
PEIS UPDATE

DIANA EVANS

ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023



PROGRAMMATIC EIS – UPDATE TO COUNCIL IN STAFF TASKING (1/2)

- June 2023: Council recommended NMFS initiate development of PEIS
 - Intent: evaluate and consider changes to the management policy and objectives of BSAI and GOA Federal fisheries, in light of changing environmental conditions
- Council asked staff to begin with the NEPA scoping process / Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS
- **NEW CIRCUMSTANCES:** changes to NEPA mean that the NOI would start a 2-year clock to complete and implement an EIS
- Staff concern about binding the Council and NMFS to this schedule, given undefined alternatives and other Council high-priority items



PROGRAMMATIC EIS – UPDATE TO COUNCIL IN STAFF TASKING (2/2)

- Staff asking for further direction from Council
- Options:
 - Proceed with NOI, commit to very ambitious timeline noting this will become one of Council's highest priorities for next two years
 - First conduct more public scoping through Council process, to refine alternatives
- Council may also want to consider opportunities for completing PEIS in conjunction with other IRA funding projects – similar goals
- Ecosystem Committee discussed at September 28th meeting



INFLATION REDUCTION ACT FUNDING

- NMFS has received \$1.2 billion to provide science-based management and conservation of the nation's marine resources as it confronts climate change
- NMFS has set aside \$20 million to support Councils implementing climate ready fisheries measures
 - NPFMC will receive \$375k initially, and can compete with other Councils for additional funds
- Grant money must be used within 4 years (2024-2027)
- Proposals must address fishery management and governance topics, not data and science needs
- Focus is on implemented outcomes



NMFS PRELIMINARY PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING

- Operationalize fish climate vulnerability assessments or other scientific products (e.g., ecosystem status reports, Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, etc.);
- Operationalize recommendations from climate scenario planning efforts;
- Implement management changes to address climate vulnerability or improve climate resiliency of fisheries, including those that are important to underserved communities;
- Implement measures that increase responsiveness of allocations or other management measures to climate impacts;
- Develop and advance climate-related fisheries management planning and implementation efforts in support of underserved communities.



HOW COULD THE IRA FUNDING AND PROGRAMMATIC EIS FIT TOGETHER?

- Council purpose for PEIS is to evaluate the management policy and objectives for Federal fisheries recognizing significant environmental change
- Links to IRA themes: climate resiliency of fisheries, advance climate-related fisheries management planning
- Strategic document that could help the Council evaluate specific program-level changes to prioritize for management measure changes
- Additional funding could support:
 - Staff hire/contractor to help write the PEIS
 - Workshops to provide informal opportunities to develop climate-ready management objectives



QUESTIONS?

*Council analytical staff experts also
available for questions*

*Feedback always appreciated. Email me or
npfmc.admin@noaa.gov*

DIANA EVANS

DIANA.EVANS@NOAA.GOV

