For" and another that says "This Space For". The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting a cloudy or overcast day.

Protocol guidelines (section 4)

1. Understand and use the appropriate concepts for LK, TK, and subsistence
2. Demonstrate respect for LK and TK systems
3. Appropriately and accurately identify LK and TK holders, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information
4. Engage in early and frequent communication with relevant entities.
5. Acknowledge and account for differences in capacity among relevant entities
6. Adhere to local and cultural protocols that entities have established for sharing and communicating LK, TK, or subsistence information
7. Build appropriate capacity for working with LK and TK systems and subsistence information
8. Understand how to navigate multiple knowledge systems



Guidelines 1-4

Guideline	Key content	Ideas for moving forward
1. Demonstrate respect for LK and TK systems, pg. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple and different values • Anecdotal • Move at a pace that allows for shared understandings and trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clear and transparent about why staff is reaching out • Understand unique history and context of LK and TK • Acknowledge different worldviews
2. Understand and use the appropriate concepts for LK, TK, and subsistence, pg. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Traditional Knowledge’ preferred to ‘Indigenous Knowledge’ or ‘Traditional Ecological Knowledge’ • Definitions vary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As able, adjust action planning timelines to allow for adequate understandings of key terms • Make note of instances when entities have different definitions for knowledge systems
3. Appropriately and accurately identify LK and TK, LK and TK holders, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information, pg. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences between LK holders and experts • Subsistence information – data on subsistence uses, harvest areas, sharing networks, social and cultural information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and attributing knowledge holders in public comment • Engage with bridging people • Search engine
4. Engage in early and frequent communication with relevant entities, pg. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meanings of ‘early’ differ • Requires well-established communication pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early work with AKFIN & with Tribes and Tribal Consortia to identify communities substantially engaged in, or dependent on, fisheries • Confidentiality constraints



Guideline 3 expanded

LK

Could be skippers, crew members, shoreside workers, and more

LK holders that fish commercially may have on-water or shoreside experience gained from one or many seasons

LK holders in communities could be residents that are youth, adults, or Elders

LK holders within a community would know the timing of the different harvesting or gathering seasons and have gained their knowledge from experience, oral histories, or books and articles

TK

TK holders could be identified by their peers

Alaska Native Elders who go out and gather, people who have had lifelong mentors, know how to gather and prepare food, where to go for the seasonal migrations, know and make oral histories and know the real-life histories, can predict climate or weather patterns based on prior incidents, and have fished every seasons for over 60 years

Identified by their peers as someone with the expertise and authority to share knowledge

Subsistence information

Knowledge and data on subsistence uses, harvest areas, and practices, including sharing networks within and between kin and communities

Information relating to the non-economic and communal dimensions of subsistence, such as cultural values and relationships

Subsistence harvesters and gatherers could be identified residents of a community, having experience as active gatherers (though they may be inactive currently)

Have experience preserving most foods, and hunt or fish all seasons



Guidelines 1-4

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1. Demonstrate respect for LK and TK systems, pg. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple and competing values • Anecdotal • Move at a pace that allows for shared understandings and trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clear and transparent about why staff is reaching out • Understand unique history and context of LK and TK • Acknowledge different worldviews in analytical documents
2. Understand and use the appropriate concepts for LK, TK, and subsistence, pg. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Traditional Knowledge’ preferred to ‘Indigenous Knowledge’ or ‘Traditional Ecological Knowledge’ • Definitions vary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As able, adjust action planning timelines to allow for adequate understandings of key terms • Make note of instances when entities have different definitions for knowledge systems
3. Appropriately and accurately identify LK and TK, LK and TK holders, the social science of LK and TK, and subsistence information, pg. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences between LK holders and experts • Subsistence information – data on subsistence uses, harvest areas, sharing networks, social and cultural information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and attributing knowledge holders in public comment • Engage with bridging people • Search engine
4. Engage in early and frequent communication with relevant entities, pg. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meanings of ‘early’ differ • Requires well-established communication pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early work to identify communities substantially engaged in, or dependent on, fisheries • Confidentiality constraints



Guidelines 5-8

Guidelines	Key content	Ideas for moving forward
<p>5. Adhere to local and cultural protocols that entities have established for sharing and communicating LK, TK, and subsistence information, pg. 24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many Tribes, communities, and fishing associations have protocols in place for sharing information • Clear understanding of how/what/why information is being used • FOIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOUs for long-term or specific data-use agreements • Understand an entity's protocol (including a hierarchy) for information sharing • Be mindful of where information sharing occurs
<p>6. Acknowledge and account for differences in capacity among relevant entities, pg. 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences in dedicated staff time • Ceremonies and celebrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual participation • Lack of capacity does not signal a lack of interest
<p>7. Build appropriate capacity for working with LK and TK systems and subsistence information, pg. 27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing capacity is broadly defined • Increase access to social science research of LK and TK that is process- or action-specific 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing cultural awareness trainings • Data gaps analysis
<p>8. Understand how to navigate multiple knowledge systems, pg. 29</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LK and TK have pragmatic and unique value • Accounting for multiple knowledge systems is challenging with differences in training, worldviews, and understandings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite sources (including oral information) in analyses, reports, assessments • Describe methods explicitly • Expand LK and TK expertise on SSC



4. Onramps



Background information

- Reached consensus on 11 onramp recommendations for the Council to consider
 - Not all ideas discussed were recommended
- Different opportunities to incorporate LK, TK, and subsistence information
- Presented as individual recommendations to provide the Council with a highly flexible approach
- Council is not required to take any one course of action



Onramp recommendations & Protocol guidelines (pg. 13)

ONRAMP RECOMMENDATION	RELATED GUIDELINES
Adopt the Protocol	Guidelines 1-8
Support for, and dedicated staff time to maintain, the LKTKS search engine	Guideline 3 and 7
Initiate a process whereby Tribes could engage with the Council	Guideline 1-4, 6 and 7; Guideline 5 would inform how the onramp would be carried out
NMFS led Consultations occur early in the decision-making process and a non-quorum of Council members participate, when invited	Guideline 1-4, 6 and 7; Guideline 5 would inform how the onramp would be carried out
Request Federal agencies with co-management partners extend invitations to present to Tribal partners	Guidelines 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7
Expand designated Alaska Native Tribal seats to be held by Tribal representatives across advisory bodies	Guidelines 1-4, 7 and 8
Solicit nominations for expanded LK and TK social science expertise on the SSC	Guidelines 1-4, 7 and 8
Workshop to solicit broad input from the public and knowledge holders during research priorities process	1-4, 6-8; Guideline 5 would inform how the onramp would be carried out
Implement template with guiding questions for LKTKS information	Guidelines 1-4 and 7; Guideline 5 would inform how the onramp would be carried out
Modify public comment procedures to allow for introductions	Guidelines 1, 3, and 5
Plan to increase non-economic social science capacity and LKTKS expertise more specifically	Guidelines 2, 3, 7, and 8



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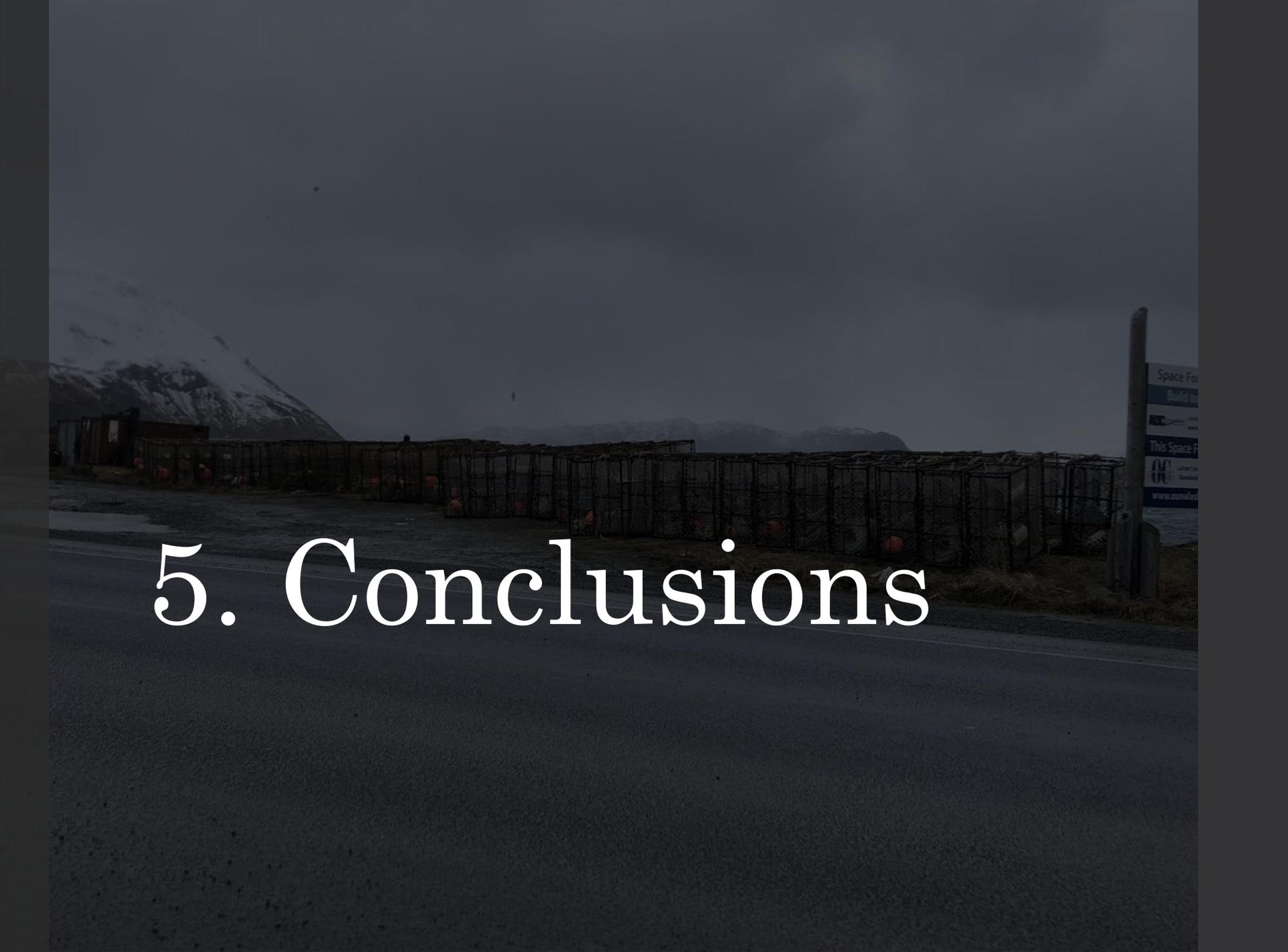
5. Taskforce meeting reports

Summary of Taskforce Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale points	Meeting report
<p>Council release the LKTKS Protocol and onramp recommendations for a 45-day public review period and allow the Taskforce to convene virtually to review comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would not adopt Protocol at this meeting, allowing Council two opportunities to engage with materials • Additional public input 	<p>December 2022 & January 2023</p>
<p>Taskforce disband after the Council takes final action on the LKTKS Protocol and onramp recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with Council's original intent • Implementation period for onramp(s) could be carried out by staff 	<p>March 2023</p>
<p>Council form an ad hoc review/advisory body to determine whether the Protocol could be applied to other regions, should it be adopted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several elements of the Protocol could carry over to other regions • Appropriate to let knowledge holders and other fishery stakeholders in those regions weigh in on where preferences differ 	<p>March 2023</p>
<p>Council initiate a 5-year periodic review period for the Protocol, should it be adopted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows Council, knowledge holders, other members of the public to review and provide input on Protocol's continued relevance 	<p>March 2023</p>



5. Conclusions

The background image is a dark, overcast landscape. In the foreground, a paved road curves from the bottom left towards the right. A long, low fence made of dark metal cages or traps runs across the middle ground. To the right, a wooden signpost stands with several signs. The top sign says "Space For Build", the middle one says "This Space For", and the bottom one has a logo and the website "www.comis". In the background, there are snow-capped mountains under a grey, cloudy sky.

Key takeaways

- Taskforce is at the final stages of its work
- Protocol and onramp recommendations are consensus of the Taskforce
- The suite of information available to inform decision-making could be broader and more robust
- Support the Council being responsive to a variety Executive Orders and other legislation (Appendix B)





Questions?

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