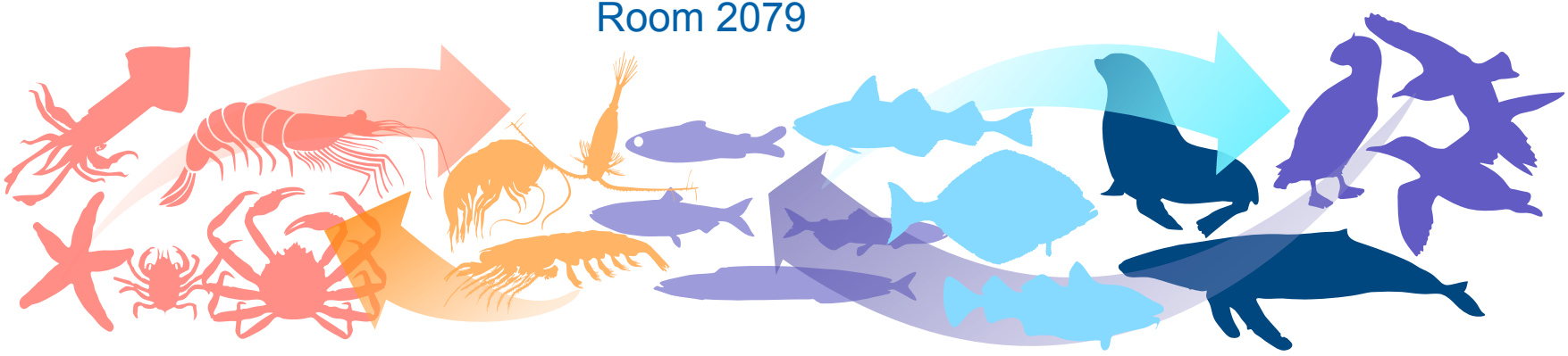
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs)

CIE Review
DAY 2

Room 2079



Should the ESR continue to tailor efforts to inform the ABC (and OFLs)?

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- ESRs are used informally for many uses
- ESRs intentionally focused on ABCs beginning ~2012 to facilitate uptake/application of information
  - Documenting how ecosystem information is specifically used in management is challenging for many efforts
    - AFSC ESRs have been successful in this regard
- Advantages/disadvantages of expanding focus depends on
  - People power
  - Effectiveness

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- Should the ESR continue to tailor efforts to inform the ABC (and OFLs)?
    - how to evaluate the pros and cons of broadening the focus?
- Perennial "issue" of whether socio-economic information should be included, and if so, to what types of management issues (e.g., TAC or others) should the information apply?
- Should there be more "checks and balances" in the tailoring of information? If so, who should be included? Pros/cons.

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How can the function of the ESR team better meet the Council's needs?

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CURRENT FUNCTIONS

- 1-2 lead editors per ESR
- Inclusion in an ESR is considered an 'end-point' for contributors
- PPT presentations are syntheses
  - Not all contributions are included
- Full ESRs (pdfs) are quite long; few likely read in their entirety
- Assessment of broader ecosystem health

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DISCUSSION POINTS

- Additional resources and how to best leverage those
- Should we conduct a 'metrics of success'
  - what information is used each year
  - how/where is it used (risk tables, ppts, etc.)
- Are there better way to synthesize information
  - Layered/stratified by audience (i.e., Plan Team, SSC, AP, Council)
- Change the format of the ESRs (online addendum of contributions, etc.)
- Stock-specific versus broader ecosystem health
- Could/should ESRs prompt Council motions/actions

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How can the ESRs better meet the needs of the contributing scientists and other knowledge holders?

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Currently

- ESRs are reliant on collaborators within and external to NOAA to share their data, knowledge, and expertise
- Raises profile of data sets & program & providers
- Additional value out of data through connections to other information, potentially advance their incorporation into stock assessments, ecosystem analyses, future indicators, models
- Justify funding/ program resources

Challenges

- Communication back to communities and contributors
- Maintaining contributors' interpretation and attribution is important
- Mixed level of feedback to contributors on how their contributions were used
- ESR workflow is challenging in it's quick deadlines, current structure, and limited time for higher level synthesis

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How can the ESRs better meet the needs of the contributing scientists and other knowledge holders?

1. How to ensure current and future collaborators get value out of this partnership?
2. How could we improve communicating information and feedback back to contributors and communities
3. Value in better tracking and communicating how individual contributions are used (presentations, Risk Tables, In Briefs)?
4. How to make workflow most efficient for contributors while maintaining credit and expert interpretation (e.g., streamlining, automating, synthesizing)?

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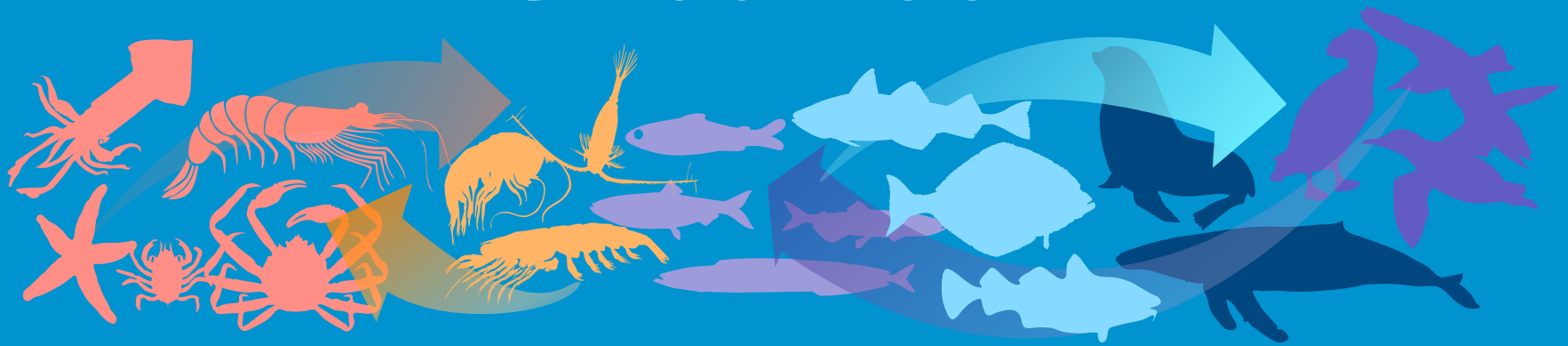
LUNCH

BACK at 1:00 PM



How can the way the ecosystem science is selected, incorporated, and synthesized in the ESRs be improved?

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Currently

- *Contribution type*: one-time in noteworthy, test in noteworthy, regular contribution
- *Selection* criteria: content relevance, regularity, need in section
- *Incorporation:* standard/ themed synthesis format, quantitative vs qualitative, content editing
  - elevate to report card, inclusion (or not) in ecosystem assessment, risk table, or In Brief
- *Synthesis*: Some discussion during PEEC, mostly in ecosystem assessment, each risk table, In Brief
  - currently only seabirds and oceanography are synthesized by theme
  - little correlation mentioned across indicators in individual contributions (except for above); somewhat hindered by lack of availability of time series.
- *Post-evaluation*: discussion of Council questions, comments; no strict evaluation of indicators/ assessment. PEEC now focuses on red flags; no review of last year's conditions/ assessment.

Challenges:

- Manual vs automated (pushback to provide data, hard to standardize plot); currently manual
- Tight timeline for synthesis -could increase with automation of submissions?
- Internal review of assessment within cycle; hard to incorporate suggestions/answer questions

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How can the way the ecosystem science is selected, incorporated, and synthesized in the ESRs be improved?

- What should feedback focus on during internal review process?
- Should there be an additional review of selected indicators for ESRs and ecosystem assessment? Currently lead editors make all decisions of driving indicators, processes
- Should there be intermediate synthesis for contributions under same or related themes?
- Should there be more involvement/ proactive development of synthesis products or mechanistics relationships key to each LME? ESR team does not have own funding, funds come from external grants/ internal programs. Effort now focused mostly on new indicators.

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How can the process of disseminating the information in the ESRs be improved? (with a focus on non-Council)

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Current Dissemination

1. Products
   a. Reports
   b. Risk Tables
   c. In Briefs
2. Presentation
   a. Council (public meetings)
   b. Meetings, conferences, workshops, media, individual meetings
3. Other
   a. Videos
   b. Website (a subset of time series data and all Reports/ In Briefs)

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How can the process of disseminating the information in the ESRs be improved?

1. Data access and availability
2. Communication & Outreach to non-Council groups
3. Communication back to contributors
4. Communication to industry and communities

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How can the ESRs maximize uptake into fisheries management decisions?

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- Identify the current on-ramps
  - max ABC at SSC
- Are there new on-ramps for ESR info?
  - “up” the pipeline and “down” the pipeline
- Can we enhance/focus the current on-ramps
  - Sept GPT versus Dec Council
  - Are we focused too much on Dec?
  - Should we broaden?
- Other regulatory decisions within the EBFM toolbox?

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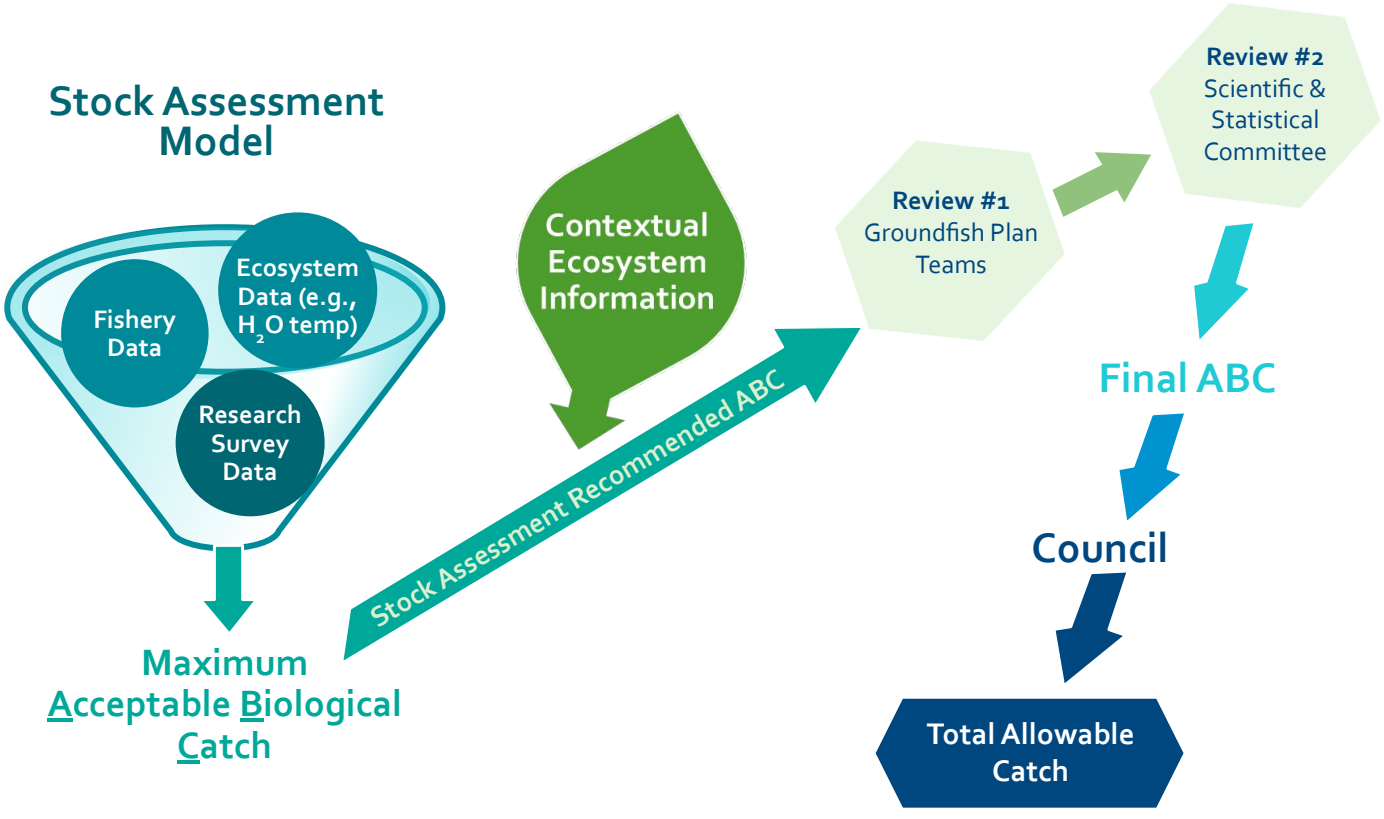

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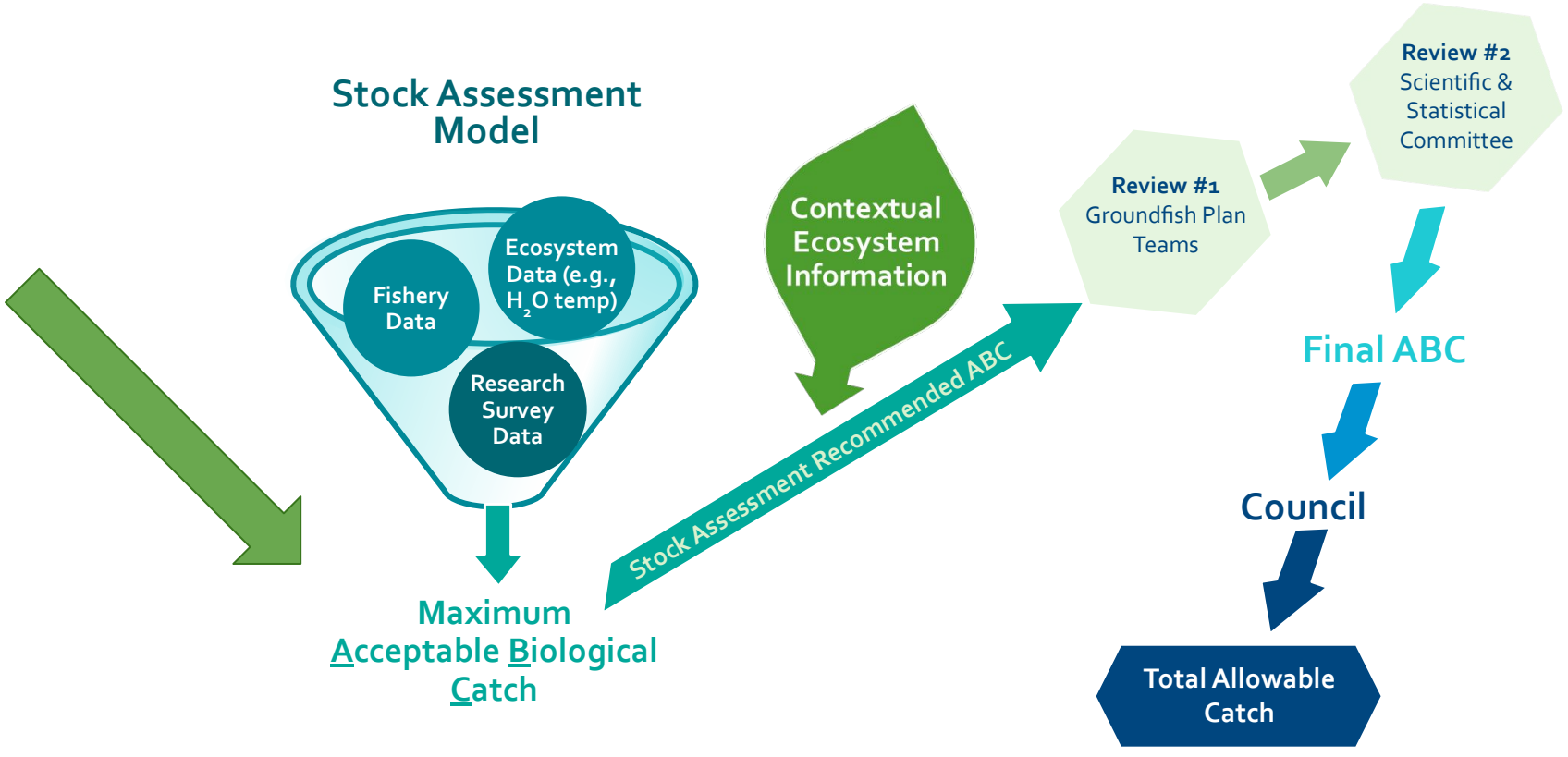

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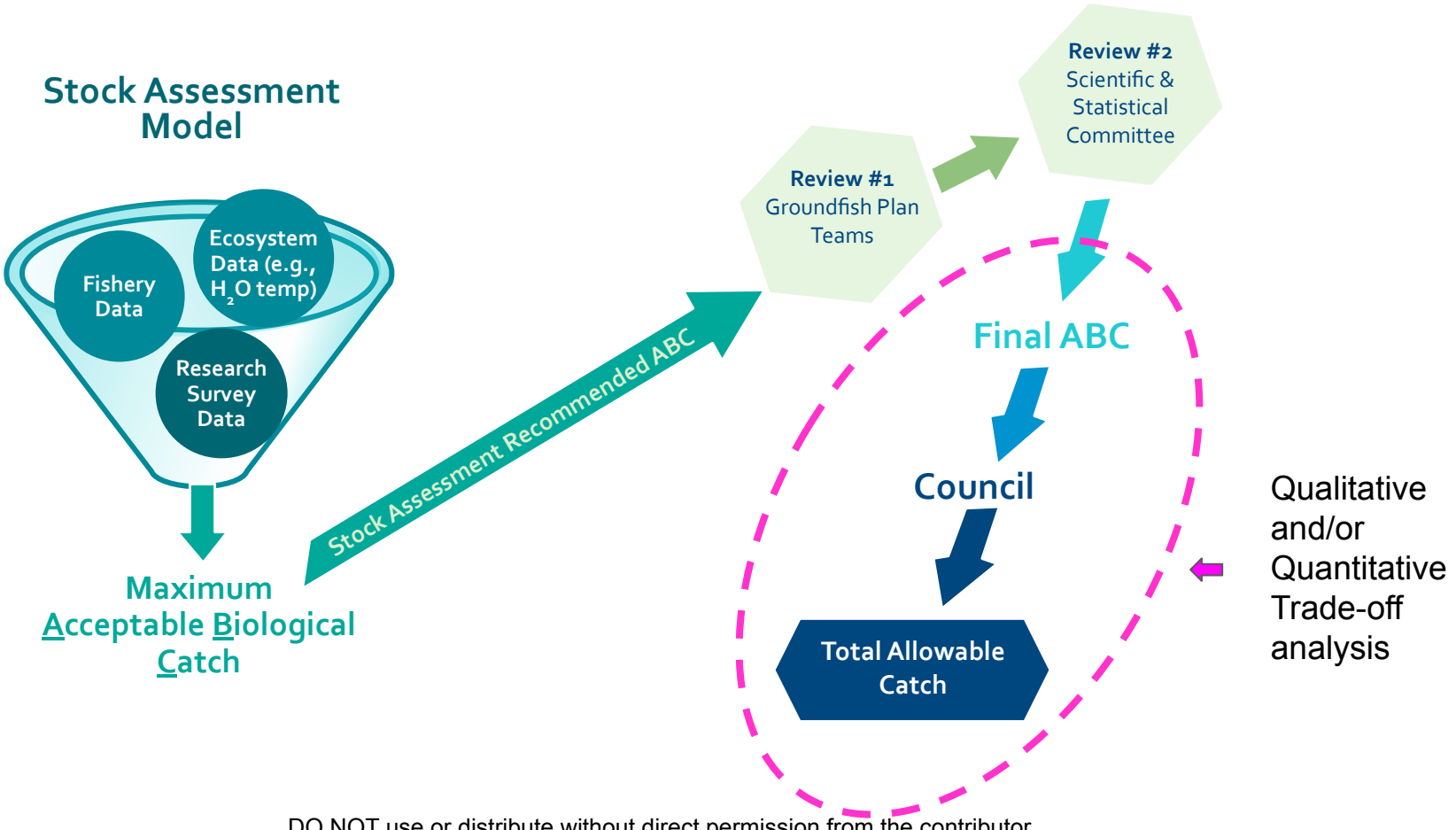

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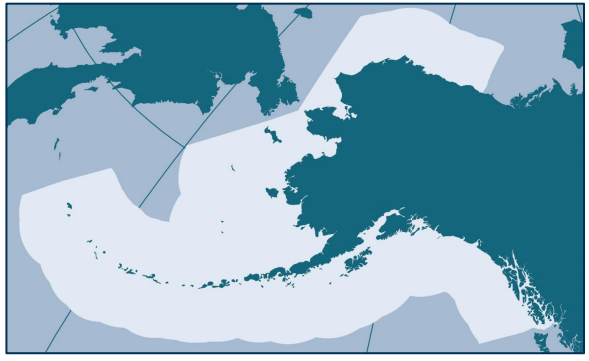
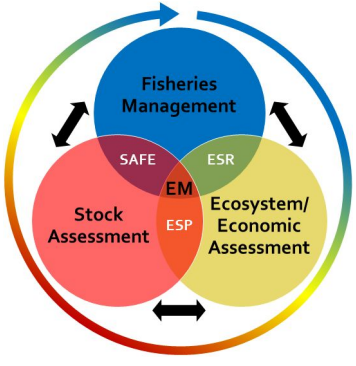
The EBFM toolbox in Alaska

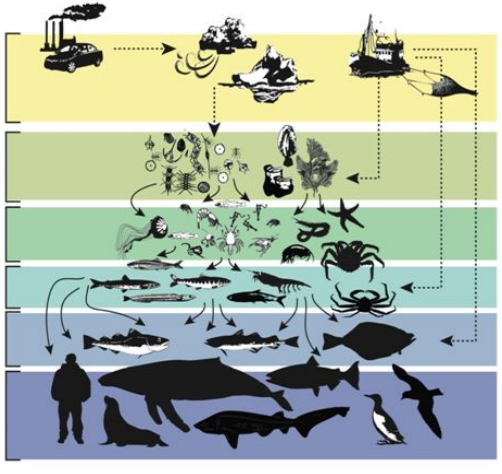


Ecosystem Status Reports

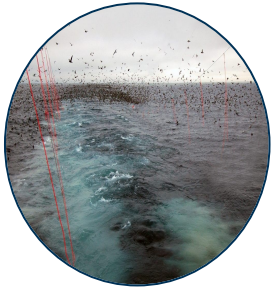


Ecosystem & Socioeconomic Profiles

Protected Species Catch Limits



Climate-informed Ecosystem Models and MSEs



Gear Modifications

Fishery Closures

Optimum Yield Caps

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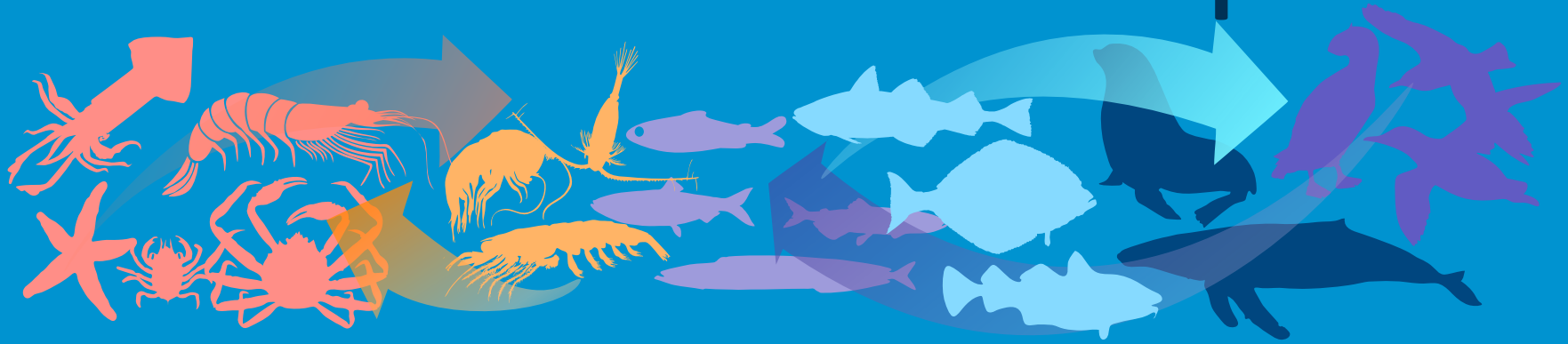
BREAK
will return at 4:05p PT



What are the costs, benefits, and prioritization of new and/or additional ESR-related products?

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Current Process Benefits

- Info included early on stock assessments (informs model selection and risk table)
- Highly tailored and integrated into ABC process
- Multiple, tiered on-ramps of information enhances non-ABC uses
- Same info to SSC, AP, Council
- High level of collaboration with contributors and stock assessment authors
- Year-specific highlights/ story
- Known structure and content
- Contributions perceived as valued product

Costs

- Timed for October - December ABC (e.g mismatch crab specifications for AI)
- Lack of specificity to each Council body
- Misses other non-ABC on-ramps
- Ecosystem Assessment and contributions selected to inform ABCs, other issues secondary
- Time consuming coordination and editing
- Non standardized annual ecosystem assessment
- No evaluation of Council goals (example of other products)

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AI ESR unique attributes

Adding TAC & Other products Benefits

- Current process mostly usable to inform TAC
- Formal inclusion of ecosystem information in TAC and other decisions (closures, bycatch, research priorities)
- Expansion of human dimension indicators
- ESR as on-ramp for other types of information
- Might use other non-ABC on-ramps
- Could provide metrics of success
- Could increase outreach/ communication

Costs

- Need to tailor info to AP and Council
- Might miss awareness of ecosystem info leading to ABC
- Other products will require more people-hours
- Might have to automate process to offset above
- Initial time/funds investment on new products
- Same time for presentation, more info (unless strategically tailored)
- Might need expertise outside current team
- Communication/ outreach vs new tools/ indices

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Priority Setting

Self serving priorities
Community serving priorities

- Based on today's discussions, what rises to the top of **priorities**?
- What is the best use of current resources?
- What is the best use of additional resources?

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PUBLIC COMMENT