

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council Ecosystem Committee
1-5 PM, February 2, 2016
Portland, OR
Agenda

The North Pacific Fishery Management's Ecosystem Committee is meeting on February 2, 2016 to review the Groundfish Policy and Workplan, preliminary considerations for development of a Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan team, and update on the development of the 5-year review of Essential Fish Habitat descriptions in the Council's FMPs. Public testimony may be taken at the chairman's discretion. Teleconference is available at 907-271-6368.

1:00 Introductions and Purpose

1:15 Groundfish Policy and Workplan

The Groundfish Policy and Workplan is a product of the programmatic review of the Council's two groundfish FMPs completed in 2004. That review created a policy that includes 45 management objectives designed to guide Council actions. The workplan is a way of merging specific Council actions with that policy. Jim Armstrong, Council staff, will provide information to reflect which management objectives are addressed with current and pending Council actions. Ecosystem Committee input is requested to review the need, and recommend ways to best capture and track Council progress toward meeting those management objectives.

3:30 Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team development

At the December 2015 meeting, the Council initiated development of the Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan. As part of that motion, the Council directed staff to provide recommendations on the composition of the Bering Sea FEP team, terms of reference for the BS FEP team, and development of an outreach and public involvement plan for the FEP. Council staff will present preliminary thoughts on the structure and composition of the core FEP team, public involvement principles, and Action Module 1 structure for committee review and discussion.

4:30 Essential Fish Habitat review information

The MSA requires review of Essential Fish Habitat information every five years. The second five-year review of EFH in Alaska is currently underway with a preliminary report scheduled at the April Council meeting. NMFS AKR Habitat Conservation Division ARA, Jeanne Hanson, will provide the committee information about the products for review at the April Council meeting. The committee may consider a schedule to complete that review before the Council meeting.