

Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan

D3 Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Action Modules Progress Report

*Local Knowledge, Traditional
Knowledge, and Subsistence Taskforce*

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North Pacific
Fishery Management Co
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Action Module Goal

- **Develop protocols** for operationalizing Local Knowledge (**LK**), Traditional Knowledge (**TK**) in management and **formulate methods** for assessing the likelihood a given Council action may affect **subsistence resources and users**.
- Inform the overall Council process and decision-making structure.



Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence

Local Knowledge	Traditional Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close environmental observations• Place-based• Empirical• Pragmatic• Often inter-generational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A living body of knowledge• Acquired through long-term sociocultural, spiritual, and environmental engagement• Defines human – animal reciprocal relationships• Defines human – human kinship and reciprocity• Embodies rules about right conduct that intertwine the pragmatic and spiritual• Transmitted inter-generationally through oral history and ritual• Rooted in time and place, while having wide applicability• Rooted in tradition, while adaptable and dynamic

Table 1-1 Description of Local and Traditional Knowledge (Bering Sea FEP 2019, pg. 16).

Overarching Goals Informing the Taskforce's Work

- Goal 1: To create processes and protocols through which the Council can identify, analyze, and consistently incorporate LK and TK, and the social science of LK and TK, into Council decision-making processes to support the use of best available scientific information in Ecosystem-based Fishery Management (EBFM). **(Objectives 1-3)**
- Goal 2: To create clear direction(s) for the Council regarding how impacts to subsistence are defined and incorporated into analyses as well as mitigation strategies for potential impacts to subsistence resources or uses of those resources. **(Objectives 4-6)**

Objective 1 and Associated Actions

Objective 1	The Taskforce will identify and define sources of LK and TK, and social science of LK and TK, to support the use of best scientific information available in Council decision-making.
Associated Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach consensus on definitions of terms. [Deliverable: Glossary of terms]• Synthesize existing protocols and projects related to the solicitation and consideration of LK and TK, and the social science of LK and TK. [Deliverable: Data synthesis document]• Explore synergies with existing projects and Climate Change Taskforce. [Deliverable: Living document of existing projects and partnerships]• Summarize the benefits of incorporating LK, TK, and the social science of LK and TK, into Council decision-making, particularly as it relates to EBFM. [Deliverable: Briefing statement]

Objective 2 and Associated Actions

Objective 2	Provide guidance and analytical protocols to council staff on how to evaluate and analyze LK and TK, and the social science of LK and TK.
Associated Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review existing analytical templates for staff to identify ways to build upon and improve existing processes [Deliverable: Analytical summary]• Develop a guidance protocol to evaluate and analyzing LK and TK, and the social science of LK and TK. [Deliverable: Guidance protocol]

Objective 3 and Associated Actions

Objective 3	Provide guidance on how LK and TK, and the social science of LK and TK, should be incorporated into Council decision-making processes.
Associated Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify potential “onramps” within the Council process for the Taskforce’s work. [Deliverable: Analytical summary]• Create protocols to gain appropriate consent for the use of LK and TK. [Deliverable: Protocol]• Establish protocols for the recognition of knowledge sources when LK and TK is solicited, analyzed, and included within analyses. [Deliverable: Protocol]

Objective 4 and Associated Actions

Objective 4	Identify the relevant and appropriate sources of subsistence data and information to use in Council decision-making processes.
Associated Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify pathways to facilitate strong partnerships among Council staff and subsistence users. [Deliverable: Briefing document]• Clarify the characteristics of subsistence, noting the many and context specific ways it can be defined among various user groups. [Deliverable: Briefing document]• Develop guidelines for Council staff for soliciting/identifying, analyzing, or using subsistence data in analyses. [Deliverable: Guidance document]• Develop a working repository of existing Alaska subsistence documents, projects, and resources relevant to region. [Deliverable: Briefing document]

Objective 5 and Associated Actions

Objective 5	Provide guidance on how subsistence information can be analyzed and incorporated into Council decision-making processes.
Associated Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a roadmap for the Council detailing how impacts to subsistence resources and users could be considered. [Deliverable: Guidance document]

Objective 6 and Associated Action

Objective 6	Identify existing measures and potential opportunities to mitigate impacts to subsistence resources and subsistence resources users.
Associated Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage direct reporting on subsistence or co-management issues from NMFS and/or the Subsistence Section with ADFG, or Alaska Native Organizations. [Deliverable: Regular cross agency meeting].

Work Products

Work Products to be Achieved by April 2020:

1. Update the Taskforce's workplan
2. Create a glossary of terms to be included in the Taskforce's workplan (*Objective 1*)
3. Begin work on identifying existing research projects for LK and TK (with focus on Alaska, Canada, and the Arctic). (*Objective 1*)
4. Communicate with the Community Engagement Committee and Climate Change Taskforce on potential synergies. (*Objective 1*)
5. Explore the possibility of a joint meeting with the Climate Change Taskforce. (*Objective 1*)
6. Begin identifying potential points of entry within the Council process for the Taskforce's work (e.g., public testimony, analyses). (*Objective 3*)

Work Products Upon Taskforce Completion

1. Protocol outlining best practices for soliciting and identifying LK, TK, and the social science of LK and TK.
2. Protocols on identifying and evaluating impacts to subsistence resources and users.
3. Outreach and engagement materials for multiple audiences (e.g., Taskforce meeting flyers).
4. Listserv with key Tribal and community representatives in Bering Sea region.
5. Short video describing how stakeholders (e.g., fishermen, individuals, or communities) can participate in the Council's process.
6. Final report and presentation for the Council.

Taskforce Meeting Structure and Ground Rules



- 3 meetings per year over the next two years. (Possibility of additional meetings in year three).
 - 1 in-person; 1 via teleconference; 1 to be decided
 - Next meeting (Meeting #2) to be held - April 2020 via teleconference.
- Support a meeting in a Bering Sea village where funding allows.
- The Taskforce will use a consensus model for decision-making.
 - Co-chairs will provide the Taskforce opportunity to review and comment on draft minutes, reports prior to their posting.

Public Engagement

- Consider informal Tribal Consultations as a component to public engagement.
- Plan co-presentation of materials by LK and TK holders when appropriate.
- Support the CEC's suggestion to accept public testimony given in person, via phone and/or web.
- Provide summary of public testimony included within each Taskforce report.
- Develop outreach materials announcing Taskforce meetings and other relevant events.



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Questions and Feedback

