



North Pacific Fisheries Association, NPFA

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Simon Kineen, Chair
605 W Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
RE: Agenda Item C4

Nov. 30, 2018

Dear Chairman Kineen and Members of the Council,

North Pacific Fisheries Association (NPFA) would once again like to commend the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team on the work they have accomplished. Developing a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) is a monumental task and we are proud of our regional Council for taking the lead on developing a second regional FEP that promotes the inclusion of ecosystem science and stakeholder input in management decisions. The Bering Sea FEP is a productive way to add value to the Council process and stakeholders: by providing clarity to all stakeholders about what decisions are being made and why, providing a conduit between best available data and informed decision makers, and the provision of strategic planning opportunities for research or management by recognizing region-wide stock, climate or ecosystem changes. While the Council has a history of making informed and conservation-minded decisions, this FEP will further improve the information available to all Council bodies.

NPFA is based in Homer, Alaska, and many of our members and their crews participate and depend on Bering Sea region fisheries. We appreciate the inclusion of the action module to develop a method to incorporate local and traditional knowledge in addition to the Council's robust existing public process.

We support the adoption of the Bering Sea FEP by the Council, and its purpose of increasing the importance of ecosystem considerations in management decisions in the Bering Sea region, including the coastal communities and the fishermen that depend on the vitality and resilience of this ecosystem.

Respectfully,

Abigail Turner-Franke

Project Coordinator, NPFA