

Council motion, February 11, 2013

Ecosystem Committee: Path Forward.

There is an opportunity for the Council to better utilize the Ecosystem Committee, both in addressing immediate issues of the day, and by taking a longer term view for how the Council could take a leadership role in the continuing evolution of EBM. This has been discussed at recent Committee meetings, and is reflected in their minutes from this meeting

In order to best take advantage of this opportunity the Council:

1. Will identify from time to time issues that require immediate attention and refer them to the Ecosystem Committee. In the near term those issues could include EFH consultations, conservation of deep sea corals, marine canyons, or emerging ESA issues such as right whales.
2. Tasks the Committee to continue work on further refinement and implementation of the Aleutian Island FEP.
3. Tasks the Committee to consider longer term EBM approaches and opportunities. Examples could include further work with respect to the Arctic FMP and changing conditions in the Arctic, refining approaches to EBM and integrating science into management decisions in a practical manner appropriate to North Pacific fisheries, or refining concepts of adaptive management and monitoring to ensure that management measures are meeting goals over time.

The Council will schedule a report from the Committee and discussion by the Council at an upcoming meeting {June? October?}. The Council is requesting the Committee develop a proposed workplan for Council adoption and implementation of longer-term EBM approaches as part of its report.