

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Telephone (907) 271-2809

Fax (907) 271-2817

Visit our website: <http://www.npfmc.org>

January 16, 2015

Mr. Denby Lloyd, Executive Director
North Pacific Research Board
1007 West 3rd Ave, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

On behalf of the Council, and as a follow up to our recent December meeting, I want to express our sincere appreciation for the excellent presentation provided to us by you and your staff. While some of us, including myself and Chairman Hull, are very familiar with the NPRB research mission and process, I believe your presentation was particularly informative to Council members and others who are not as familiar with that process and the specific areas of research focus administered by the NPRB. Many of the NPRB-supported research activities underway will relate to and inform Council initiatives, particularly those related to ecosystem-based management and involvement in the Arctic.

The Council's Ecosystem Committee has been very active over the past few years, and will be active in the coming year as we further refine our ecosystem-based management approach, and specifically work towards development of an overarching Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands to complement our existing Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for that area. I have attached for your reference a copy of the Council's 'Ecosystem Approach Vision Statement', which was developed by our Ecosystem Committee and adopted by the Council in February 2014.

Following from our discussions at the December Council meeting, we look forward to further collaboration with the NPRB as we refine our management approach to address issues associated with climate change, ocean acidification, or other factors affecting our fisheries and the ecosystem within which they exist. Your proposed Arctic research program promises to be particularly informative to the Council's interests, and we look forward to your offer to assist us as we consider the scope and content of a potential BS/AI FEP over the coming year.

Again, thank you for your presentation to the Council and we look forward to continued communication as our respective, complementary research and management missions evolve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Oliver". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chris Oliver
Executive Director

D-1 Council motion, Ecosystem Approach Vision Statement February 9, 2014

The Council adopts, as Council policy, the Ecosystem Approach developed and revised by the Ecosystem Committee and the SSC.

Ecosystem Approach for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Value Statement

The Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, and Aleutian Islands are some of the most biologically productive and unique marine ecosystems in the world, supporting globally significant populations of marine mammals, seabirds, fish, and shellfish. This region produces over half the nation's seafood and supports robust fishing communities, recreational fisheries, and a subsistence way of life. The Arctic ecosystem is a dynamic environment that is experiencing an unprecedented rate of loss of sea ice and other effects of climate change, resulting in elevated levels of risk and uncertainty. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has an important stewardship responsibility for these resources, their productivity, and their sustainability for future generations.

Vision Statement

The Council envisions sustainable fisheries that provide benefits for harvesters, processors, recreational and subsistence users, and fishing communities, which (1) are maintained by healthy, productive, biodiverse, resilient marine ecosystems that support a range of services; (2) support robust populations of marine species at all trophic levels, including marine mammals and seabirds; and (3) are managed using a precautionary, transparent, and inclusive process that allows for analyses of tradeoffs, accounts for changing conditions, and mitigates threats.

Implementation Strategy

The Council intends that fishery management explicitly take into account environmental variability and uncertainty, changes and trends in climate and oceanographic conditions, fluctuations in productivity for managed species and associated ecosystem components, such as habitats and non-managed species, and relationships between marine species. Implementation will be responsive to changes in the ecosystem and our understanding of those dynamics, incorporate the best available science (including local and traditional knowledge), and engage scientists, managers, and the public.

The vision statement shall be given effect through all of the Council's work, including long-term planning initiatives, fishery management actions, and science planning to support ecosystem-based fishery management.