

Write-up from AFSC Management Workshops

For ED report - Oct 2018:

Several Council staff members participated series of joint Management Workshops with AFSC social scientists over the summer. The objective of these meetings was to provide better communication between the agencies (Council staff, AKRO staff and AFSC staff) on current projects and to highlight opportunities for integration of work when available.

Jon McCracken and Sarah Marrinan met with ASFC staff on Aug 6th and 7th. They gave a presentation on the analytical template used for FMP and Federal regulatory amendments, highlighting areas required in order to comply with certain laws as compared to areas where analysts have more flexibility on the type of information they include. Jon and Sarah presented the details of current Council actions they are tasked with. This two-day meeting also included individual meetings with AFSC social scientists to discuss resources such as the Economic SAFE, Economic Data Reports, community profiles and other sources of information about communities that may be of use in NEPA analyses. In addition, Chang Seung provided a presentation and demonstration of a recently developed webtool which can estimate the economic impacts of a commodity or industry-based shock to the economy.

Elizabeth Figus met with AFSC staff on August 22nd. She gave a presentation introducing herself as a new staff member at the Council, presenting multiple uses of the “Three-Meeting Outlook” living document on the Council website, as well as detailing current and upcoming Council actions on her tasking list. During this one-day meeting, Elizabeth also met individually with AFSC social scientists throughout the day to discuss ongoing research, resources such as the Economic SAFE, and ways to streamline work on the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan with ongoing work at the AFSC.

Sam Cunningham met with AFSC staff on September 11th and 12th. Sam discussed the Council/NMFS’s action planning process, focusing on where opportunities might exist to bring AFSC/PSMFC expertise into the analytical process on practical and mutually beneficial timelines. Sam also discussed Council staff’s desire to build internal capacity to work on Social Impact Assessments (SIA), including an internal workshop in 2019. That effort is likely to entail new opportunities to collaborate with AFSC/PSMFC social science staff, and utilization of the descriptive community engagement analyses being produced at AFSC.

More detailed, informal version for Diana Evans (and ourselves):

Jon McCracken & Sarah Marrinan

On Monday the 6th of August, Sarah and Jon met with Steve Kasperski, Brian Garber-Yonts, Marysia Szymkowiak (over the phone), Sarah Wise, Chang Seung, Jean Lee, Amanda Faig, and Melissa Rhodes-Reese (over the phone). For a good part of the morning we introduced ourselves and shared information concerning the different projects we are currently working on. Sarah and Jon presented on the analytical template, including opportunities of analytical flexibility within the NEPA format. The group went to lunch together where we continued to discuss previous work and upcoming projects.

After lunch, there was follow-up discussion on the information available in the Economic SAFE, the Ecosystem Socio-economic Profiles (ESP) and the Economic Performance Report (EPR). Sarah and I discussed how we currently use this information and where we might see future use. The AFSC staff highlighted the reference information available on communities, include Community Profiles (last done in 2012/13), Fishing Communities of Alaska snapshots, Fishing Community profiles document prepared by Mike Downs and Mike Fey, and the community vulnerability indices the AFCS has created for different fisheries. I suggested it would be helpful to find a better way to organize or flag information gathered on a particular community. For instance, NMFS tag FR notices (proposed/ final rules, etc) based on the topic. But if we gather detailed information on a community for a specific analysis, people may not know where to look for something like that. Sarah Wise and Marysia raised the point that they also have institutional knowledge about some communities from their visits that isn't necessarily published and some of that information could be shared through a phone conversation. We talked about doing a better job of sharing contact information, for instance in the way that Council staff has a list of NMFS employees right by their desk.

The following day, we meet briefly individually with Brian and Marysia for a more detailed discussion concerning exchanging of information. Our meeting concluded with Chang Seung providing a 2-hour presentation and demonstration of the AFSC's Multi-regional Social Accounting Matrix model and the recently develop web application.

Elizabeth Figus

One Wednesday, the 22nd of August, Elizabeth spent the day at the Science Center meeting with and presenting to AFSC social science staff. From 9-11:30, Elizabeth had 30-minute meeting with (in order): Steve Kasperski, Sarah Wise, Marysia Szymkowiak (over the phone), Kim Sparks, Ben Fissel and Brian Garber-Yonts. The AFSC social science staff took Elizabeth out to lunch, before convening as a group, with additional personnel attending on the phone (Dan Lew, Sally Bibb, and Melissa Reese).

Overall, the in-person meetings provided a great opportunity for Elizabeth to introduce herself and get to know the individual staff members at AFSC. More specifically, Sarah Wise provided Elizabeth with a draft paper she is working on about how to understand the meaning of communities in the regions we manage. Brian and Ben also got Elizabeth thinking in new ways about the Economic SAFE, and ways her work may overlap with what they do.

From 1:30pm to 3:30pm, Elizabeth gave a presentation introducing herself as a new staff member at the Council, presenting multiple uses of the "Three-Meeting Outlook" living document on the Council website, as well as detailing current and upcoming Council actions on her tasking list. Discussions about

Elizabeth's tasking were broad-ranging, and included descriptions of the Observer Program and Electronic Monitoring data streams/program design; defining communities and working to ensure that the AFSC and Council staff are using compatible terminology/term definitions; challenges and opportunities of the Paperwork Reduction Act; upcoming guidelines for the SIA process; and, how to present and use local and traditional knowledge most productively in the Council process. Sally, Steve and Marysia also announced their plans to solicit a fellow from the Alaska SeaGrant program to work on SSPT stuff, including drafting a literature review of guidance for including qualitative information in the Council process. The fellow would be based in Juneau but could also spend time in Anchorage at the Council offices if that is amenable to the Council.

Sam Cunningham

On Tuesday, September 11 Sam met with AFSC staff throughout the day. The first part of the day was structured around Sam's presentation on his work portfolio and ongoing/upcoming projects that might be of interest to research staff. Those in attendance included Steve Kasperski, Sarah Wise, Ben Fissel, Allen Chen, Anna Henry, Jean Lee, Kim Sparks, Anna Lavey, and Janelle Larson, as well as Dan Lew, Marysia Szymkowiak, and Melissa Rhodes-Reese on the phone. During a lunch session, Sam met with Kasperski, Fissel, Henry, and Brian Garber-Yonts. The afternoon session included Kasperski, Fissel, Henry, Lee, Lew, and Szymkowiak.

Topics covered during the morning session included: how the Halibut AMB project's SIA might draw on existing sources of information; different regional approaches to understanding monitoring costs; projects that the Council might pursue as it considers generational turn-over in the IFQ Program; and using the Council process to respond to emergent environmental events like the Pacific cod decline and large year classes of small sablefish recruiting into the fishery. Throughout the morning and afternoon, participants looked for opportunities to link AFSC/PSMFC expertise and job responsibilities with the Council/NMFS work-flow. Sam described the Council/NMFS Action Planning process as well as the "normal" schedule for Council review and rulemaking. The group noted that not all Council projects provide an opportunity to utilize AFSC research capacity, but when opportune projects emerge the appropriate time to engage research staff is early on. Council staff could use their discretion to include research staff in scoping and analytical strategy during the Action Planning phase, with the understanding that researchers' help might only yield opportunities to be involved over the long-term, if at all. A recent example of AFSC's ESSR staff assisting in a management issue on a Council timeline is Ben Fissel helping Sam with one-off analyses of seasonal groundfish export value; this occurred at the discussion paper stage and was conducted via direct/informal communication. Finally, Sam informed the group that the Council's staff is looking to enhance its in-house capacity to perform SIA work and that it will hold an internal workshop in early 2019.

Sam conducted follow-up meetings on Wednesday (9/12) with Kasperski, Wise, Szymkowiak, Fissel, Henry, and Garber-Yonts. Some of the topics covered include a forthcoming NOAA-level document on community participation in US catch share programs, new community-focused sections in the 2018 Groundfish SAFEs, participation in a NMFS-level working group on the impact of tariffs on US fisheries, existing work related to halibut/sablefish IFQ hired-master relationships and QS transfer decisions, and EDR data collection. Sam also utilized his time at AFSC to meet in person with FMA Division staff regarding the monitoring fee analysis.