
Ecosystem Committee, 08 May 2023

Programmatic EIS



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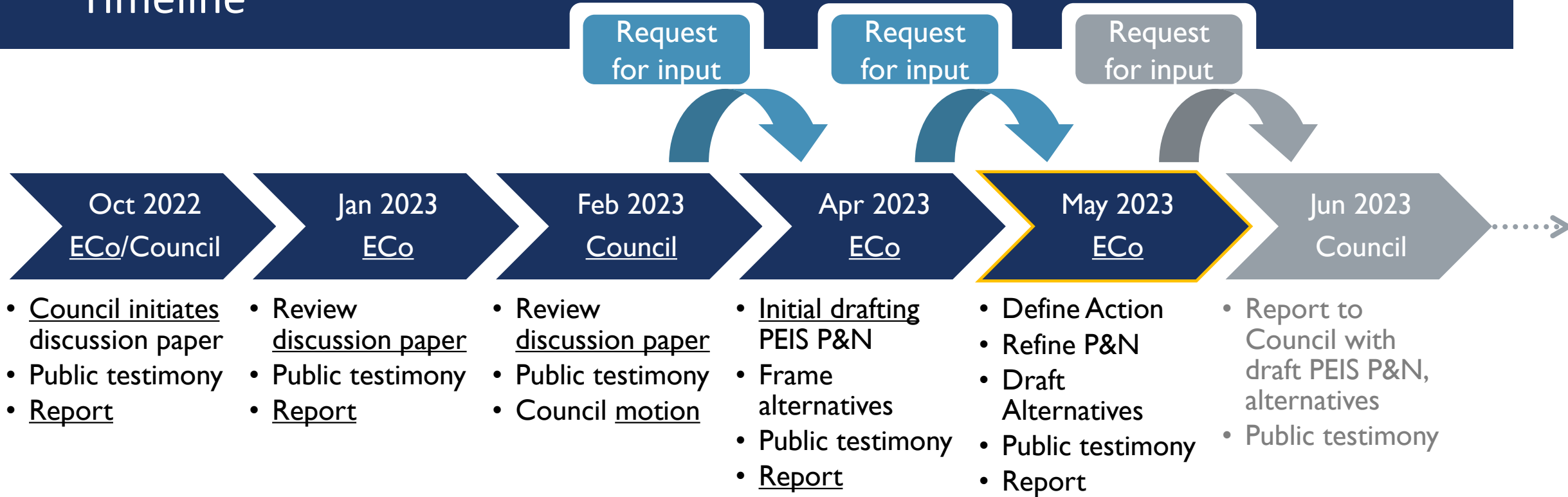


Meeting Outline

- Background
- Review comments received
- Public Comment
- Ecosystem Committee discussion and reflection of comments
- Action Items
 - Define the Action
 - Refine Purpose and Need
 - Develop reasonable range of Alternatives
- Timeline



Background: Timeline



Background: Solicitation of Input

Who?

- Attendees of past ECo meetings (email)
 - Oct 2022, Jan 2023, Apr 2023
 - 57 total recipients
 - Individuals, organizations/groups
- Recipients of NPFMC emails

How?

- Email blast to past attendees
- NPFMC website & email
 - Spotlight
 - Newsletter
- eAgenda



Actions for today

1. Define the Action

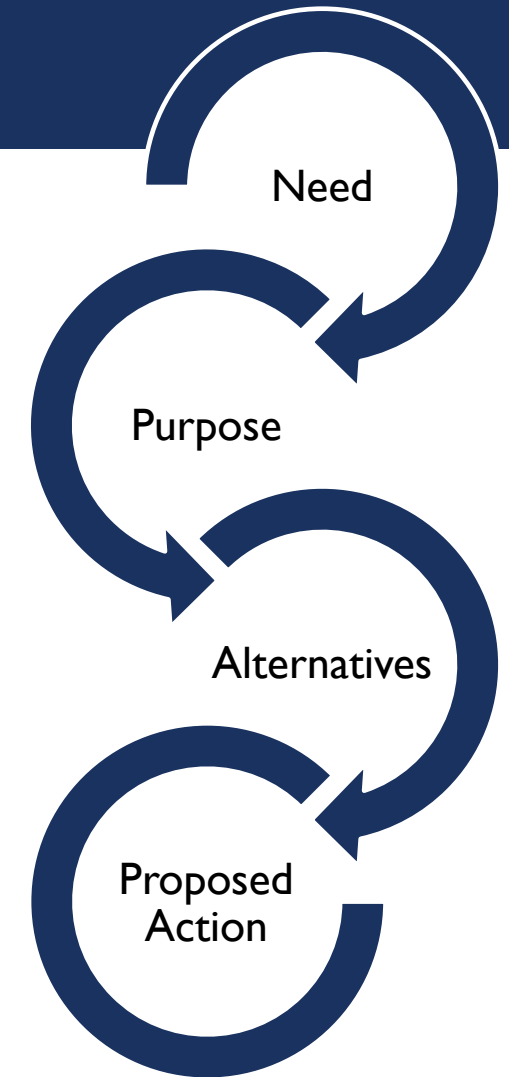
- *A proposed action is defined by anything the federal agency does directly (ex. management actions), funds, or authorizes (ex. issues permits, regulations, initiate or revise policy, etc.).*

2. Refine the P&N statement

- *The “purpose” acts as the objective(s) of the proposed action, while the “need” is the underlying problem that the proposed action addresses.*

3. Develop reasonable range of alternatives

- *The alternatives considered are alternative means of meeting the P&N for the action, including a “no action” (status quo) alternative.*
- *Reasonable? Those technically and economically feasible and meet the P&N for the proposed action.*



Terminology Refresher

- **Programmatic EIS:** a broad-scale environmental evaluation that examines a program, such as fisheries management, on a large scale.
 - A PEIS is prepared for a major program, plan, or policy with a step-wise approach to a broad analysis that supports smaller scale, specific actions. The PEIS is a form of EIS that is generalized to a particular program, in this case, fisheries management.



Comments Received (14)

as of Monday, 08 May 2023

Ecosystem Committee (1)

- Jim Ayers

Public Comment (13)

- Steve Marx, Pew Charitable Trusts
- Roberta Townsend Vennel, Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership
- Christopher Tran, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
- Marissa Wilson, Alaska Marine Conservation Council
- Kevin Whitworth, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Vivian Korthuis and Brian Ridley, Association of Village Council Presidents and Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Kristin Stahl-Johnson, OceanPeople Resources
- Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Kawerak
- Loretta Brown, Salmon State
- Aaron Martin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Becca Robbins Gisclair, Ocean Conservancy
- Hunter McIntosh & Paul Olson, The Boat Company
- Patricia Phillips



PUBLIC COMMENT



ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

Lunch Break

- The Ecosystem Committee is on lunch break (*tentative* 11:30-12:30 Alaska Time)





ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEMS

Define the Action

A proposed action is defined by anything the federal agency does directly, funds, or authorizes.

- (text here)



Refine the P&N statement

The “purpose” acts as the objective(s) of the proposed action, while the “need” is the underlying problem that the proposed action addresses.

- (text here)



Drafting Alternatives

- (text here)



Next Steps

ECo
Report

Public
input

Council

- Draft report of May ECo
- Solicit public input following posting of report
- Report to Council at upcoming meeting





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Extra “example” slides



Example Action Statement – 2004 PSEIS

ES 2.1 **The Federal Action: Management and Authorization of the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries**

The federal action in this Programmatic SEIS is defined as the management of groundfish fisheries and the authorization of groundfish fishery activities off Alaska, pursuant to the *Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area* and the *Fishery Management Plan for Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery*.

From page E-3, Executive Summary, 2004 PSEIS



Example Problem Statement – 2004 PSEIS

ES 2.1 Defining the Problem

A number of pressing issues face those who participate in and manage the Alaska groundfish fisheries. The range of issues include the effects of the groundfish fisheries on declining Stellar sea lion populations and other protected species, the effects of fishing gear on benthic habitat, excess fishing and processing capacity, and the effects of harvesting fish on the North Pacific marine ecosystem. Other notable issues include maintaining sustainable fisheries, reducing bycatch and waste, improving data collection, enforcing regulations, and providing economic stability for fishing communities. These ongoing issues have been targeted by NOAA Fisheries and the NPFMC as a research and management focus.

NEPA requires that a significant federal action (such as a federally authorized fishery) be evaluated for its potential effects on the human environment, which include physical, biological and socioeconomic components. This goal has been achieved by:

- Updating the information contained in the original EISs by providing a historical review of how the groundfish fisheries and the environment have changed since publication of the original EISs.
- Describing how new scientific and fishery information is being utilized.
- Describing the cumulative effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future groundfish fisheries management on the marine ecosystem and the environment (to the extent possible).
- Analyzing the current and alternative management regimes to determine the potential impacts on the human environment.

From page E-2, Executive Summary, 2004 PSEIS



Alternatives – 2004 PSEIS

Alternative 1: Continue Under the Current Risk-Averse Management Policy

Alternative 2: Adopt a More Aggressive Harvest Management Policy

Alternative 3: Adopt a More Precautionary Management Policy

Alternative 4: Adopt a Highly Precautionary Management Policy

Preferred Alternative: Adopt a conservative, precautionary approach to ecosystem-based fisheries management.

From page E-17:38, Executive Summary, 2004 PSEIS

