

Council Motion

E-1 Staff Tasking: Ecosystem Workshop

June 11, 2018

The Council recognizes the success of the Ecosystem Workshop held in February 2018 in Seattle. The Council is interested in continuing the inclusive and informative dialogue with stakeholders and experts in multiple aspects of the Council's fishery management arena. The Council, therefore, directs staff to prepare a report on the potential for periodic (biennial, opportunistic) forums to address ecosystem science or other topics that would benefit from a public dialogue. Potential topics for an ecosystem science forum could include:

1. Ecosystem indicators (biological and socioeconomic) and their utility as early warning signs for environmental change
2. Shifting stock distribution (and increased variability in distribution) and how ongoing changes occurring in the ecosystem may affect harvesters and communities.

Staff are requested to work with NOAA Fisheries (Alaska Region and AFSC) to identify other topics for consideration.

Rationale and talking points

- The Ecosystem workshop was, by all accounts, a tremendous success
- The Ecosystem Committee, SSC, and AP all recommend that we continue this sort of discourse
- Including a wide range of stakeholders and providing the opportunity for conversation, is a key part of the success of the ecosystem workshop
- Engaging Tribal, rural community, and other stakeholders and incorporating traditional knowledge remains a priority for the Council, and will be advanced through these potential forums, the community engagement committee, and the Bering Sea FEP.