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# D7 Ecosystem Committee Report

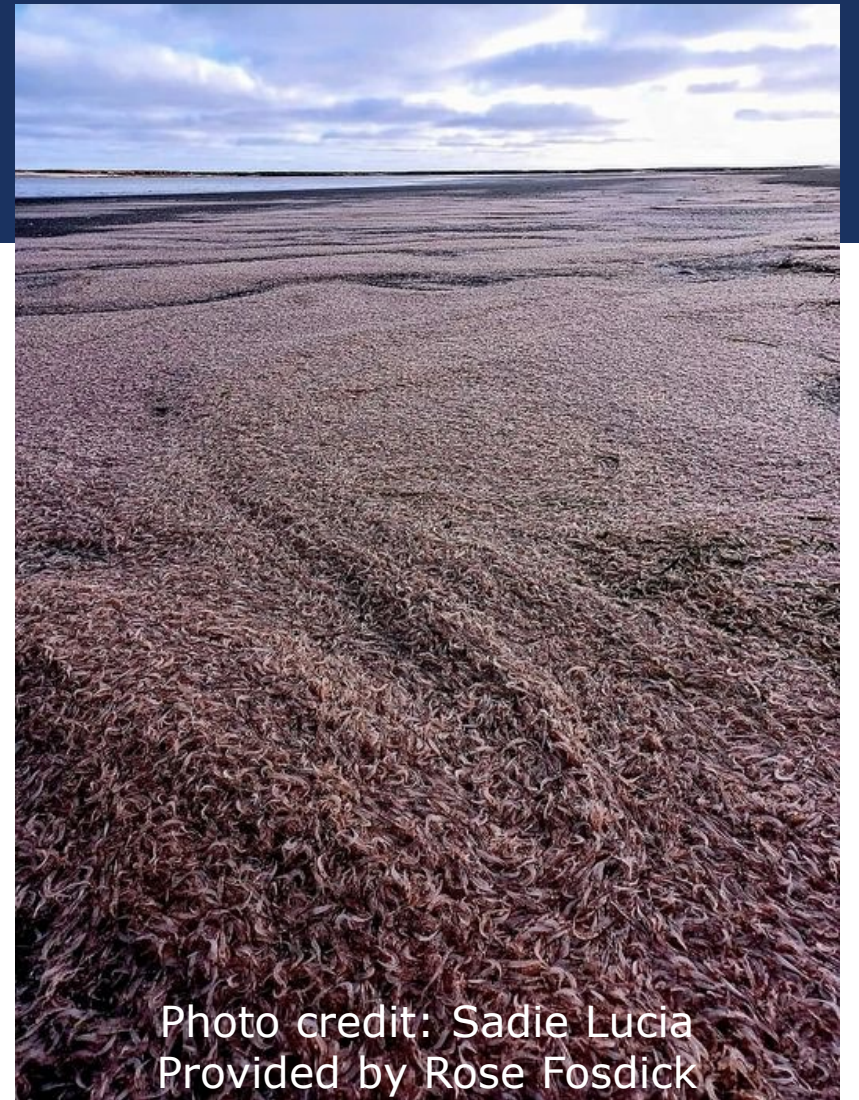
Diana Evans (NPFMC), Nicole Watson (NPFMC)

October 2022 Council meeting



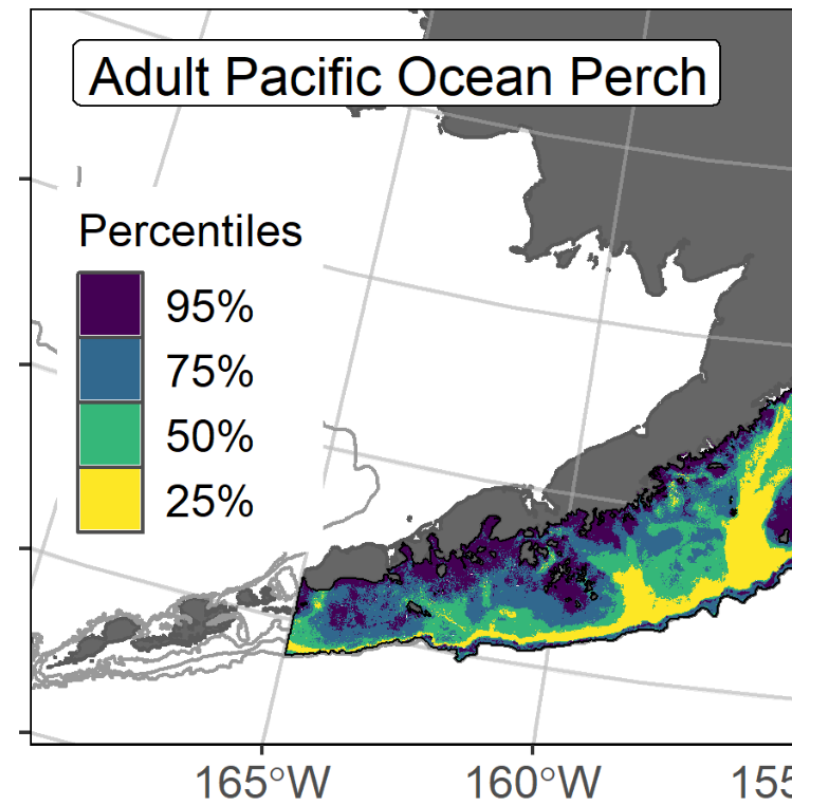
## Climate change focus

- Began meeting with acknowledgement of the cumulative impacts that western Alaska communities are currently experiencing from climate change
- Public testimony and Committee member observations of tremendous, unprecedented ecosystem change in the region

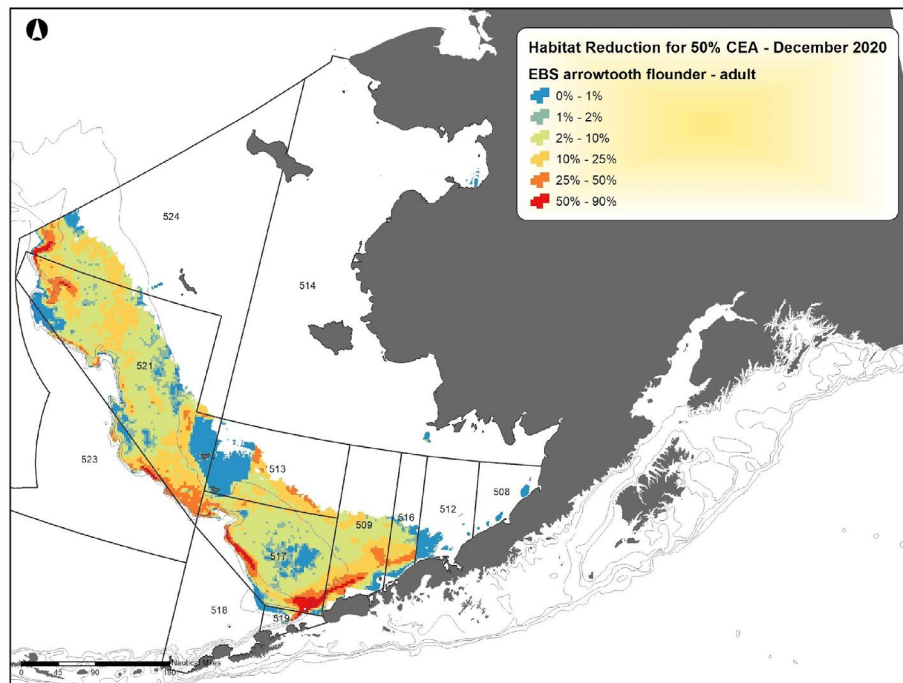


# Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) (1/2)

- NMFS and Council staff presentation on two components of EFH 5-year review
  - EFH maps by species
  - Effects of fishing on EFH
- Council will review as part of entire EFH 5-year Review Summary Report in early 2023
  - Will also include EFH conservation recommendations, HAPC, research priorities
- **Committee: Components are ready for Council review in Feb**
  - Advanced modeling for EFH maps is excellent foundation



# Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) (2/2)



- **Committee recommends Council focus in February on where next for habitat research and analysis**
- **Consult Tribes and stakeholders as part of those discussions**
- At minimum, request:
  - Holistic update of cumulative impacts on EFH and the effects of climate change
  - Improvements to the fishing effects model (reference Oct 2022 and Jan 2022 Ecosystem Committee reports)



# Programmatic Groundfish SEIS Reevaluation

- In March 2022, Committee recommended Council commit to updating the PSEIS; Council asked staff to first pursue developing a Supplemental Information Report (SIR) & report back on timing.
- Oct update on timing of PSEIS SIR: Council staff intent to begin compiling new information over coming months, report back perhaps in June 2023
- **Committee reiterates urgency of Council climate change discussions with respect to management framework / PSEIS**
  - Rapid and unprecedented rates of change
  - Need forum for public



# Programmatic Groundfish SEIS Reevaluation

- **Committee: Council initiate a discussion paper that includes:**
  - An informal scoping process to ensure diverse tribal and stakeholder engagement
  - Assess sources of new data and information relevant to understanding the impacts of climate change on the groundfish fisheries.
  - Opportunities to leverage existing Council and other initiatives to inform the reevaluation of the PSEIS; identify synergies among existing groups and work
  - History of the Programmatic Groundfish and alternatives
  - Proposed timeline moving forward



# Alaska Marine Debris Action Plan: Update

- In February, Committee recommended Council be a venue for increased awareness and understanding of marine debris efforts in Alaska, and development of action plan
- Peter Murphy (NOAA Marine Debris Program) gave presentation on efforts underway
- Email update, received after the Committee meeting, highlighted opportunities for stakeholder involvement:
  - Funding opportunities - link on Committee eAgenda
  - Alaska Marine Debris Action Plan under development this fall
  - Dedicated Alaska Sea Grant Fellow 2022-2023

