Ecosystem Committee Report

February 2023

Nicole Watson, NPFMC
The Committee sees the value and need of developing a Gulf of Alaska Fishery Ecosystem Plan structured similarly to the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan but recommends to the Council that it consider waiting until other ongoing initiatives reach a level of completion that would facilitate them informing a Gulf FEP prior to deciding whether to initiate an FEP.

The Committee recommends that the Taskforce continue to lead the Council’s consideration of adjustments to increase climate resiliency and supports Taskforce’s development of a diverse climate adaptability and resiliency toolbox and the spring 2023 workshop.
Northern Fur Seal (p.4)

- The Committee recommends that the agency schedule the public comment period for the Conservation Plan to overlap with an upcoming Council meeting, and that the Council should receive a presentation and submit a comment letter.

Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce (pp.4-5)

- The Committee recognizes the development of the protocol is a clear demonstration of respect for LKTKS.
- The Committee recommends that both the Committee and Council reflect on how to craft a vision statement as a potential outcome of adopting the protocol.