Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet
Agenda Item D5 Staff tasking

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	Joe Sullivan	Mundt MacGregor
2	Heather McCarty	Island Seafoods
3	Robert Alverson	FVOA - Seattle
4	Darius Kasprzak	Alaska Jig Association
5	FRANK KELTY	City of UNALASKA
6	Stephen Taufen	Lu Dochtermann proposal
7	Tim Henkel	Prop Sea Fishermans Union
8	~~Michael Carci / Andy Kehrer~~	~~Seafreeze~~ ~~At Municipal Conf.~~
9	Dave Fraser	Adak Fisheries
10	Dorothy Childers	AMCC
11	Liz Sedinger	TSX corporation
12	~~Chris Oliveira~~	~~Lake and Peninsula Boro~~
13	Julia Fanning	AGDB
14	Dave Benton	~~Seafreeze~~ MCA
15	Bubba Cook	WWF
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person " to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

AGENDA D-5
October 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver
Executive Director

ESTIMATED TIME
4 HOURS

DATE: September 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ACTION REQUIRED

(a) Review tasking and committees and provide direction.
(b) Receive the remainder of the Ecosystem Committee Report.

BACKGROUND

Committees and Tasking

The list of Council committees is attached as Item D-5(a)(1). Item D-5(a)(2) is the three meeting outlook, and Item D-5(a)(3) and Item D-5(a)(4) respectively are the summary of current projects and tasking. At the last meeting, the Council initiated several new projects (Halibut subsistence rural eligibility, Kanatak Tribe halibut subsistence, Saint George community protection measures, post-delivery transfers for CGOA Rockfish) to the tasking list. The Council may wish to discuss tasking priorities to address these projects, as well as potential additions discussed at this meeting, given the resources necessary to complete existing priority projects.

In 2004, the Council adopted a groundfish management policy as part of a comprehensive programmatic review of the fisheries. The Council developed a workplan to guide the full implementation of the policy, and reviews the status of this workplan at each meeting. An updated workplan is attached as Item D-5(a)(5).

Ecosystem Committee meeting

The Ecosystem Committee met on August 22, 2007. The minutes are attached as Item D-5(b)(1). In addition to discussions on the Arctic FMP (addressed in Agenda Item D-4), the Committee received an update on the Council's participation in the recent meeting of the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum, a group of 11 Federal and 4 State agencies with jurisdiction over activities in marine waters. The purpose of meeting is to promote information exchange and coordination, and the meeting summary is attached as Item D-5(b)(2). Additionally, the Committee received updates on NOAA's intention to conduct an integrated ecosystem assessment (IEA) in Alaska in 2010, for which planning is currently underway, as well as the NOAA Alaska Regional Coordination Team. The Committee recommends that the Council request a presentation from NOAA on the upcoming IEA. A copy of a recent powerpoint presentation on IEAs, given by Steve Murawski, is attached as Item D-5(b)(3).

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised September 24, 2007)

Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Committee

Updated: 8/10/07	Council:	Board:
	Dave Benson	Mel Morris
	Gerry Merrigan	Art Nelson
Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Eric Olson Co for	(Vacant)

Council Coordination Committee

[Designated and renamed by Magnuson Act reauthorization April 2007]

Appointed: 4/05 Updated: 8/10/07	**CFMC**: C: Eugenio Pinerio ED: Miguel Rolon	**NPFMC**: C: Council Chair ED: Chris Oliver
	GMFMC: C: Robin Riechers ED: Wayne Swingle	**PFMC**: C: Donald Hansen ED: Don McIsaac
	MAFMC: C: W. Peter Jensen ED: Dan Furlong	**SAFMC**: C: George J. Geiger ED: Robert Mahood
Staff: Chris Oliver	**NEFMC**: C: John Pappalardo ED: Paul Howard	**WPFMC**: C: Frank McCoy ED: Kitty Simonds

Council Executive Committee

Updated: 8/10/07	Chair: Council Chair Jim Balsiger/Alternate Denby Lloyd/Alternate Roy Hyder
Staff: Chris Oliver	Jeff Koenings/Alternate

Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Workgroup

Appointed: 3/07	Stephanie Madsen, Co-chair Eric Olson, Co-chair John Gruver	Jennifer Hooper Paul Peyton Becca Robbins Gisclair
Staff: Diana Stram	Karl Haflinger	Mike Smith

Webster? from BOF

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised September 24, 2007)

Crab Committee (NEW)

Appointed 4/25/07	Dave Hambleton	Louie Lowenberg
	Phil Hanson	Rob Rogers
	Lenny Herzog	Rick Shelford
	John Iani	Clyde Sterling
Staff: Mark Fina	Jake Jacobsen	Mike Woodley

Crab Interim Action Committee

[Required under BSAI Crab FMP]

Jim Balsiger, NMFS
Denby Lloyd, ADF&G
Jeff Koenings, WDF

Ecosystem Committee

Updated: 8/10/07	Chair: Stephanie Madsen
	Jim Ayers
	Sue Salveson/Jon Kurland
Status: Active	Dave Benton
	Doug DeMaster
	Dave Fluharty
Staff: Chris Oliver/David Witherell/Diana Evans	John Iani

Enforcement Committee

Updated: 7/03	Chair: Roy Hyder
	LCDR Lisa Ragone, USCG
	James Cockrell, F&W Protection
Status: Active	Bill Karp, NMFS
	Earl Krygier, ADF&G
	Lisa Lindeman, NOAA-GC
	Jeff Passer, NMFS-Enforcement
Staff: Cathy Coon/Chris Oliver	Sue Salveson, NMFS

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups
(Revised September 24, 2007)

Finance Committee

Updated: 8/10/07 Status: Meet as necessary Staff: Gail Bendixen/Chris Oliver	Chair: Council Chair Jim Balsiger/Alternate Denby Lloyd (ADF&G)/Alternate Dave Hanson Roy Hyder Jeff Koenings (WDF)/Alternate Gordon Kruse/SSC Chair

Fur Seal Committee

Updated: 8/10/07 Status: Active Staff: Bill Wilson	Chair: David Benson Larry Cotter Aquilina Lestenkof Paul MacGregor Heather McCarty Anthony Merculief

GOA Groundfish Rationalization Community Committee

Appointed: 11/04 Staff: Nicole Kimball	Chair: Hazel Nelson Julie Bonney Duncan Fields Chuck McCallum Patrick Norman Joe Sullivan Chuck Totemoff Ernie Weiss

Halibut Charter Stakeholder Committee

Appointed: 1/06 Updated: 9/21/07 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Chair: Dave Hanson ADF&G Representative Seth Bone Robert Candopoulos Ricky Gease John Goodhand	Kathy Hansen Dan Hull Larry McQuarrie Rex Murphy Charles "Chaco" Pearman Greg Sutter Peggy Parker

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised September 24, 2007)

IFQ Implementation Committee

Reconstituted: 7/31/03 Updated: 8/10/07 Staff: Jane DiCosimo	Chair: Jeff Stephan Bob Alverson Julianne Curry Tim Henkel Dennis Hicks	Don Iverson Don Lane ~~Gerry Merrigan~~ Kris Norosz Paul Peyton

Non-Target Species Committee

Appointed: 7/03 Updated: 8/10/07 Staff: Jane DiCosimo, NPFMC/ Olav Ormseth, AFSC	Chair: Dave Benson Julie Bonney Ken Goldman Karl Haflinger Simon Kinneen Michelle Ridgway	Janet Smoker Paul Spencer Lori Swanson Jon Warrenchuk Dave Wood

Observer Advisory Committee

Reconstituted: 1/06 Status: Active Staff: Chris Oliver/ Nicole Kimball	Chair: Joe Kyle Bob Alverson Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Rocky Caldero Paul MacGregor	Tracey Mayhew Brent Paine Peter Risse Kathy Robinson Susan Robinson Thorn Smith

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

Appointed: 2/07 Staff: Diana Stram	Chair: Steve Minor Keith Colburn Lance Farr Phil Hanson Kevin Kaldestad Garry Loncon Gary Painter	Rob Rogers Vic Sheibert Gary Stewart Tom Suryan Arni Thomson, Secretary (non-voting)

NPFMC Committees & Workgroups

(Revised September 24, 2007)

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

Appointed: 2/01 Updated: 8/10/07 [formerly SSL RPA Committee; renamed February 2002] Staff: Bill Wilson	Chair: Larry Cotter Jerry Bongen Julie Bonney Sam Cotten Ed Dersham John Gauvin John Henderschedt Daniel Hennen	Sue Hills Frank Kelty Terry Leitzell Dave Little Steve MacLean Stephanie Madsen Max Malavansky, Jr Art Nelson

VMS Committee

Appointed: 6/02 Status: Idle, pending direction Staff: Cathy Coon	Chair: Earl Krygier Al Burch Guy Holt Ed Page LCDR Lisa Ragone Lori Swanson

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK - updated 9/20/07

October 1, 2007 Anchorage, Alaska	December 3, 2007 Anchorage, Alaska	February 4, 2008 Seattle, WA
	National Bycatch Report: ***Update***	
SSL Measures EIS: ***Notice of Intent; action as necessary***	SSL 2007 survey results: report	
Draft MMPA LOF for 2008: ***Action as necessary***		
SSL Recovery Plan and BiOp Update: ***Action as necessary***	SSL Recovery plan & BiOp Update: ***Action as necessary***	SSL BiOp Update: ***Action as necessary***
GOA arrowtooth MRA: ***Final action***		
GOA P cod sector split: ***Preliminary Review***	GOA P cod sector split: ***Initial Review (T)***	GOA P cod sector split: ***Final Action (T)***
GOA sideboards: ***Discussion paper; action as necessary***		
GOA fixed gear LLP recency: ***Discussion Paper, action as necessary***	GOA fixed gear LLP recency: ***Prelim Review (T)***	GOA fixed gear LLP recency: ***Initial Review (T)***
WGOA pollock trip limit: ***Initial Review (T)***	WGOA pollock trip limit: ***Final Action (T)***	
CGOA Rockfish post-delivery transfers: ***Initial Review***	CGOA Rockfish post-delivery transfers: ***Final Action (T)***	
	BSAI Crab St George protection measures: ***Initial Review (T)***	BSAI Crab St George protection measures: ***Final Action (T)***
BSAI Crab 'B' Shares: ***Committee Rpt/ Discussion paper***	BSAI Crab data collection quality and confidentiality: ***Report***	
BSAI Crab 'C' Share 90/10 exemption: ***Initial Review***	Crab 'C' Share 90/10 exemption: ***Final Action***	
BSAI Crab custom processing: ***Initial Review***	BSAI Crab custom processing: ***Final Action (T)***	
	BSAI Crab 'C' Share active participation: ***Prelim. Review (T)***	BSAI Crab 'C' Share active participation: ***Initial Review (T)***
BSAI Crab post-delivery transfers: ***Initial Review***	BSAI Crab post-delivery transfers: ***Final Action (T)***	
Charter Halibut Allocation/Compensation: ***Prelim Review***	Charter Halibut Allocation/Compensation: ***Initial Review***	Charter Halibut Allocation/Compensation: ***Final Action (T)***
Charter Halibut Discard Mortality: ***SSC Review***		
Charter Halibut Logbook Data: ***SSC Review***	Charter Halibut Longterm: ***Committee Report***	Charter Halibut Longterm: ***Action as necessary***
Charter Halibut 3A GHL Measures: ***Initial Review***	Charter Halibut 3A GHL Measures: ***Final Action***	
Halibut Subsistence Rural Definition: ***Discuss Alternatives***	Halibut Subsistence Kanatak Tribe: ***Initial/Final Action (T)***	Halibut Subsistence Rural Definition: ***Initial Review (T)***
AM 80 post-delivery transfers: ***Discussion paper***	Observer Program Reg. Package: ***Initial Review (T)***	Observer Program Reg. Package: ***Action as necessary***
Trawl LLP Recency: ***Initial Review***	Trawl LLP Recency: ***Final Action (T)***	
BSAI Salmon Bycatch (B-1): ***Workgroup Rpt./Refine alts(T)***	BSAI Salmon Bycatch (B-1): ***Preliminary Review (T)***	BSAI Salmon Bycatch (B-1): ***Initial Review (T)***
Arctic management: ***Eco Cttee Report & Action as necessary***	Arctic management: ***EcoCttee Rpt & Prelim Review (T)***	Arctic management: ***Initial Review (T)***
Comprehensive Socioecon. Data Collection: ***Report***	AI FEP: ***Action as necessary***	HAPC Criteria: ***SSC Review (T)***
	VMS Exemption for Dinglebar Gear: ***Discussion paper (T)***	
Seabird avoidance measures in 4E: ***Review draft Alts***	Seabird avoidance measures in 4E: ***Action as necessary*** (and IWG avoidance research report)	Trawl 3rd wire seabird report: Action as necessary (T)+C10
	Other Species: ***Committee Report (T)***	GOA OSpecies ABC/OFL Specifications: ***Initial Review (T)***
Report on specs per Am 80&85 changes: ***Action as necessary***		
Groundfish specifications: ***Initial action***	Groundfish specifications and SAFE Reports: ***Final Action***	
	SIR on specifications EIS: ***Action as necessary***	BS and AI Pcod sector apportionement: ***Review (T)***
BSAI Crab SAFE: ***Report***	PSEIS Outreach Plan: Review	
BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: ***Initial Review***	BSAI Crab Overfishing Definition: ***Final Action***	

AI - Aleutian Islands
GOA - Gulf of Alaska
SSL - Steller Sea Lion
BOF - Board of Fisheries
FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan
CDQ - Community Development Quota
ESA - Endangered Species Act
(T) Tentatively scheduled

TAC - Total Allowable Catch
BSAI - Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota
GHL - Guideline Harvest Level
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
LLP - License Limitation Program
SAFE - Stock Assessement and Fishery Evaluation
PSC - Prohibited Species Catch

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

October 1 - 9, 2007 in Anchorage
December 3 - 11, 2007 in Anchorage
February 4 - , 2008 in Seattle
March 31 - , 2008 in Anchorage
June 2- , 2008 in Kodiak
September 29- , in Anchorage

AGENDA D-5(a)(2)
OCTOBER 2007

Project timeline and major tasking for council analytical staff. Updated 9/20/07

Analytical Staff	September	October	November	December	January	February
Mark Fina, Sr. Economist						
GOA fixed gear recency		Discussion				Initial Review
BSAI crab custom processing		Initial Review		Final Action		
BSAI crab active participation				Prelim Review (T)		
BSAI crab C share 90/10 exemption		Initial Review		Final Action		
BSAI crab post delivery transfers		Initial Review		Final Action		
Miscellaneous Oversight						
Jon McCracken, Economist						
Crab Overfishing (assist)		Initial Review		Final Action		
Arrowtooth MRA		Final Action				
GOA Sideboards		discuss				
Jim Richardson, Economist						
GOA pollock trip limit		Initial Review (T)		Final Action (T)		
Misc. economic assistance						
Trawl LLP Recency		Initial Review		Final Action		
Jeannie Heltzel, Data Analyst						
GOA P.cod sector split		Prelim Review		Initial Review		Final Action (T)
AKFIN Liaison						
Jane DiCosimo, Sr. Plan Coord						
Other species/non-target	PT 9/17-21	Prelim Rev (T)	PT 11/13-16			Initial Rev (T)
Halibut Charter 2C measures		Initial Review (T)				Final Action (T)
Halibut Charter allocation/compensation		Initial Review (T)				Final Action (T)
other Halibut Issues						Cttee report (T)
Diana Stram, Plan Coordinator			PT 11/13-16			
BSAI Salmon bycatch (Lead)	PT 9/17-21	discuss		Initial Review (T)		Final Action (T)
Crab Overfishing Def./Management	CPT 9/10-13	Initial Review		Final Action (T)		
Bill Wilson, Protect Species						
Arctic Mgmt issue		outreach plan		Prelim Review (T)		Initial Review (T)
Marine Mammal issues						
Seabird Bycatch		discuss 4E				Initial Review (T)
FMP Consultation		review NOI	SSLMC		SSLMC (T)	
Diana Evans, NEPA Specialist						
EAM and AI FEP			Eco-ctte meeting	discuss FEP		
NEPA assistance			AMEF meeting			
Cathy Coon, Fishery Analyst						
VMS dinglebar exemption				Discussion paper		Initial Review (T)
Being Sea EFH (lead)						
Nicole Kimball, Fishery Analyst						
CDQ Projects (lead)				Discussion paper		
Observer Program (lead)				Initial Review (T)		Final Action (T)
Halibut Charter (community)						
GOA community issues						

Council Project Summary September 20, 2007

Council Projects	Projected Weeks	Council/ NMFS %	Comments
Groundfish Fishery Issues			
GOA P. cod Sector Splits	8	70/30	Preliminary review in October (Jeannie)
GOA fixed gear recency	6	90/10	Discussion paper in October (Mark)
GOA Sideboards	6	90/10	Discussion paper in October (Jon)
Break out other species category into TAC groups	10	60/40	Disc paper in Oct (T) (Jane/NMFS)
Observer Program (fee and deployment mechanism)	0	80/20	Proposed rule published 2/22/07 (Nicole/NMFS)
Observer Program (changes to existing program)	0	80/20	Initial Review in December (T)(Nicole/NMFS)
BSAI and GOA Dark Rockfish	0	90/10	Being Prepared for Secretarial Review (Diana S./NMFS)
CGOA Rockfish post-delivery transfers	0	80/20	Initial Review in Oct. (Mark/NMFS)
Groundfish overfishing definitions	?	10/90	On hold pending EIS for NS 1 (NMFS HQ)
Trawl LLP Recency	8	90/10	Initial Review in Oct (Jim/Jeannie/NMFS)
GOA arrowtooth MRA	1	30/70	Final Action in October (NMFS/Jon).
Pacific cod BS and AI split	8	90/10	Tabled for further discussion in Feb 2008 (Jon/Nicole/NMFS)
Comprehensive economic data collection	?	10/90	Workgroup report in October (NMFS/Mark)
BSAI Sablefish pot fishery regulations	?	70/30	Plan Team Workgroup formed December 2006 (Jane/NMFS)
Halibut Fishery Issues			
Halibut Charter Moratorium	4	90/10	Submitted for Secretarial Review (Jane/Nicole/NMFS/contractor)
Halibut Charter Allocation/Compensated Reallocation	4	90/10	Initial Review in October (Jane/contractor/NMFS)
Halibut Charter Share Based Solutions/Permit Endorsements	4	90/10	Committee Recommendations in Dec 2007 (Jane/contractor)
Halibut Charter 2C GHL Measures	6	90/10	Final Action in June (Jane/contractor/NMFS)
Halibut Charter 3A GHL Measures	6	90/10	Initial Review in October (Jane/contractor/NMFS)
Halibut Subsistence Eligibility	6	90/10	Discussion paper in October (Jane/contractor/NMFS)
IFQ Omnibus 5	0	90/10	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (Jane/Jim/NMFS)
Halibut subsistence Kanatak tribe eligibility	2	90/10	Initial/Final Review in December (T) (Jane/Jim/NMFS)

Crab Fishery Issues

Crab Overfishing definition revision	4	50/50	Initial review in October (NMFS/ADF&G/Diana S/Jon)
BSAI Crab Custom Processing	?	90/10	Initial Review in October (Mark/NMFS)
BSAI Crab C-Share 'Active Participation'	?	90/10	Initial Review in December (T) (Mark/NMFS)
BSAI Crab C-Share 90/10 exemption	?	90/10	Initial Review in October (Mark/NMFS)
BSAI Crab Post-delivery Transfers	?	80/20	Initial Review in October (Mark/NMFS)
BSAI Crab Economic Data Reporting	?	30/70	Discuss in December (NMFS/Mark)
BSAI Crab Advisory Committee	?	90/10	discussion paper in October (Mark/NMFS)

CDQ Issues

CDQ eligible communities (MSA provision)	0	50/50	Integrated into Am. 71/22 (Nicole)
CDQ: After the fact transfers	2	10/90	Reg. am. being prepared for SOC. (Nicole)
CDQ Cost-Recovery	?	10/90	(NMFS/Nicole)
CDQ Amendment 71/22 (remaining MSA provisions)	?	50/50	Discuss in December (Nicole/NMFS)
CDQ: Regulation of harvest (MSA provision)	4	10/90	Being Prepared for Secretarial Review (Nicole/NMFS)

Bycatch Issues

Repeal of VIP	0	0/100	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (NMFS)
GOA Salmon and Crab Bycatch Controls	?	80/20	Review data at future meeting (Diana S./Cathy/ADF&G)
BSAI Salmon Bycatch (Package A)	0	80/20	Submitted for Secretarial Review on 3/19 (DianaS/NMFS)
BSAI Salmon Bycatch (Package B)	10	70/30	Workgroup report in October (Diana S./other)
Non-target (other rockfish, other flatfish, o. species) development	?	60/40	Ongoing committee discussions (Jane/NMFS).

Ecosystem Issues

Bering Sea habitat conservation	1	50/50	Being Prepared for Secretarial Review (NMFS/Cathy)
AI Habitat Conservation Area adjustment	1	60/40	Being prepared for Secretarial Review (Cathy/NMFS)
Relax VMS requirement for vessels fishing dinglebar gear	6	20/80	Discussion paper in December (NMFS/Cathy)
Ecosystem-based Management	?	90/10	Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum meeting in Nov. (Diana E)
Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan	2	90/10	Summary brochure being produced (Diana E.)
Arctic Fishery Management Planning	8	90/10	Prelim Review in December (Bill, Diana E/NOAA GC)
ESA Consultation on FMPs	4	80/20	SSL Mitigation Committee reviewing proposals (Bill/NMFS)
SSL Recovery Plan Review	?	20/80	Plan to be finalized in early 2008 (Bill/NMFS)
Seabird avoi[illegible]e measures in 4E	4	40.	Review disc. paper in October (NMFS/Bill)

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

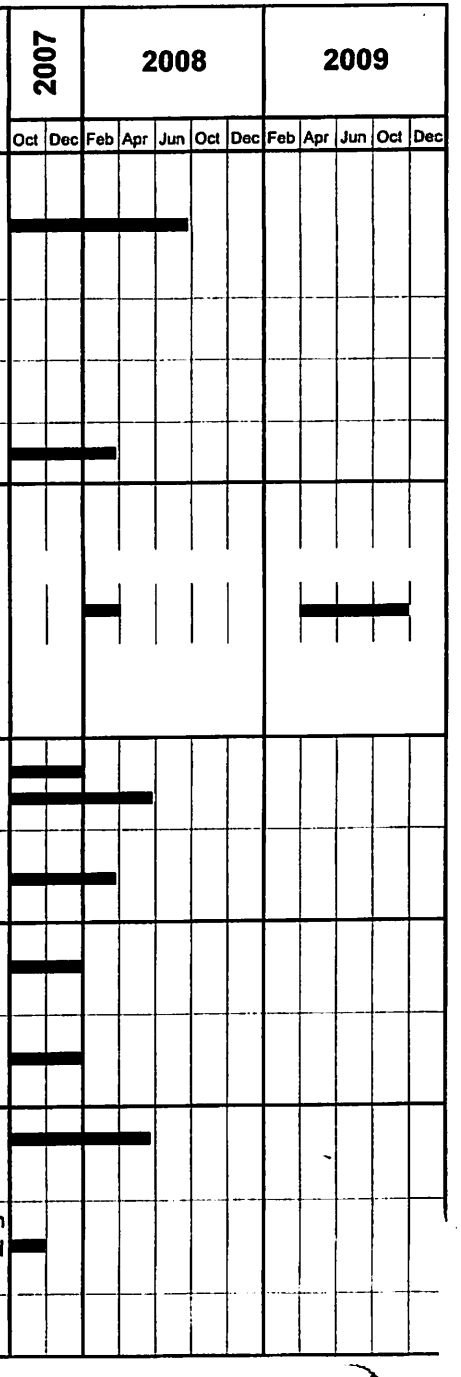
General Priority (in no particular order)		Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status *(updated 9-21-07)*	2007		2008					2009				
					Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Jun	Oct	Dec
Prevent Overfishing	a.	continue to develop management strategies that ensure sustainable yields of target species and minimize impacts on populations of incidentally-caught species	5	'other species' breakout analysis for BSAI and GOA initiated; action to set ABC/OFL for GOA ospp for Dec 07												
	b.	evaluate effectiveness of setting ABC levels using Tier 5 and 6 approaches, for rockfish and other species	4	AFSC responding to CIE review of rockfish harvest strategy as part of harvest specifications process												
	c.	continue to develop a systematic approach to lumping and splitting that takes into account both biological and management considerations	5	on hold pending National Standard 1 guideline revisions												
Preserve Food Web	a.	encourage and participate in development of key ecosystem indicators	10	ecosystem SAFE presented annually; AI FEP identified indicators for the Aleutians												
	b.	Reconcile procedures to account for uncertainty and ecosystem considerations in establishing harvest limits, for rockfish and other species	11	on hold pending National Standard 1 guideline revisions												
	c.	develop pilot Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the AI	13	FEP summary in development												
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	a.	explore incentive-based bycatch reduction programs in GOA and BSAI fisheries	15	partially addressed by BSAI salmon bycatch analysis, initial review Feb 08												
	b.	explore mortality rate-based approaches to setting PSC limits in GOA and BSAI fisheries	20													
	c.	consider new management strategies to reduce incidental rockfish bycatch and discards	17													
	d.	develop statistically rigorous approaches to estimating bycatch in line with national initiatives	14, 19	National Bycatch Report update in Dec 07												
	e.	encourage research programs to evaluate population estimates for non-target species	16	Part of research priorities, adopted in June 2007												
	f.	develop incentive-based and appropriate biomass-based trigger limits and area closures for BSAI salmon bycatch reduction, as information becomes available	14, 15, 20	analysis for regulatory closure areas initiated, initial review in Feb 08												
	g.	assess impact of management measures on regulatory discards and consider measures to reduce where practicable	17	partially addressed by GOA arrowtooth MRA analysis, final action Oct 07												

AGENDA D-5(a)(5)
OCTOBER 2007

Groundfish Workplan

Priority actions revised in February 2007, status updated to current

General Priority (in no particular order)		Specific priority actions	Related to management objective:	Status *(updated 9-21-07)*
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	a.	continue to participate in development of mitigation measures to protect SSL through the MSA process including participation in the FMP-level consultation under the ESA	23	SSL committee recommendations on proposals for revised mitigation measures (Oct 07); NMFS is preparing a Biological Opinion, revising SSL recovery plan
	b.	recommend to NOAA Fisheries and participate in reconsideration of SSL critical habitat	23	
	c.	monitor fur seal status and management issues, and convene committee as appropriate	24, 25	
	d.	adaptively manage seabird avoidance measures program	22	review seabird avoidance measures in 4E, trawl third wire report in Feb 08
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	a.	evaluate effectiveness of existing closures	26	partially addressed by salmon bycatch analysis
	b.	consider Bering Sea EFH mitigation measures	27	Council action in June 07
	c.	consider call for HAPC proposals on 3-year cycle	27	next HAPC process scheduled for 2009; SSC to review HAPC criteria in Feb 08
	d.	request NMFS to develop and implement a research design on the effects of trawling in previously untrawled areas	27	Part of research priorities, adopted in June 2007
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	a.	explore eliminating latent licenses in BSAI and GOA	32	initial review trawl LLP recency for Oct 07, GOA fixed gear latent licenses initial review for Feb 07
	b.	consider sector allocations in GOA fisheries	32, 34	Initial review GOA Pcod sector allocations Dec 07
Increase Alaska Native and Community Consultation	a.	Develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process	37	draft protocol for Dec 07
	b.	Develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions	37	draft protocol for Dec 07
Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	a.	expand or modify observer coverage and sampling methods based on scientific data and compliance needs	38, 39	initial review in Feb 08
	b.	explore development programs for economic data collection that aggregate data	40	SSC review of socioeconomic data collection workgroup report Oct 07; partially addressed in BSAI Amd 80
	c.	modify VMS to incorporate new technology and system providers	41	



Ecosystem Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 22, 2007 1pm-4pm
2nd Floor Conference Room, Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, Juneau, AK

Committee: Stephanie Madsen (chair), David Benton, Jon Kurland, Jim Ayers (teleconference), Diana Evans (staff), Chris Oliver (staff), Bill Wilson (staff)

Others participating included: Joe McCabe, Lauren Smoker, Melanie Brown, Lew Quierolo, Chris Krenz, Jon Warrenchuk

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The Ecosystem Committee discussed the three items on their agenda. The next Committee meeting is targeted to occur between the October and December Council meetings, tentatively during the first week of November, 2007.

Arctic FMP

Mr Wilson introduced the Council's June 2007 motion to develop an Arctic FMP that generally closes all waters north of the Bering Strait to commercial fishing, and the Council's charge to the Ecosystem Committee to help staff develop the FMP. Mr Wilson discussed his work plan for this project, including the timeline and approach, and a draft outline of the FMP. Mr Wilson also presented a community outreach plan for the project, prepared by Ms Nicole Kimball (Council staff), and some informational material on the Arctic.

With regard to the workplan, Mr Wilson had flagged certain issues as needing further clarification, which the Committee addressed. Consequently, **the Committee makes the following recommendations to the Council:**

- **That the document under development be called an Arctic Fishery Management Plan.** The motion refers to an Arctic Marine Resources FMP, but the Committee believes this may be confusing as the Council would not be regulating seabird or marine mammal harvests. The document should clarify that the Council adopts the Magnuson-Stevens Act definitions of 'fish' and 'fishery', which clearly exclude marine mammals and birds.
- **That final action on the Arctic FMP be targeted for June 2008,** in accordance with the timeline drafted by staff.
- **That Arctic fishery management proceed in a stepwise progression. The Council's first step would be expeditious implementation of an Arctic FMP that is simple and straightforward. The conditions under which fisheries might be permitted in the future, and their management, would be addressed at a later stage.** Although the FMP must include the contents required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it need only contain the essential elements of what is required to close the area to commercial fishing (subject to the Council's options). To the extent that it is consistent with rapid implementation, the FMP may also describe the process the Council would use, at a future time, to determine the conditions under which fisheries may be opened: how will the Council involve stakeholders and communities to decide the criteria for what, when, where, and how fisheries may open, and who may participate. The actualization of this process would be the Council's second step in Arctic fishery management.
- **That the Ecosystem Committee continue to oversee the development of the Arctic FMP.** The Committee appreciates the opportunity to stay involved in the development of the document, and

would continue to interact with Mr Wilson and the staff-level analytical team identified in the work plan. **The Committee recommends that the appointment of an Arctic FMP planning team be deferred until after the implementation of the FMP, at such time when the Council is considering the conditions under which fishing might be allowed.**

The Committee agrees generally with the approach presented in the work plan. Only a limited economic analysis may be required to support this action, as prohibiting the commercial fisheries effectively has no practical impact. The sociocultural analysis, describing the subsistence fabric of life in the Arctic region, will be an important backdrop for the Council's action. A thorough discussion of marine mammals, waterfowl, and seabirds should be included in the analysis. Additionally, the scallop and crab Plan Teams should be advised of the Council's intent to truncate the FMP management areas at Bering Strait, and solicited for feedback and a more definitive description of the red king crab fishery in the southern Chukchi Sea.

Regarding community outreach, **the Committee approves of the proposed Community Outreach Plan, as presented by staff, but recommends to the Council the following changes:**

- **That staff postpone sending letters to each entity (villages, community governments, etc.), and instead begin with telephone contact with key people at the regional level.** Sending an official letter without prior personal contact may be misunderstood, and first initiating some basic conversation is more likely to be effective. Organizations to begin with include the North Slope Borough, the Northwest Arctic Borough, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, the Eskimo Walrus Commission, Maniilaq, and Kawerak. Staff can discuss with these organizations how further communications should proceed, and solicit their recommendations as to how to get the word out. Telephone conversations should then be followed up with a letter.
- **That staff identify events or forums at which to do outreach.** For example, the Council may consider staffing a booth at the upcoming Alaska Federation of Natives annual meeting, to distribute information or answer questions. The Council has also been invited to give a presentation at the Arctic Research Commission meeting in Nome this October.
- **That the Council respond formally to those entities who have sent letters regarding the Arctic FMP.**

The Committee also discussed Senate Joint Resolution 17, submitted by Senator Stevens on August 3, 2007. This resolution proposes that the US should, as a matter of policy, support efforts to halt commercial fishing in the high seas of the Arctic Ocean, until international agreements to manage migratory, transboundary, and straddling Arctic fish stocks are in place. This resolution, if it passes, would effectively extend to international waters the Council's proposed action in US Arctic waters, namely to halt fishing until such time as an appropriate management framework, supported by adequate scientific knowledge, is in place.

Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan

The Committee received a draft of the 'glossy' synthesis pamphlet of the AI FEP to review, and will individually provide comments back to Ms Evans. Ms Evans suggested that the distribution date for the pamphlet be pushed back beyond the targeted October 1st deadline, which would allow more time for review (by the Committee and others). The Committee inquired about the distribution plan for the pamphlet, and agreed to discuss this further at their next meeting.

One of the suggestions of the FEP is for the Council to further develop the concept of 'ecosystem health'. At their last meeting, the Committee offered to begin this task, and the Council agreed. Consequently, the Committee asks staff to draft a discussion paper outlining an approach to defining ecosystem health, or as

a first step, desirable or undesirable states of the ecosystem. The Committee suggests consulting with the AI Ecosystem Team, and refers staff to the academic literature and any other fishery management practitioners who may be tackling these issues. The Committee will review the discussion paper at their next meeting.

Other updates

Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum

Ms Evans and Ms Madsen provided a brief update on the July meeting of the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum, the Federal-State regional collaboration on marine ecosystem issues, of which the Council is a member. One question raised at the Forum is that there are a number of Federal-State collaborations in Alaska, and some thought may need to be given to how they interact with each other. A Committee member also suggested that thought needs to be given to how the public can provide input to these collaborations.

NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessments

NOAA is planning to conduct an Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) in Alaska in 2010, for which fiscal planning is currently underway. The IEA is intended to contain the information necessary to understand the inter-relationship between resource management decisions and the changing state of an ecosystem. Three regional ecosystems have been identified for pilot studies: the California Current, Alaska, and the Northeast US. **The Committee recommends that the Council should request a presentation from NOAA on its plans for an Integrated Ecosystem Assessment in Alaska in 2010, and specific clarification regarding the Council's role in this project.** Unless otherwise directed, the Ecosystem Committee will continue to track the agency's progress with IEAs.

NOAA's Alaska Regional Collaboration Team (ARCTic)

Throughout the nation, NOAA has established regional collaboration teams that cut across NOAA line offices. These bring together NOAA employees working in a particular region, with the goal to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers. The Alaska team is currently developing an integrated services plan, which will assess current NOAA services in the Alaska region, and develop an approach for product and service enhancements, in concert with key partners and stakeholders. The Council has been asked to participate in the development of this assessment, as a NOAA partner. More information on regional collaboration is available at: http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/regional_collaboration.htm.

Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum

MEETING SUMMARY

July 26, 2007, 1-5 pm
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mary Smith Media Center, Anchorage, AK

The following member agencies attended the meeting. Underlined participants represented their agency.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

Stephanie Madsen, Chair
Chris Oliver, Executive Director
David Witherell, Deputy Director
Diana Evans, NEPA Specialist
Bill Wilson, Protected Resources Specialist

National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)

Jon Kurland, Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation
Joe McCabe, Paralegal, NOAA General Counsel

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Leonard Corin, Fisheries and Ecological Services Supervisor

National Park Service (NPS)

Judy Gottlieb, Associate Regional Director for Subsistence and Partnerships

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Gary Reimer, Field Manager, Anchorage Field Office

17th Coast Guard District (CG)

CDR Jim Robertson, Commander

Alaskan Command (ALCOM)

Jerome Montague, Tribal Affairs / Natural Resources Advisor

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)

Patricia Opheen, Chief, Engineering Division
Carl Borash, Chief, Project Formulation Section

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Leslie Pearson, Program Manager, Prevention and Emergency Response Program

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Samantha Carroll, Special Assistant

Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

Earl Krygier, Extended Jurisdiction Coordinator

Also present at the meeting:

Brian Allee, Executive Director, Alaska Sea Grant
Molly McCammon, Executive Director, Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS)
Chris Krenz, North Pacific Project Manager, Oceana

Agency Briefings

Each agency present at the meeting gave a brief update on activities of interest with respect to the Aleutian Islands or other Alaska marine ecosystems. Some agencies provided handouts, which are attached to this summary.

Diana Evans, Stephanie Madsen – North Pacific Fishery Management Council (handout attached)

The Council has recently approved a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Aleutian Islands, which is discussed in more detail below. Changes to Steller sea lion protection measures, which constrain Federal groundfish fisheries, are being considered. New state water fisheries in the Aleutians, and minor adjustments to habitat conservation areas in the Aleutians, may have some effect on fishery patterns in the area. Outside of the Aleutian Islands area, the Council is also developing a Fishery Management Plan for the Arctic, with the intent to prohibit commercial fishing until sufficient information is available to assess environmental impacts. The Council has also prohibited bottom trawling north of Nunivak Is., in the Bering Sea.

Dr Jerome Montague – Alaskan Command (powerpoint attached)

Dr Montague briefly reviewed the military's structure in Alaska, both in terms of the command structure, and the location of installations. The airplane fleet at Elmendorf Airforce base will be changing soon, as C17s and F22s, which have more capability and require less maintenance, will replace C130s and F15s. 8,150 Alaska Army military are currently deployed supporting various missions. The military has also partnered with federal, state, and local agencies in Alaska to bring online the Alaska Land Mobile Radio. The project is an interoperable, shared, and secure radio communications system, which can be used in spill response, or public safety or other uses. 95 sites are currently operational, and others are planned (subject to funding by the State).

Of the sites that the military has identified as locations of marine interest, there are very few in the Aleutians, mostly consisting of old cleanup sites. Adak will be the homeport of the new X-Band radar as part of the missile defense Early Warning System. The radar is currently back in Hawaii, after one trip to Alaska, and is scheduled to be installed in Adak in February 2008. An anti-submarine war exercise is scheduled for 2008, of which some component may take place in Alaska. The military establishment at Galena has been deactivated, so will no longer be any threat as a pollution source for the marine environment.

Lenny Corin - US Fish and Wildlife Service

A rat eradication project is being planned for Rat Island, with partners The Nature Conservancy, and Island Conservation. The Service has previously had many years of success with fox eradication on other islands. The intent is to restore the natural ecosystem, as rats can be devastating to seabirds. A National Environmental Policy Act process is currently underway for this action, and hopefully work will begin in the fall of 2008.

Selandang Ayu update: the Alaska regional office has maintained the lead for the cleanup. In March 2007, the trustees issued a Notice of Intent to conduct restoration activities and restoration planning. The trustees are those with trust resources in that area, e.g. the Department of the Interior (USFWS), the Department of Commerce (NOAA Fisheries), and four State agencies (DFG, DNR, DEC, and the Department of Law). The goals of restoration are to return injured resources to the level that existed prior to the spill, and to compensate the public for losses resulting from the spill. No timeline has yet been established for restoration. An evaluation of the nature of harm to all resources affected by the spill is

required, and some preliminary ideas for appropriate compensation include: waste oil recovery at Dutch Harbor to restore sea ducks, mammals, fish, and human uses of resources; removal of invasive species (rats, foxes); debris removal on Unalaska or elsewhere to restore habitat; habitat protection in nesting areas for waterfowl injured by the spill; salmon; education/outreach on Unalaska related to the spill.

USFWS is also conducting a multimillion dollar project on walrus, out in the Bering Sea. Results of the project are not yet available.

Patricia Opheen – US Army Corps of Engineers (information attached)

The Corps is trying to be more innovative about sharing scientific information on its data collection projects, and looking for opportunities for collaboration with Federal, State and NGO partners, particularly with respect to civil works issues. Ms Opheen has been given the responsibility for promoting such collaborations, in addition to her responsibilities as Chief of the Engineering Division. She is encouraging project managers to facilitate information sharing, including scientific data, where possible, and identify mutual areas to economize. Such collaboration requires an innovative approach, as not everyone is used to data sharing in an open forum. The COE website now includes a list of the geographical location of all ongoing projects *[NOTE: The list is not operational yet; instead, Ms Opheen has provided documents describing ongoing projects.]* She also attends the Denali Commission *[July meeting notes attached]*, and the Governor's subcommittee on climate change. Larry Hartig, of DEC, chairs that group. They have identified 17 initiatives, with sub-working groups for each. COE is supporting subgroups on people at risk, and communities at risk.

COE hopes that these initiatives will achieve way to share information effectively. COE is budgeting money to start putting information out on web, available to public. One of the difficulties with making data available is that one needs to be very careful about how it is used. Agencies are concerned that others will use the data without reading the foot notes, and moving forward with data sharing is going to require relationship trust-building. Another issue with data sharing, though, is compatibility. The North Slope Science Initiative has a website up and running, and COE is investigating whether it is appropriate to structure their data system similarly. Other agencies may be able to use the same basic format also (perhaps with expanded data fields).

Judy Gottlieb – National Park Service (handout attached)

NPS has an overall national strategy for ocean park areas; Alaska is developing a plan specifically for the region. Many of the Alaska national parks have coastal elements that involve inventory and monitoring; for some of the parks, there is an element of offshore monitoring and research (e.g., for marine mammals and birds in Kenai Fjords National Park).

The Alaska region is planning a joint meeting with the Pacific West region (which covers from Idaho to Guam), that will include a one-day session on climate change and oceans. NPS is also planning its centennial in 2016; if the budget comes through, there should be generous funds that will allow for initiatives such as education on climate change, or improving inventorying and monitoring programs.

Earl Krygier –Department of Fish and Game (information attached)

Mr Krygier is mostly involved in North Pacific Fishery Management Council issues. The Council's recent action to conserve Bering Sea habitat has frozen the footprint of fishing in the Bering Sea, protecting benthic shelf habitat, gray whales, Steller's eiders, walrus, and juvenile crab. Some fishing may occur in areas outside of the footprint, but will such expansion will be part of a research-driven process.

DFG also participates on the North Pacific Research Board, which recently funded the Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program. In partnership with the National Science Foundation, the program provides 36 million dollars of funding over 5 years. This represents the first real attempt to try to integrate all parts of the ecosystem in the study, and a big focus is publicly-accessible data, and the integration of models *[pamphlet on the research program attached]*.

Jon Kurland – National Marine Fisheries Service (handout attached)

The NPFMC, DFG, and NOAA Fisheries work very closely together, and many of the relevant issues are covered above. There have been recent adjustments to the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area; the Bering Sea habitat action described by Mr Krygier also serves to avoid fishing conflicts with communities, as fishing expands to new areas. The use of the research area allows cautious expansion of fishing. An Arctic fishery management plan is being developed, again as a precautionary action. A lot of work is being focused on updating the recovery plan for Steller sea lions. The cause of sea lion decline is still not fully known, although the 2 leading hypotheses are nutritional stress (potentially related to a regime shift, or carrying capacity issues) or killer whale predation. The NOAA Fisheries Alaska Fisheries Science Center is going to have a big role in the Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program. Fieldwork is scheduled for 2008-2010, then data analysis and wrap up by 2012.

NOAA is also developing a plan for Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, which can be shared at a future meeting.

Leslie Pearson – Department of Environmental Conservation (handouts attached)

The handout provides a list of AI spill preparedness activities. It is very difficult to get data on vessels trafficking through the AI. Last July, the Coast Guard sponsored a Ports and Waterway Safety Assessment, to which marine pilots and industry came. The assessment provides general information on vessel risk and potential mitigation factors. The shipping assessment and safety assessments feed into the risk assessment. The DEC is also participating in the Arctic Research Commission's shipping assessment study, to the extent it can. In January, DEC participated in a 'potential places of refuge' workshop in the Aleutians. The study is actually taking place throughout Alaska. The workshop looked at the frequency of incidents in the Aleutians, and also prioritizes locations, based on sensitivity, depth, etc. Stakeholders, including marine pilots, participated.

In March, when there was almost another incident in Dutch Harbor, the Mayor of Unalaska proposed an ad hoc workgroup, to be proactive on addressing problems, as the AI risk assessment (see below) is taking time to get going. The project has momentum. The City has purchased an emergency towing system for smaller vessels (50,000 dead weight tons or less); DEC has purchased an emergency towing package for larger vessels (*Selendang Ayu* size). DEC will be doing a field training exercise next week, to develop a one page, easy to understand set of procedures, especially for people with little English, to help stabilize situations as they occur. Ms Pearson wants to try and do it without words, as otherwise it would be need to be translated into 16 languages. The hope is to have training aids and procedures in place by September, for the winter weather season. This is an example of a grassroot effort driven by the locals. As other places of refuge are identified, perhaps other towing systems can be put in place there too. Also, DEC is developing a contingency plan as well, that hopefully will get correlated with the risk assessment eventually.

The AI Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program is part of a national program to look at coastal waters and ecosystems. The project uses a standard sampling methodology to identify health of ecosystem, and compare to other places within US. In the Aleutians, two summers of field research have

been dedicated to sampling data. This is baseline study for right now, and change will be monitored from now onwards.

Selendang Ayu update: DEC is continuing to work with the responsible party. The remaining part of the stern is still on beach. A company has been hired to remove the stern section, plus other debris on the shoreline (hatches, etc.). Then DEC will work on the State's civil case regarding the spill.

Gary Reimer – Bureau of Land Management

BLM has reorganized itself since the last AMEF meeting. Mr Reimer is head of the Anchorage district, which covers from Ketchikan to Shishmaref, including some coastal land. The agency is currently dealing with a Bristol Bay, and Ring of Fire land plans. The agency is divesting itself of any significant land holdings in the Aleutians. The Bristol Bay plan covers 1.6 million acres around Bristol Bay; it is in the same general area as Pebble Mine, and has some of the same mining issues. A new resource for the agency is an increased local presence in western Alaska. BLM has hired local people in Dillingham, Unakleet, and Bethel. These employees have about 50 years of connections in the various areas, and can conduct business locally, as well as translate (one of the local hires speaks Yupik).

CDR Jim Robertson – US Coast Guard

Aleutian Island Risk Assessment: The 2008 Coast Guard Authorization Act currently has full funding for the AI risk assessment, and also for a Cook Inlet Risk Assessment. Don Young has added funding to the Administration's authorization bill; if it gets signed, funding will be available. Cdr Roberson is the new Coast Guard liaison for the risk assessment.

Update on the Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment (Leslie Pearson)

DEC has been working with the Coast Guard on a Memorandum of Agreement. DEC will provide funds, through the Maritime Administration, to the National Academy of Sciences to begin the risk assessment for the AI. Contracts have been prepared, but not yet signed. The first step is for the National Academy to develop a scope and framework of the risk assessment, and this is anticipated to take 6-7 months. Coast Guard funding would then be used to implement the assessment itself. Hopefully the framework could be used for other regions, e.g., the Cook Inlet. Once the National Academy report is received, there will presumably need to be some time to adapt it specifically to an AI workplan. The proposed Coast Guard funding is for a 2 year data collection program in the AI, and 1 year in Cook Inlet.

Update on Alaska/Aleutian Islands Research Plan (Brian Allee) (powerpoint attached)

SeaGrant and the State of Alaska have received a grant to develop Alaska regional plans for research that is management oriented (applied research). The grant is $400,000 over 5 years to create the plan, which will focus is on the Aleutian Islands (based on input from the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum), and Brian Allee (SeaGrant) and Dr Keith Criddle (UAF) are the primary investigators for the project. The objective is to look at who the stakeholders are, and what the top research issues are in the AI. Work to date consist of the establishment of a steering group, and the briefing of agency officials. The approach has been finalized, and SeaGrant is assembling and reviewing current research plans, and establishing a website. Heather Brandon, formerly of the State of Alaska, was going to be the major writer, but she has now left the State, so a graduate student is being sought, to work under Keith Criddle.

The approach is to focus on management-critical research needs, and assemble all current agency, NGO, university, etc. research plans, and pull them into a user-friendly internet-accessible database. Sea Grant would then identify opportunities for meaningful stakeholder input. The project website should be

interactive, perhaps with virtual town hall meetings, or a blog for investigators to communicate with the public, or an online forum. SeaGrant will also try to go out to the communities; for example, Reid Brewer is based in Unalaska, and does outreach, education, and monitoring.

The plan for the rest of 2007 is to brief Governor Palin and administration officials, and the new North Pacific Fishery Management Council leadership, on the grant project, and get input on research priorities. Within the next year, the project will establish a regional coordination group to plan and implement the research strategy, conduct the marine research assessment, and develop a communication mechanism for distributing these. The remaining three years of the projecting are just for updating existing deliverables, with some community facilitation input.

Update on oil and gas lease in the North Aleutian Basin

Kate Wedemeyer, of Minerals Management Service, could not make it to the meeting. The Bristol Bay lease did make it into the 5-year plan; other than that, there is no new information.

Polar shipping route (Trish Opheen) (handout attached)

The COE Commander's vision dovetails with the concerns of the State of Alaska regarding a polar shipping route. It takes the COE a long time to start new civil works projects to support shipping routes (it may take in excess of 17 years to get going), so it is necessary to start now with strategic planning. The northern sea route has been around for a while, but there is also need for harbors, places of refuge, staging for emergency equipment, and potentially for links to rail. COE can partner with communities or the State or tribes for developing harbors. The State of Alaska and the COE need have a consolidated vision, so that the same message is being conveyed to people in Washington, DC.

A brief summary of Arctic marine access is in the handout, and the Arctic Council is working on an Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment *[http://arcticportal.org/pame/amsa]*.

Alaska Ocean Observing System (Molly McCammon) (powerpoint attached)

Ms McCammon is the head of the Alaska branch of the national Integrated Ocean Observing System, which is also part of a global program. The definition of 'ocean' comes from the US Commission on Ocean Policy, i.e., deep ocean, coasts, and also estuaries. Currently, there are 11 regional associations. One challenge in Alaska is that we do not have a common understanding of the extent of Alaska's coastline; the DNR website uses 47,000 nm (which includes islands); others say 34,000 nm. There is a need for accurate coastal maps – one cannot always tell how erosion has changed. USFWS working on map for western Alaska, and DNR is also doing mapping work. Such maps also need to be coordinated with the NOAA charts.

AOOS is user driven, and encompasses a broad spectrum of interests – resources users, researchers, etc. The approach is what are the stakeholder concerns (impacts), what information is needed to understand those impacts, how get there from observations or data. State of Alaska agencies have now signed on to AOOS' memorandum of agreement. The main issues are: safe marine operations, fisheries and changing marine ecosystems, natural hazard mitigation (Alaska has big storms), and climate change impacts.

AOOS is defining a vision of their optimal observing system, and then determining a strategy to fill in the gaps between what exists and what is ideal. Through a science and technical panel, and a socioeconomic panel, we can look at two ways to prioritize needs, and hopefully it will provide information to be able to figure out a direction for the next 5 years. AOOS is looking at various assets within the Federal agencies, and at how to create partnerships to meet multiple goals.

Data management and integration of existing available data is underway. AOOS now has a full time person funded at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center to integrate fisheries data with physical observations, and a SeaGrant person in Prince William Sound is working with the website to try to make data more user friendly, and to customize web pages for different user communities. AOOS is partnering with NPRB to use the Alaska Marine Information System program as a format for data. Also, AOOS is partnering with other Pacific observing organizations to provide larger North Pacific-scale data and models.

One challenge that Ms McCammon proposes is the need for Alaska to think about the relationship between the environmental groups in the state (AOOS, AMEF, North Slope Science Initiative, Marine Environmental Forum). A lot of effort is ongoing in the State, to move forward with collaboration and coordination. Perhaps now we are the point that we need to think about how do we coordinate among these collaborating groups? Are all the essential parties at the table? Should users and stakeholders be involved? How does the AMEF interact with other agencies?

AOOS is mostly funded from NOAA, so far, with some private grants. It has operated under NOOA grant, and now has earmarked funds through Senator Stevens that are passed through NOAA. Other regions have different funding bases.

NPFMC Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan (powerpoint attached)

The Council has approved a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Aleutian Islands. The boundary of plan corresponds with an ecological boundary at Samalga Pass, and encompasses US waters to the west. The FEP is a planning and guidance document for the Council, to provide an educational context for decisions affecting the Aleutian Islands. It contains a description of AI ecosystem processes, identifies key interactions that should be monitored, includes a non-quantitative risk assessment to focus on priority concerns, and provides implications guiding that Council on how to reduce the risk associated with these interactions. An overarching consideration for the Council highlighted in the plan is the importance of recognizing the AI as a distinct ecosystem in terms of fishery management, with a physical, food web, and socioeconomic considerations that are very different from the neighboring eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

The Fishery Ecosystem Plan may be relevant to other Federal agencies as it pulls together a lot of information about the AI which may be helpful, for example, in cumulative effects analyses. The Council will distribute the document to other agencies when it is finalized in the fall, and requests feedback.

Election of Officers

Jon Kurland (National Marine Fisheries Service) was elected Chair, and Larry Hartig (Department of Environmental Conservation) was elected Vice-Chair (in absentia). Mr Kurland noted that it was anticipated in 2006, according to the Forum's Memorandum of Understanding, that the State officer who held the Vice-Chairmanship would become the next Chair. But given the changeover in the State administration, and the Vice-Chair vacancy, Mr Kurland agreed to act as Chair for the upcoming year, to allow for continuity.

Discussion of AMEF future direction, next meeting

The timeframe for the next meeting was identified as November 2007. Agenda items for the next meeting include updates on the AI risk assessment, the polar shipping route, the MMS oil and gas project, and the

SeaGrant research project. New topics include a discussion of NOAA's plans for integrated ecosystem assessments.

The group noted that at some point in the future it may be appropriate for Federal and State agencies to consider the many regional collaborations that are being formed in Alaska, in terms of their purpose and potential for overlap, and to consider how the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum fits in among these groupings.

The Forum discussed whether to designate a new ecosystem area as a focus for the group. According to the Memorandum of Understanding, this would entail writing a new addendum to the MOU to identify issues for a new area. It was decided not to write the addendum at this time. Instead, it should be make clear for the next meeting that it is appropriate for any agency to make updates and presentations about any area in the state, given that the overall geographic scope of the Forum is clearly Alaska marine ecosystems. Such presentations may lead the Forum to identify another area for which to write an addendum.

Putting the "Integrated" in NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs)

Steve Murawski

NOAA's Ecosystem Goal Team Lead

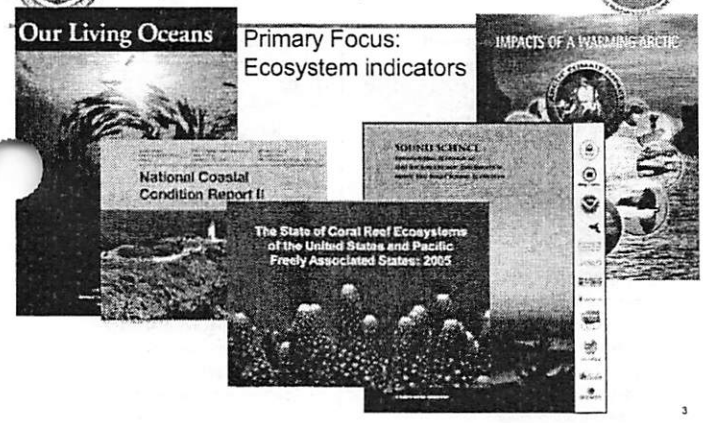
NODC Seminar

16 August, 2007

Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs) Overview

- What are Ecosystem Approaches to management, and what science products support them?
- What are IEAs?
- Why is it appropriate for NOAA to conduct them?
- How do IEAs impact NOAA's statutory responsibilities?
- How are IEAs developed (the steps & content)?
- Where is NOAA proposing to develop IEAs?
- Have IEAs ever been done before?
- Who in NOAA is appropriate to develop IEAs (e.g., NOAA's FY-09 proposal)?
- What are the IEA products and outcomes?

NOAA & other Agencies currently assess many ecosystem components



3

NOAA Working Definitions for EAM*

- **An *ecosystem* is a *geographically specified* system of organisms (including humans), the environment, and the processes that control its dynamics.**
- **Characteristics of EAM are:**
  - **adaptive,**
  - **incremental,**
  - **takes account of ecosystem knowledge and uncertainties,**
  - **considers multiple external influences,**
  - **strives to balance diverse social objectives, and**
  - **geographically specified.**

* NOAA's Ecosystem Goal Team (EGT)

4

Operational Objectives for EAM

(1) Develop broad Stakeholder-Based Governance system

(2) Conserve essential Parts of the ecosystem

(3) Conserve essential ecosystem Processes

Key Question:
What are the science processes and products necessary to support EAM/EBM?

5

What is an Ecosystem Approach to Management (EAM)?

"Look at the whole picture, not just the parts."
Dave Goethel
New England Fishery Management Council
SIMOR Fisheries Constituent Listening Session - October 2006

"An ecosystem approach to management is one that provides a comprehensive framework for living marine resource decision making. In contrast to individual species or single issue management, EAM considers a wider range of relevant ecological, environmental, and human factors bearing on societal choices regarding resource use.".....NOAA EGT

The #1 *Myth* Concerning EAM:
"Ecosystem approaches to ocean resource management are not well defined and we do not know how to implement them"
UN Law of the Sea Meeting, April 2006

6

Develop Ecosystem Governance System

- **Manage Tradeoffs**
  - *assess management allocation among sectors, optimize benefits, use management processes that are fair, equitable and transparent, consider cumulative impacts, evaluate impacts of non-consumptive sectors, include diverse stakeholder views*
- **Use Adaptive Approaches to Management**
  - *consider multiple causes for observed changes and sources of uncertainty in assessment & prediction, reverse burden of proof where consequences are great, imbed experiments in management approaches to increase ecosystem knowledge*
- **Establish Appropriate Ecosystem Boundaries**
  - *allows for interconnections between adjacent ecosystems, allows for imports and exports, includes multiple spatial scales depending on issue - paradox of scale*

7

Key Science Needs Supporting EAM

- ***Operational Ocean Observation System integrating biology, physical oceanography, chemistry, ocean-atmosphere links and socio-economic data (at appropriate geographic scales) ~ ½ built***
- ***Systematic reporting on the status of marine and coastal ecosystems through Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs), including key indicators of pressures on ecosystems and their state***
- ***Ecosystem research plan that enables linking of human activities to incremental change in ecosystem state indicators***
- ***Modeling, experimental ecology, and observation systems linked to support adaptive approaches to human uses of marine ecosystems consistent with goals of sustainable use***

8

What are Integrated Ecosystem Assessments?

Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA):

- "A synthesis and quantitative analysis of information on relevant physical, chemical, ecological and human processes *in relation to specified ecosystem management objectives*".

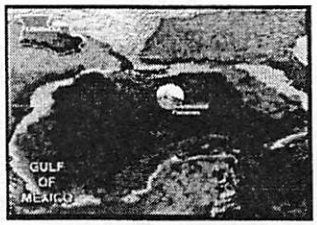
An IEA:

- Incorporates multiple indicators of the environment and ecosystem, including human factors
- Is geographically specified
- Establishes target levels and thresholds for important ecosystem components
- Evaluates the impacts of management options and risks of not attaining target ecosystem states

9

What are Integrated Ecosystem Assessments?

Single Sector Assessment



- Assesses individual species.
- Narrow perspective and spatial scale.
- Short-term perspective.
- Humans are independent of ecosystem.
- Conservative resource management.
- Single use observations.

Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA)

- Provides a "big picture" of an ecosystem.
- Broad perspective and scale.
- Long-term perspective.
- Human impacts considered in models.
- Adaptive and integrated management.
- Shared and standardized observations.

10

Why is it Appropriate for NOAA to Conduct IEAs?

- **Increasing risk of litigation due to poor scientific basis for decision-making**
- **Increasing demand on NOAA to improve status of stocks -- beyond ending overfishing in 2010**
- **Increasing pressures among coastal states to balance competing uses of ecosystem goods and services using science**
- **NOAA has data, research, models, and science components needed to conduct IEAs…..**

….and could do the integration.

11

How do IEAs impact NOAA's statutory responsibilities?

- Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Reauthorization Act – provides more complete information on factors affecting regulated species & ecosystems
- Marine Mammal Protection Act – allows consideration of the impacts of cumulative human impacts on marine mammals
- Coral Conservation Act – enables coral reef management to consider ocean and land-based threats to corals
- Endangered Species Act – allows comprehensive ecosystem considerations to be included in endangered species recovery
- Marine Sanctuaries Act – allows sanctuary managers to monitor ecosystem status in relation to threats and conditions in broader regional ecosystems
- Coastal Zone Management Act – incorporates watershed, coast nearshore and offshore ecosystem conditions into comprehensive coastal zone planning

12

Other Drivers for NOAA to Conduct IEAs

Ocean Research Priorities Plan (ORPP) by the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science & Technology

"Development of integrated ecosystem assessments will...expand understanding of interrelationships among the physical environment, ecosystems, and human activities".

"...Metrics and indicators, evaluated through integrated ecosystem assessments, will provide feedback for assessing management efficacy...".

US Ocean Commission Report Recommendation 5-5:

"NOAA, and EPA, working with other appropriate federal and regional entities, should coordinate the development of regional ecosystem assessments, to be updated periodically."

13

Other Drivers for NOAA to Conduct IEAs

Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (2007)

"The Secretary shall undertake and complete a study on the state of the science for advancing the concepts and integration of ecosystem considerations in regional fishery management."

"The Secretary is authorized to provide necessary technical advice and assistance... to the Councils for the development and design of regional pilot programs that build upon the recommendations of the advisory panel and, when completed, the study."

External Review of NOAA's Ecosystem Research and Science Enterprise (2006) - A Report to the NOAA Science Advisory Board *Evolving an Ecosystem Approach to Science and Management Throughout NOAA and its Partners*

"Regionally based Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs)...should be the central products of NOAA ecosystem science".

14

Dimensions and Outcomes of IEAs

- An IEA addresses five dimensions:
  - Status of the topic being considered
  - Causes and consequences of the status
  - Forecast of future status with and without management action
  - Costs and benefits of possible management actions
  - Evaluation of past management actions' success or failure.
- A successful IA:
  - Responds to policy relevant questions
  - Quantitatively identifies uncertainties in existing data and information
  - Includes public participation and peer review
  - Integrates data across multiple disciplines:
  - Uses existing high-quality data and information
  - Forecasts future conditions and outcomes.

Components of an IEA

- An IEA typically consists of the following components:
  - Assessment of ecosystem baseline conditions (States)
  - Assessment of stressors on the ecosystem (Drivers, Pressures)
  - Prediction of the ecosystem status with no change in management actions (status quo response)
  - Prediction of the ecosystem status under different management strategies to meet target states (optional responses)
  - Evaluation of the success of management actions (update states relative to targets and thresholds)
- N.B. Ecosystem status reports ARE NOT integrated ecosystem assessments (DPSIRs)

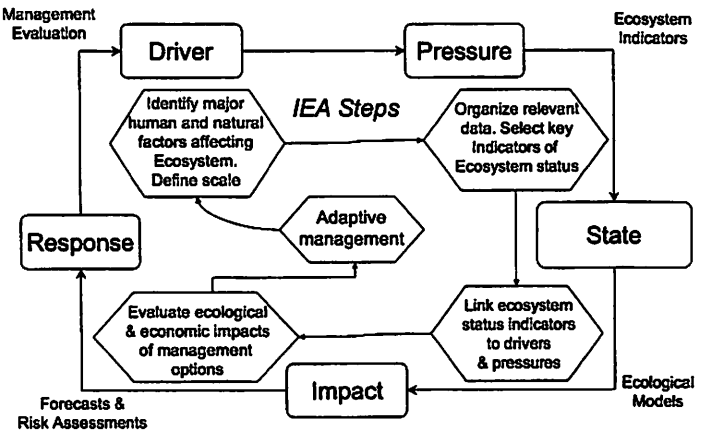
Multiple Dimensions of Ocean & Coastal Ecosystems

Drivers & Pressures → **States & Impacts**

Physical	Human-Related	Conditions	Goods & Services
air temperature	nutrient input	extent of hypoxia	species
sea temperature	contaminants	HAB events	-abundance
weather patterns	microbiological inputs	invasive species interactions	-biomass
waves	radioactive input	primary production	-recruitment
salinity	hydrocarbons	secondary production	fishery catch
pH	atmos. deposition	benthic production	fishery revenue
circulation	wetlands change	species richness	recreational use
sea level	fishing effort	species diversity	aquaculture production
decadal indices	vessel traffic	protected species status & mortality	non-consumptive uses
upwelling	bycatch	overfishing status	social use and importance
wind stress	non-native species introductions	trophic balance	transportation
sediment transport	marine debris	body burden of contaminants	commerce
freshwater input	coastal & seabed modifications	distributions of biota	energy
ice cover	marine sound	human factors	
extreme events			

IOOS "Core" Variable

How are IEA's developed (steps & content)?



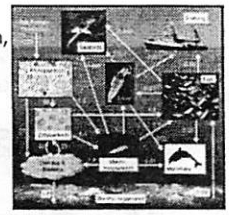
Some Desirable Characteristics of Ecosystem Indicators to Describe Ecosystem Pressures and States

- Easy to Understand
- Responsive to Manageable Human Activities
- Responses Linked in Time to Management Action
- Easily and Accurately Measured
- Low Responsiveness to Other Factors (e.g., multiple factors)
- Measurable Over Large Portion of Area
- Existing Data to Provide Historic Perspectives to inform the selection of Targets and Thresholds

Source: ICES Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fishing

Ecosystem Models & Forecasts to Assess Responses & Understand Relationsh

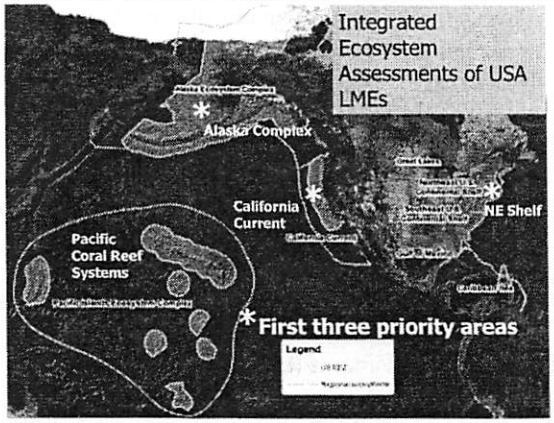
Types of Models Used in IEAs



- Food web dynamics & species interactions (tradeoffs)
- N-P-Z-D Models (nutrients, phytoplankton, zooplankton, detritus)
- Population dynamics models
- Habitat selection models (benthic habitats, ocean conditions)
- Spatial dynamics (hydrodynamics, movement models, human responses)
- Risk assessment & management strategy evaluation (MSE) models
- Models necessary to understand complex multispecies and non-linear relationships between pressures, states and impacts
- Quantitative risk assessments determine the probability and consequences of not attaining target ecosystem states
- Impact analyses evaluate the benefits and costs of options to attain desired ecosystem states

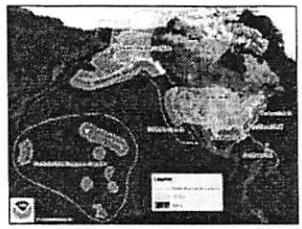
20

Where is NOAA proposing to develop IEAs?



21

What are the appropriate scales for IEAs?



Assessing the Status of Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems of the United States

National Overview

Extra-basin assessments

Heirarchical Structure

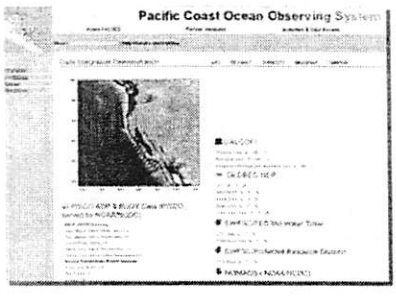
Basin-Wide
-National jurisdictions
-International collaborations

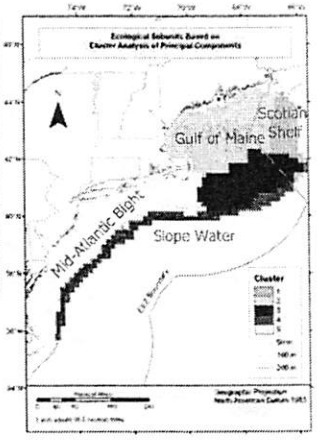
Regional
-Large Marine Ecosystems
-Sub-Regional Ecosystems (as appropriate)

Local
-Place based (e.g., sanctuaries, NERRs)
-Bays, Harbors, Estuaries

Regional Dimensions

Determining the appropriate spatial scale for IEAs





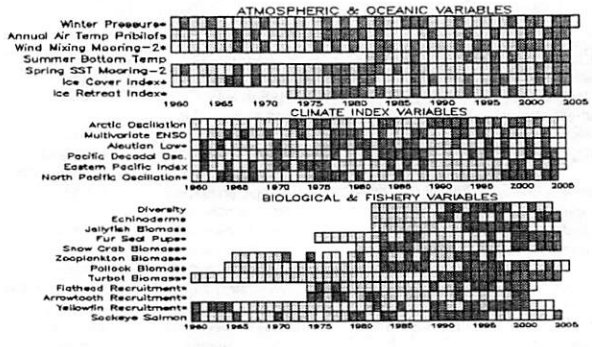
LME → Sub-Region → Local Area

Data systems should allow hierarchical assessment

[political and management boundaries need to be

IEA Components

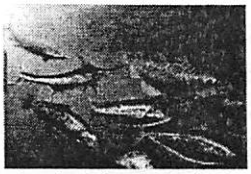
Alaska Ecosystem Conditions Report – Trends



Red indicates the largest 1/3 of values in the record. The middle third are shown in grey and the lowest third are shown in green. To demonstrate covariability over time, the values in some series have been inverted, as noted by a star.

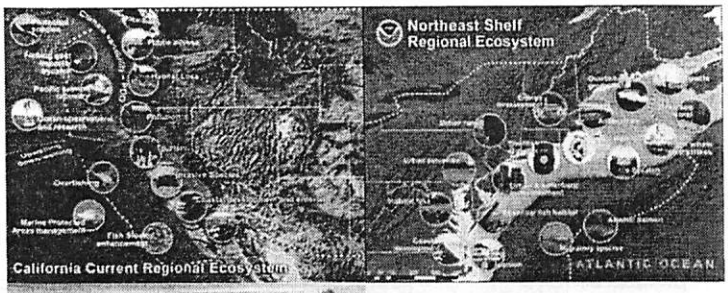
NOAA's Proposed IEA Schedule:

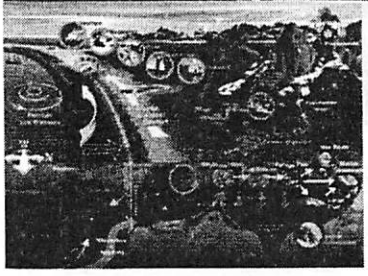
- California Current
- Alaska
- Northeast
- *Followed by:*
- Gulf of Mexico
- Caribbean
- Great Lakes
- South Atlantic
- Pacific Islands



Exact order to be determined by the following criteria:

- strength of NOAA statutory missions
- regional NOAA capabilities to support IEA development
- emerging regional needs
- broad-based external partnerships (states, academia, regional govts., federal agencies)





NOAA's First three Proposed Pilot Ecosystems for IEAs

Who in NOAA is delivering data/information for IEAs?

NMFS
- Scope NMFS statutory management needs at the regional ecosystem scale
- Assess data gaps and test ecosystem indicators
- Develop in-house operational regional ecosystem-wide modeling capability
- Co-develop final integrated assessments

NOS
- Scope NOS statutory management needs at local & coastal ecosystem scales
- Organize and integrate existing local & coastal data into IEA data framework
- Competitively foster model development in highest priority regions
- Identify changes driving observed trends & describe consequences for NOS statutory needs
- Co-develop final integrated assessments; develop format for national scale synthesis

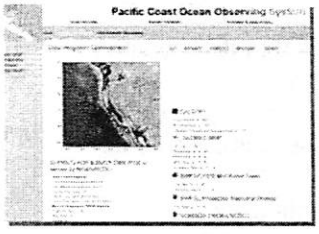
OAR
- Continue scoping research needs at all scales (Sea Grant)
- Integrate coastal data into IEA data framework
- Competitively foster model development in highest priority regions
- Identify changes driving observed trends & describe their consequences
- Develop final integrated assessments

NESDIS
- Develop Regional Ecosystem Data Management Framework

How is NOAA merging efforts to deliver IEA products and outcomes?

- Overall Planning currently provided by the Ecosystem Goal Team and IEA Task Team to assure consistency
- Regional collaborations among NOAA Line Office elements and external partners to take "ownership" of the regional and local process
- FY-09 Proposal provides resources to the regional collaborations to develop data and models & manage the process of IEA production
- Using an IEA Task Team to define criteria and standards for data, reporting and peer review
- FY-09 Proposal will use expertise of NESDIS to develop overall data framework to achieve seamless data integration among local → regional → national levels. Resources would move regionally to build data systems.
- Define an overall office lead (NOS NCCOS) to prepare the national synthesis report of regional IEAs
- Envision an IEA coordinating office as the program matures

What are IEA Products? Paper or Plastic?

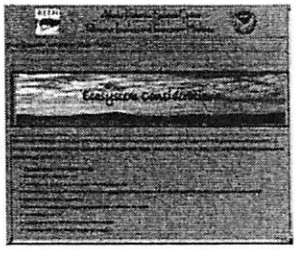


'Plastic' = Dynamic, web-based IEAs
- IEA products created on demand on-line
- Local or 'place based' scales
- 'If-then' scenarios and other assessment tools to inform specific management questions

Pacific Ocean Observing System (PaCOOS Website)

← "Google ocean"

'Paper' = Regional Ecosystem IEA Reports
- duced routinely (~4 years)
- -reviewed
- egional Ecosystem-scale IEAs + 1 National Synthesis Report



E.g. Alaska Ecosystem Considerations Report used by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Partnership Roles

Acting in concert with constituents & partners

- Identify appropriate spatial scales for IEAs
- Determine key ecosystem issues
- Incorporate all relevant ecosystem information and to prioritize the development of indicators
- [determine targets and thresholds for management-related indicators, consistent with legislative authorities]
- Evaluate the relationships between pressure and status indicators using appropriate research, models and forecasts
- Provide routine reporting and updates on the status of the nation's coastal and ocean ecosystems

Major Resource Management Concerns Identified by NOAA Regional Teams

critical | moderate | low | n/a

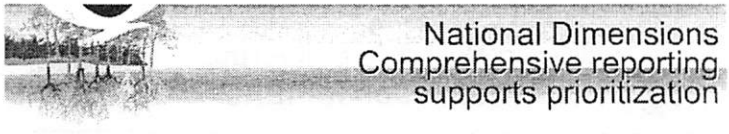
Issue	North Atlantic	S. Atl Caribb.	Gulf of Mexico	Great Lakes	West Coast	Alaska	Pacific Islands
Sustainable Fisheries							
Protected Species							
Coastal management							
Coral management							?
Habitat Protection							
Other		various		restoration	Resource evaluation; submerged cultural resources		MPAs & networks

Additional Threats Identified by NOAA Regional Teams

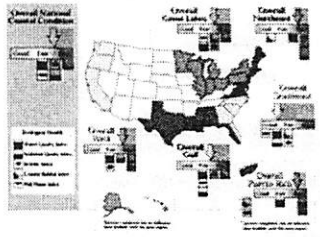
Issue	North Atlantic	S. Atl Caribb.	Gulf of Mexico	Great Lakes	West Coast	Alaska	Pacific Islands
Toxics							
Nutrients							
Debris			?				
HABs/Hypoxia							
Coral Bleach							
Invasives							
Marine Sound							
Fresh water/ diversions							
Events/Hazard							
Other		Storm water, NPS					

Increasing Societal Demands Identified by NOAA Regional Teams

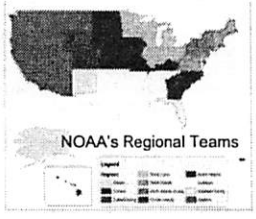
Issue	North Atlantic	S. Atl Caribb.	Gulf of Mexico	Great Lakes	West Coast	Alaska	Pacific Islands
Land Use / development							
Energy development							
Maritime & Port Development							
Aquaculture							
Dredging							
Recreation							
Enforcement of regulations							
Other		Beach probaction; mining		Beach closures			Population growth



National Dimensions
Comprehensive reporting supports prioritization



not IEAs as defined

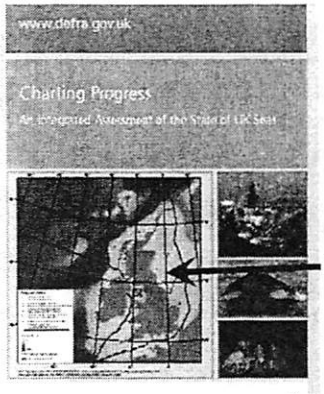


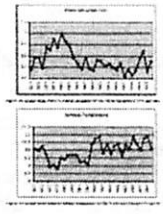
An Opportunity:

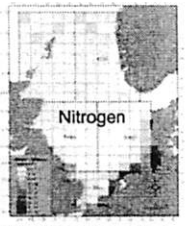
Consistent reporting of a subset of variables will allow a national overview, viz:
"An Integrated Assessment of the Status of the Coastal and Ocean Ecosystems of the United States"

Have IEAs Ever Been Done Before ?

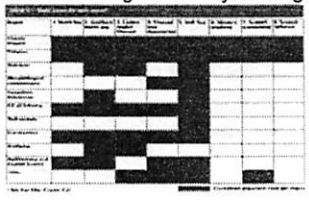
YES!







issues & challenges differ by sub-region



Science Strategies

- Develop consistent data standards and procedures among and within IEA regions to allow comparability and synthesis
- Propose, develop and test suites of pressure and state indicators (some common to all regions, some unique to each)
- Determine research priorities for understanding ecosystem responses to changes in physical and human pressures
- Develop periodic reporting mechanisms for IEAs

Next Steps

Creating a vision and path to IEAs

- Distribute IEA white paper on process, content, strategies, clients, inventory, and annotated bibliography
- Determine appropriate entities to oversee IEA production; identify regional priorities
- Support pilot IEA activities in several regions to emphasize data management and communication procedures, development of appropriate indicators, and modeling and forecasting for understanding ecosystem response
- Seek cross-agency and international regional buy-in
- Enhance ongoing IEA-related activities

MUNDT MACGREGOR L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

999 Third Avenue · Suite 4200
Seattle, Washington · 98104-4082

Telephone (206) 624-5950
Facsimile (206) 624-5469
www.mundtmac.com

Joseph M. Sullivan
(206) 516-0346
jsullivan@mundtmac.com

September 26, 2007

Mr. John Bundy, Vice Chair/Acting Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

SENT VIA FAX

Re: October 2007 Council Meeting
Staff Tasking - Agenda Item D-5
Mr. David Dahl and F/V PROVISION

Dear Mr. Bundy:

We represent Mr. David Dahl, the owner of the fishing rights derived from the catch history of the F/V PROVISION, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Number 21665 (the "PROVISION" or "Vessel").

Mr. Dahl purchased the PROVISION in 1996. He reviewed the catch history of the Vessel at the time and believed it had made qualifying landings in the Central Gulf. He initially fished the Vessel in the Bering Sea groundfish fisheries, but soon afterward concentrated on employing the vessel in the Central Gulf. After he purchased the Vessel, the Restricted Access Management Division issued an interim LLP license to Mr. Dahl (LLG2903), endorsed for the Bering Sea, Western Gulf, and Central Gulf groundfish fisheries. Mr. Dahl fished under LLG2903 for approximately six years, assuming that the catch history related to his operations under that license was and would remain valid.

In 2003, the RAM Division revoked the Central Gulf endorsement to LLG2903, and re-issued that license as a permanent and fully-transferable license with Bering Sea and Western Gulf endorsements. To keep the PROVISION qualified to fish groundfish in the Central Gulf, Mr. Dahl purchased another LLP license (LLG2319) that had a valid Central Gulf endorsement in June of 2003, and assigned that license to the

MUNDT MACGREGOR L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PROVISION. The Vessel sank on August 5, 2004. Mr. Dahl would like to replace the Vessel but is reluctant to do so while the status of its catch history remains uncertain.

At Mr. Dahl's request, the Council added a Gulf of Alaska groundfish rationalization program option that would have addressed his circumstances, permitting him to claim either the catch history of the vessel that operated under the interim endorsement or the catch history that gave rise to his replacement license. That provision was initially added to the Gulf of Alaska rockfish pilot program ("RPP") motion as well, but in the late stages of Council deliberations on the RPP, the provision was dropped out of the RPP motion. Based on our discussions with persons who were involved in developing the RPP motion, it does not appear there was a deliberate choice to disqualify Mr. Dahl. Rather, it appears that the provision was dropped from the RPP under the mistaken assumption that the provision was an artifact from the Gulf groundfish rationalization motion, and that no one would be disadvantaged by dropping it out of the RPP.

However, contrary to that assumption, dropping the provision out of the RPP resulted in Mr. Dahl losing his RPP eligibility, and he has suffered a substantial financial loss as a result. Because the future of Gulf groundfish rationalization is not clear at this time, it is not reasonable for Mr. Dahl to hope that this problem will be corrected by adoption of the Gulf groundfish rationalization program. Therefore, we are requesting on Mr. Dahl's behalf that the Council consider amending the RPP to restore the provision that benefited Mr. Dahl. We respectfully suggest that analysis of this potential amendment could be combined with analysis of the RPP post-delivery transfer amendment that the Council has under consideration.

Sincerely yours,

MUNDT MacGREGOR L.L.P.

Joseph M. Sullivan

JMS:cap
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cc: Mr. David Dahl - via fax

AGENDA D-5
Supplemental
OCTOBER 2007

Dear Chair,

I am a 35 year old 4A halibut quota share owner who lives in Unalaska, AK. I own a 50' vessel that I target halibut, crab, and P cod with and a 32' Bristol Bay salmon gillnetter. Starting with nothing other than the work ethic and ingenuity my parents bestowed on me, I have built successful fishing operations that I hope survive into the distant future. I am upset by the recent regulation changes resulting in the disintegration of my large block of 4A halibut, 679.42(g)(2). This regulation change that was implemented to make it easier for owners of large blocks of 4A and 3B halibut to modify their long line operations has actually made the process more difficult, or at the very least more expensive, for me. A change needs to be made that allows owners of large blocks of 4A and 3B halibut to opt out of having their blocks divided up.

In May of 2006 I sold two blocks of 4A Halibut, purchased fall of 2001, with the intention of buying a larger block of 4A halibut. Because of an assortment of delays, this sale was not completed until the end of July. In August 2006 I purchased what is now a 30,000 lbs block of 4A Halibut to replace the blocks I just sold. Because of the delays that occurred with the sale of my old QS and the fact that I could not be assured my knew block would be transferred to me in a timely fashion because NMFS was supposedly backed up with the Bering Sea Crab IFQ program, I purchased a fished block of QS. Consequently, the process of acquiring more QS cost me the 2006 halibut season.

I intentionally purchased a large block of 4A halibut because I intend to max out the 50,000 lbs limit that the NMFS/ Department of Commerce IFQ loan program will finance an individual up to and I did not want to face the hassles associated with a sale and purchase situation again. Owning only one block of QS gave me the freedom to purchase whatever 4A QS, blocked or unblocked, became available.

The recent rule changes leave me with blocked and unblocked 4A halibut QS. To increase my 4A holdings to 50,000 lbs of blocked shares I will have to sell my unblocked QS and find and purchase not one but two maxed out blocks (the largest blocks of 4A QS are presently approximately 16,600 lbs according to the new regulations). Undergoing this process is something I purchased my large block specifically to avoid. "The FRFA notes that the complexity involved in this dual (for me now a three part) transaction may provide a substantial obstacle to growth for active fishery participants" (pg 44801 Federal Register / vol. 72, No. 153 / Thursday, August 9, 2007 / Rules and Regulations).

Of course I can increase my 4A QS with the simple purchase of more unblocked QS. However, this sells for more money per pound, at least $1 per lb more, than blocked QS so I will end up paying more to increase my QS than I would have before the regulation changes, at least $20,000 additional dollars for the 20,000 lbs I intend to purchase. 20,000 dollars might not be very much money to a lot of the people involved in the Halibut IFQ system. For me, who worked and saved to purchase the boats, permits and QS I own, it is significant.

I understand that on paper my QS is now worth more money than it was as a single large block. However, the freedom that I lost to react quickly to any 4A quota that comes on the market was worth more to me than the increase in my net worth that benefits me only on paper unless I want to undergo the arduous process of selling my unblocked quota and purchasing two blocks to take its place.

I know the rule changes were the culmination of a long process during which I had many chances to express my opinions. I try to keep tabs on the NPFMC, but it seems I am always busy, engines to replace, gear to mend, fish to catch. I do not have the free time that hired skippers provide or the money to hire a paid lobbiest like many owners. This September is the first time in the last couple of years I have taken more than a couple weeks off at one time from fishing related work. I know ignorance is no excuse, but it was my understanding that I would be able to own two blocks of QS allong with my new unblocked QS. Furthermore, I am not the only one that did/does not fully understand the new regulations. Earlier this week I attempted to get some questions answered by calling NMFS. NMFS transferred me to their Ram division who directed me to the Halibut Commission who gave me a number for a nice fellow who only deals with Halibut on the West coast who gave me Jane De Cosimo's number at the NPFMC. Jane was very helpful and I appreciate the time she spent talking to me, but in the end she had to get back to me because she needed to talk to some people before she was confident she was answering my questions correctly.

Giving the owners of large blocks of 4A and 3B halibut the choice to keep their blocks intact is the right thing to do and I would appreciate its consideration. I would love to ramble on about why this is the right thing to do, but I am sure you thought you were done with this issue and I am appreciative if you still happen to be reading. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions at nehuster@yahoo.com.

Thanks for your time, Zachary Nehus

Bob Alverson
D-5

Recommendation to clarify comments from the National Marine Fisheries Service in agenda item B-2 supplemental letter from the NMFS

1. The Council agrees with the NMFS that the date of compliance with the pre-ownership requirement be 12 months from the enactment of the regulation.

2. The exemption from the 12 month pre-ownership provision would be for a total loss or a temporary loss where the temporary loss resulted in at least 60 days of repair and reconstruction.

3. The exemption would be good from the date of the vessel event until the December 31st of the following year.

4. If the NMFS concludes that these changes result in new rule making in order to look at additional options, the Council request those options be confined to the length of the exemption, the change from constructive total loss to temporary loss and the length of time that qualifies for a temporary loss. If the NMFS determines additional issues and options need to be addressed then the Council recommends dropping the 12 month pre-ownership requirement.

Comments to the clarifying recommendations:

1. The exemption for a temporary loss would be for an accident arising from a sinking, grounding or fire, not from general maintenance.

2. The vessel that triggers the exemption must be one that is in the use of harvesting halibut/sablefish IFQs, not a second vessel used for some other purpose, such as, a pleasure boat or boat in a different trade.

3. Temporary loss is substituted for constructive total loss as a constructive total loss of property in the insurance sense usually means property so severely damaged that the cost of restoring would exceed the value after restoration. What is intended is temporary damage such as a temporary disablement.

4. The 60 day time to qualify for an exemption for a temporary loss is to provide some criteria for this type of loss. The time should not be so long as to loose all he summer months of good weather fishing.