

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council Ecosystem Committee August 6-7, 2015 Juneau, AK DRAFT Summary

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem Committee met in Juneau, AK at the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute on August 6 and 7, 2015 to review and amend a draft discussion paper outlining the committee's vision for a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan. Because nearly all of the discussion concerned revisions to the draft discussion paper, the Chairman requested a summary of the meeting rather than traditional minutes. The results of the committee's discussions will be incorporated into the discussion paper for presentation to the NPFMC at the October or December Council meeting.

Committee members in attendance: Bill Tweit (Chairman), David Benton, Stephanie Madsen, Rose Fosdick, Jeanne Hansen, Steve Ignell, Jim Ayres, David Fluharty (via phone)
Committee members absent: John Iani

NPFMC staff in attendance: Steve MacLean, Diana Evans, Matt Robinson (NPFMC's Seagrant Fellow)

Others in attendance: Becca Robbins Gisclair (Ocean Conservancy), Karla Bush (ADFG), Raychelle Daniel (Pew Charitable Trusts), Brandee Gerke (NMFS), Jeff Short (JWS Consulting, LLC), AnneMarie Eich (NMFS), Merrick Burden (Marine Conservation Alliance), Chris Krenz (Oceana), John Warrenchuk (Oceana), Trent Artill (ADFG), Shannon Carroll (AMCC), Heather Brandon (WWF), Jackie Dragon (Greenpeace), Steve Marx (Pew Charitable Trusts), Mike Levine (Oceana). Others were present on the phone, and included Nicole Kimball (ADFG), Kirstin Holsman (AFSC), Ivonne Ortiz (AFSC), Dorothy Childers (AMCC), Ernie Weiss (Aleutians East Borough), Chris Balliet. Others may have been present but not identified.

Diana Evans led the committee through the draft discussion paper, which is intended to be a proposal to the Council articulating the committee's position on development and utility of a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan (BS FEP), in response to a request from the Council in October, 2014. The committee reviewed each section and made suggestions for edits and clarifications. Those suggested edits and clarifications will be made to the discussion paper and submitted to the committee for additional review at its October 29-30 meeting in Anchorage, AK. The revised paper will be presented to the Council in December, 2015.

The committee also reviewed a revised schedule for updates to Essential Fish Habitat, presented by Jeanne Hansen (NMFS). The committee noted that they had previously seen an updated schedule and had no concerns about the new schedule.

The committee considered whether or not they would receive a presentation about the results of the August, 2014 NMFS survey of the Bering Sea slope and canyons for presence and abundance of corals, and noted that they had already reviewed draft results of this survey. The committee concluded that the decision whether or not to initiate an analysis was a Council policy call and, therefore, decided it was not necessary at this time for the committee to make any recommendations to the Council.

The committee received public comment from Jackie Dragon (Greenpeace), Becca Robbins Gisclair (Ocean Conservancy), Chris Krenz and John Warrenchuk (Oceana), and Steve Marx (Pew Charitable Trusts).