



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

Ecosystem Committee

AGENDA

April 1 2019, 10:30 AM – 5 PM

Teleconference (907) 271-2896

<https://npfmc.adobeconnect.com/eco419/>

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem Committee will meet on Monday, April 1 from 10:30 AM to 5 PM at the Hilton Hotel.

- I. Alaska Ocean Acidification Network update
Darcy Dugan (AOOS) and Dr. Bob Foy (AFSC) will provide an update on ocean acidification science in Alaska.

- II. AFSC Marine Mammal Lab Northern Fur Seal update

Dr. Jeremy Sterling from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Marine Mammal Lab will provide an update on the population status of northern fur seals in the Bering Sea and provide an update on the Sailandrone northern fur seal foraging study and Lenfest project.

- III. Aleut Community of St. Paul Island northern fur seal co-management

Dr. Lauren Divine, Director of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island's Ecosystem Conservation Office will provide an overview of the tribe's work on northern fur seals on St. Paul Island.

- IV. Habitat Issues

- a. Essential Fish Habitat 5-year review – proposed approach for 2022
- b. Deep-sea coral research program pre-planning – What are the Council's priorities for the next round of deep-sea coral research?
- c. CCC Habitat workgroup workshop proposed – the CCC habitat workgroup has been working on a proposal for a habitat workshop, smaller scale than the EFH Summit that took place in 2016, to address non-fishing impacts to EFH.

- V. Update on BS FEP Planning

Diana Evans (NPFMC Staff) will present an update on the FEP Team's planning efforts for implementing the BS FEP. There **will not** be a work product presented for review, but she will provide a planning timeline.

VI. 3-year workplan for ECO

The ECO has focused heavily on the development of the BS FEP in recent years. The BS FEP was approved by the Council in December 2018, the FEP Team will continue to bring updates to the ECO as they make progress. The ECO has not received any direction from the Council for new committee focus. What are the upcoming issues that the ecosystem committee members feel would be useful for the committee to address in the next few years? Is it useful for the ECO to meet regularly at every Council meeting as has been occurring, or are there alternative meeting schedules (e.g., 2 per year?) that would more efficiently use committee members' time?

The ECO may make recommendations to the Council regarding both the frequency of committee meetings and proposed topics for committee consideration.

VII. Marine Mammal conservation status report discussion.

In April 2017, the Council made a motion asking for regular (annual) updates from the AFSC and AKR on NFS research and management plans, in response to a request from the SSC that they be updated on marine mammal conservation issues on a regular basis. Since April 2017, the ECO and Council have received several reports and papers related to NFS and other marine mammals in Alaska:

- The AKR presented NFS management priorities and activities to the ECO in April 2017
- The ECO and Council reviewed a NFS synthesis paper in October 2017
- The ECO received an update on NFS research activities from the AFSC Marine Mammal Lab in October 2017
- The ECO received a report on NMFS AKR plans to update the NFS Conservation Plan in February 2018
- AKR staff presented an update on the AKR's plans to update the NFS Conservation Plan in June 2018 – Mr. Mike Williams explained that the NFS Conservation Plan still appropriately guides NMFS NFS management and research activities. Because the Conservation Plan is still relevant, the agency is not redirecting staff from existing management and research activities to update the Conservation Plan. The ECO committee concurred with the agency's decision on updating the NFS Conservation Plan. The ECO also recommended that the Council request updates from co-management partners, the Council did not respond to that recommendation.
- The AFSC Marine Mammal Lab provided updates on NFS and other marine mammals in Alaska to the SSC in Feb 2018 and Feb 2019.

If the Council or Ecosystem Committee wishes to continue or expand the updates that have been provided, it would be useful to have a statement describing what we are requesting, and providing the Council's purpose for the information so that we can request updates from the AFSC, AKR, or other organizations accordingly.