
ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT

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AGENDA: MARCH 29-30, 2022, VIRTUAL

- Updates from Feb 2022: Ecosystem Committee report, Groundfish management policy triennial review (PSEIS)
- BS FEP Team and Taskforce reports
- IPCC findings / ACLIM update
- OEEM / CCC Subcommittee on Area-based Management
- GOA ecosystem research staff paper
- Other updates
 - EFH 5-year review timing
 - Funding opps through Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - Planning for second Council ecosystem workshop

Future meetings



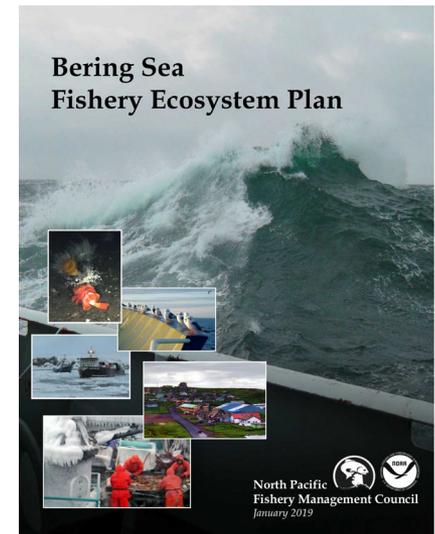
GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT POLICY TRIENNIAL REVIEW (PSEIS)

- Staff update in February 2022 that probably time to revisit the ongoing applicability of the Groundfish Programmatic SEIS (PSEIS) before next triennial review
- **Recommendation:** given the time elapsed since the original analysis, and the ongoing rate of environmental change in our region, the Council should initiate a robust process to reevaluate the PSEIS, which includes scoping and opportunities for public input earlier in the process than development of an SIR alone might require



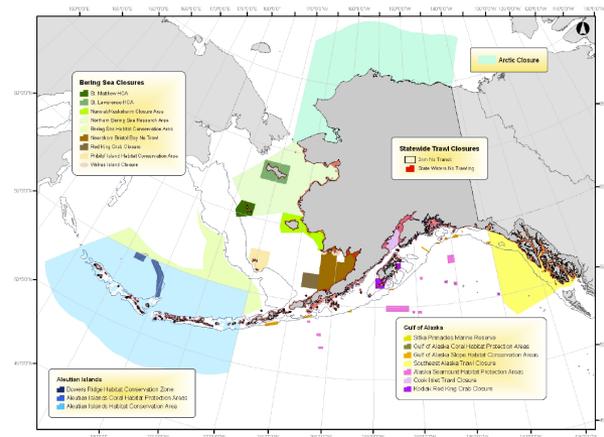
BS FEP TEAM AND TASKFORCE REPORTS AND ACLIM UPDATE

- 4 staff reports: from BS FEP Team, LKTKS Taskforce, Climate Change Taskforce, ACLIM
 - ACLIM planning evening workshop during June Council meeting
- **Committee appreciated all reports; highlights progress on workproducts; encourages their completion**
- Recurring themes of the discussion:
 - Tension between time needed for ongoing strategic ecosystem and climate projects, and urgency to respond now to immediate, rapid onset of effects of climate change
 - How early and often to include other voices in the discussions, assessments, and decisions about the impacts of climate change



OECM / CCC SUBCOMMITTEE ON AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT

- Staff work, in collaboration with all Councils, to list and categorize all Alaska closure areas, to inform the national America the Beautiful Act guidance document and atlas
- **Recommendation:** that the Council highlight the need for GIS funding to complete the work of the subcommittee
- **Recommendations:**
 - that the report highlight that the implementation of conservation areas off Alaska is often the result of ground-up collaborations taking place over many years, some initiated from public action
 - the Council might encourage the CCC to emphasize to the Departments of Commerce and the Interior that they should consider a similar bottom-up approach to identifying important areas for ATB



GOA ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH STAFF PAPER

- Staff paper with brief summary of high-level GOA research programs, discussion of gaps in understanding relative to the GOA, considerations for action
- **Recommendation:** the Council task the Ecosystem Committee with development of a scoping process to inform potential development of a GOA FEP or similar tool, e.g.
 - series of decision points for feedback, including value of a GOA FEP
 - lessons learned from BS FEP,
 - same science Team and action module/taskforce format or streamlined,
 - timing to intersect with ongoing projects such as GOA CLIM,
 - questions of staff, resources, and opportunities for partnerships or synergies, particularly if effort would be redirected from the Bering Sea.



Design would thus be ready for Council when called for



OTHER UPDATES

- EFH 5-year review: Council supports delay in timeline to respond to SSC feedback from February 2022
- Funding opportunities under Infrastructure Act: minutes list several for habitat restoration, Pacific Salmon recovery, and coastal resilience projects. **The Committee recommends that the Council assist in publicizing these opportunities.**
- Second Council ecosystem workshop: subgroup will reconvene to refocus proposal to identify a focal issue and reframe event as part of continuing series
- Next meeting: before October Council meeting, to discuss EFH, BS FEP workproducts, ACLIM

