

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council Ecosystem Committee  
DRAFT Agenda October 3 12 – 5 PM, Lupine Room Hilton Hotel  
October 4, 9 AM – 12 PM, Room 205, Old Federal Building, 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Teleconference line (907) 271-6368

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem Committee will meet from 12 to 5 PM on Monday, October 3 and 9 AM – 12 PM on Tuesday, October 4, 2016. The purpose of the meeting is to review and comment on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) definitions, draft proposed methods to evaluate the effects of fishing on EFH, draft report on non-fishing impacts on EFH, NOAA's EBFM Policy, and receive a presentation on the Ocean Conservancy's Bering Sea shipping risk analysis. Background materials will be available on the Council's Ecosystem Committed webpage at <http://www.npfmc.org/committees/ecosystem-committee/>.

12:00 – 12:15 Introductions and background Tweit

12:15 – 1:30 Essential Fish Habitat MacLean

The Council is currently reviewing Essential Fish Habitat as required by MSA. The Council approved the use of model-based EFH definitions in 2014, and reviewed preliminary EFH maps in April 2016. At that time the Council requested a single map for each species and life stage. The new maps will be reviewed by the Ecosystem Committee

1:30 – 2:45 Draft Fishing Effects methods MacLean

In April 2016 the SSC requested, and the Council approved a SSC subcommittee to develop draft methods to assess the impacts of fishing on Essential Fish Habitat. The subcommittee has developed a first draft of proposed methods. The Ecosystem Committee will review the draft proposed methods and provide comment

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 5:00 Draft Non-Fishing effects report Eagleton

As part of the mandated review of EFH, the Council must evaluate the effects of non-fishing activities on EFH. The AK Region has reformatted the evaluation to include freshwater and marine EFH, and added sections to evaluate effects of climate change and ocean acidification. The Ecosystem Committee will review the draft report and provide comment

10/4

9:00 – 9:15 Recap of day 1

9:15 – 10:00 NOAA EBFM Policy

Tweit

In 2016, NOAA released their Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Policy Directive (EBFM Policy) for public comment. The purpose of the EBFM Policy directive is to “better inform decisions and help achieve and optimize the benefits from marine fisheries by evaluating trade-offs among and between fisheries, aquaculture, protected species, biodiversity, and habitats, while maintaining resilient and productive ecosystems.” The agency released a Draft EBFM Roadmap in August to provide a national implementation strategy for the EBFM Policy. The Ecosystem Committee will review the draft EBFM Roadmap and provide comment to the Council.

10:00 – 11:00 Bering Sea shipping risk assessment

Becca Robins-  
Gisclair

The Ocean Conservancy contracted Nuka Research and Planning to produce a risk analysis on vessel traffic in the Bering Sea and Bering Strait region. The Risk Analysis will provide a preliminary synthesis of the current and future risks to the environment, subsistence use, and commercial fisheries associated with shipping in the region. The assessment will be a qualitative study focusing on the U.S. waters of the Bering Sea from the Aleutian Islands through the Bering Strait.

11:00 – 11:30 Recap and plan for future ECO meeting

Tweit