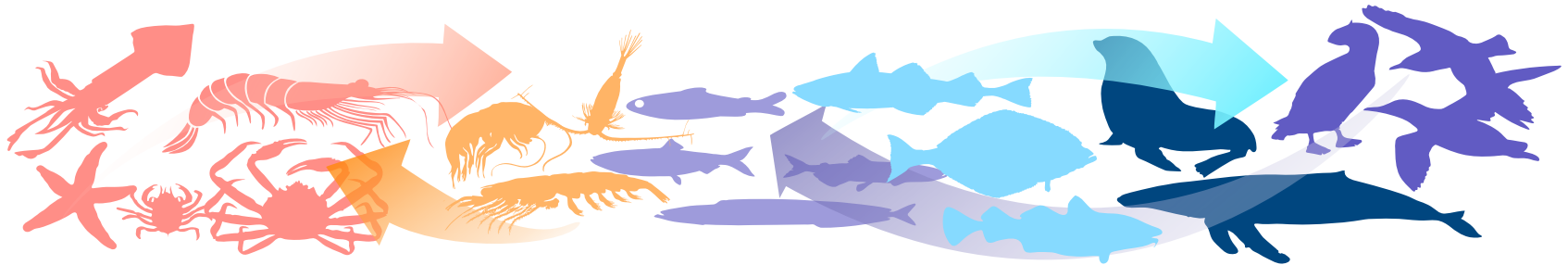




Alaska Fisheries Science Center CIE Review Summary Report for GPT

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NPFMC Groundfish Plan Teams, September 19, 2023



Why modify Ecosystem Status Reports?

Management Needs:
shifting crab/fish
distribution



Fish Communities



Pacific Ocean perch



Atka mackerel



Scientific Advances:
Marine heatwaves



Cod Pacific cod

Review of AFSC Ecosystem Status Reports in Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2023



NOAA OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

S&T Home

Recreational Fisheries
Statistics

Commercial Fisheries
Statistics

Cooperative Research



Home

National Standard 2

CIE Peer Reviews

NMFS Science Program Review

MSA Peer Reviews

<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/science-quality-assurance/cie-peer-reviews/cie-review-2023>



Objectives CIE review

- Objective 1: **Revisit goals**
 - Are the ESRs' goals to inform the development of ABC and OFL still appropriate or should the goals be broadened?
- Objective 2: **Revisit process**: How can we better achieve these ESRs goals?
 - 2.1 How the ecosystem science is selected, incorporated and synthesized
 - 2.2 How the reports are disseminated in the council process.
 - 2.3 Review ESRs role in an evolving ecosystem information space as new data needs, capabilities, and products are developed
 - 2.4 Review of ESR staff organization

Terms of reference CIE

1. Should the ESR continue to **tailor efforts to inform the ABC and OFLs**?
2. How can the function of the ESR team better **meet the Council's needs**?
3. How can the ESRs better **meet the needs of the contributing** scientists and other knowledge holders?
4. How can the way the **ecosystem science** is selected, incorporated, and synthesized in the ESRs **be improved**?
5. How can the process of **disseminating the information** in the ESRs be improved?
6. How can the ESRs **maximize uptake** into fisheries management decisions?
7. What are the **costs, benefits**, and prioritization **of new and/or additional ESR-related products**?

Terms of reference CIE

- Received 47 individual recommendations, several overlapping
- Methods to prioritize recommendations and next steps for the next 2-3 years:
 - Preliminary assessment
 - Grouped similar recommendations, assessed feasibility and low-hanging fruit
 - Type of recommendation
 - Categorized recommendations as content (25), logistics (12), or process (10)
 - Implementation:
 - Assigned target body, onramp, document
 - Assessed capacity: Can do with current capacity or need extra capacity?

The one slide of shameless bragging

- “ESRs have proven to be **very useful** in the fisheries management context of the region.”
- “...the leading group of the ESRs is very **capable and is doing a very fine job...**”
- “The work that is done annually within the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Ecosystem Status Reports for the Eastern Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska is a **significant step** on the way towards an Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management.”
- “Discussions during the Review suggest that **many things are going well.**”
- “...there seem to be **good mechanisms** to incorporate ecosystem-based information into the ABC setting process.”



What CIE Panel valued most from current process

- Risk tables and their inclusion in stock assessments
- Meetings and discussion with stock assessment authors
- Uniqueness of approach and communication between stock assessment authors, not common in other centers or institutes (US or abroad)



Recommendations: Objective 1, TOR 1, Revisit ESR goals



Continue informing Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)

Consider informing Total Allowable Catch (TAC) & other management decisions

ESR Team: Informing ABC - improve current process and information

Informing TAC: We consider this aspirational and the new frontier. We will start discussing/ asking council family what information would be helpful



*GPT: is there some type of information in particular that would be useful (trade-offs)?
Improve response to GPT comments, document answers like for SSC?*



Strengthen and formalize risk tables



ESR Team:

- 1) *Increase value and efficiency of risk tables*
 - a) *Content: improve environmental connections to species/ stocks/ complexes*
 - b) *Logistics: formalize risk table process*
 - c) *Process: discuss with stock assessment authors to meet their needs*



*GPT: how can we improve Risk Tables?
(format? information? graphics? add summary of all risk tables?)*

Recommendations: Objective 2: TOR 2, 7, Revisit ESR process



Streamline and automate report,
speed up process, make time for analysis, synthesis

ESR Team:

- 1) *Started talks with AKFIN to automate submission (now via e-mail)*
- 2) *Evaluating use of Quarto/ other to speed report production (now individually using LaTeX)*



Synthesize information, increase use of synthesis tools



ESR Team:

- 1) *Now: ecosystem assessment (non-statistical) and thematic biophysical conditions and seabirds*
 - a) *Can add other themes: e.g. groundfish, marine mammal*
- 2) *Add food habits data: update diets, consumption estimates, etc.*
- 3) *Increase use of models: environmental, food-web, structural equation modeling, and other quantitative syntheses*



Recommendations: Objective 2: TOR 5 Revisit ESR process

Increase web presence

increase outreach, report and data availability

ESR Team:

- 1) *Easy recommended actions: share ESR ppt and/or recordings on AFSC website, now on Council website only*
- 2) *Move Report Card data time series to AKFIN*
 - a) *Eventually other time series as contributors opt in*



Next Steps

Sept. 2023 Groundfish
Plan Team - discuss
CIE findings

Feb. 2024 North Pacific Fishery
Management Council- discuss CIE
findings & priorities

**Report card data (AKFIN) &
web presence;** basis for
future automation/
streamlining & share ppt

**Oct. 2023 Risk tables &
early communication with
assessment authors/
assess needs**

**Other actions to
advance selected
recommendations/
items**

ESRs in Next 30 Years

This will still be true...

1. Communication, Collaboration, and Transparency (which build trust)
2. Adaptive, flexible
3. Applies across all 3+ Large Marine Ecosystems
4. Best scientific information available (National Standard #2) and information to support fishery management decisions



Thank You

Alaska Fisheries Science Center Ecosystem Status Reports

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/ecosystems/ecosystem-status-reports-gulf-alaska-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands>



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