



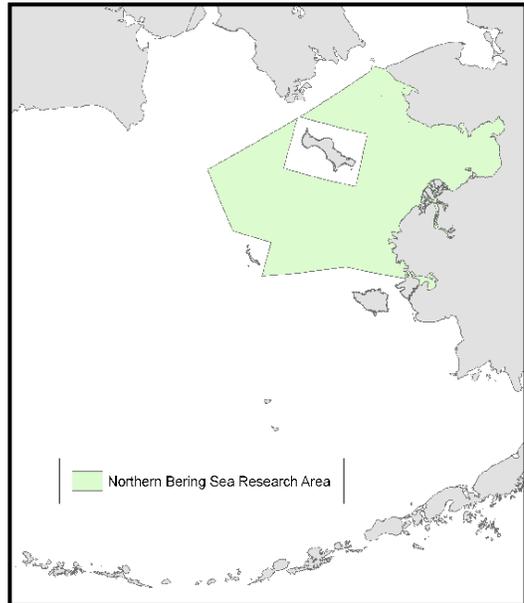
Northern Bering Sea Research Area Research Plan Community and Subsistence Workshop

**February 24 - 25, 2010
Anchorage, AK**

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), at the request of the Council, is developing a scientific research plan for the Northern Bering Sea Research Area (NBSRA) to study the effects of bottom trawling on the benthic community. The NBSRA was established by the Council, became effective in 2008, and is currently closed to bottom trawl fishing. The primary goals of the plan would be to use the research area to investigate the effects of bottom trawling on bottom habitat, and provide information to help with developing future protection measures in the NBSRA for crab, marine mammals, endangered species, and the subsistence needs of western Alaska communities.

Purpose of workshop

Communication with local communities is necessary to ensure their interests are represented in enacting policies and managing resources in the NBSRA. The purpose of this meeting is to gather input from subsistence fishing communities for the development of the NBSRA research plan. The purpose is to delineate areas of subsistence harvest or habitat of marine species in the NBSRA, understand the nature of subsistence activities, register concerns about the impact of commercial bottom trawling, and collect ecological knowledge of the NBSRA. The workshop is open to the public.



For more information on the research plan outline and schedule, visit our website:

http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/ecosystem/NBSRA.htm

Or contact:

Dr. Cynthia Yeung, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, project lead, cynthia.yeung@noaa.gov

Diana Evans, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, diana.evans@noaa.gov

Nicole Kimball, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, nicole.kimball@noaa.gov

(See a draft agenda for the Community and Subsistence Workshop on the back of this flyer.)

DRAFT AGENDA

Northern Bering Sea Research Area Research Plan Community and Subsistence Workshop

February 24: 9 am – 3 pm

February 25: 9 am – 12 pm

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 304
(corner of 6th Ave & K Street in downtown Anchorage)

I. Overview of NBSRA concept and planning (AFSC)

- Background of NBSRA, status of plan development and timeline, Council recommendations
- Review of current knowledge regarding ecology and fisheries in NBSRA
 - subsistence use, fishery interaction, distribution and population of marine mammals (NOAA, FWS, AK Marine Mammal Stock Assessments), fish, shellfish

II. Information on subsistence species, habitat, and activities (subsistence communities)

- Descriptions of communities (locations, subsistence populations, subsistence activities, etc.)
- Presentation of community-based information and records useful for research planning, e.g.:
 - maps and geographic positions of harvesting areas and species habitats
 - species harvested (marine mammals, seabirds, fish, shellfish) and seasons
 - methods of harvest (vessels, gear)
 - catch and effort (space-time patterns, length/weight/sex of catch)
 - traditional knowledge and observations of animal/human ecology
 - methods of subsistence data collection and recording within communities (electronic surveys, interviews, etc.)

III. Discussion (all)

- Potential impact of bottom trawling
- Management considerations
- Research priorities
- Ecosystem monitoring
- Partnership and cooperation in research and management
- Timing for future comment/feedback
- NBSRA Research Plan schedule