



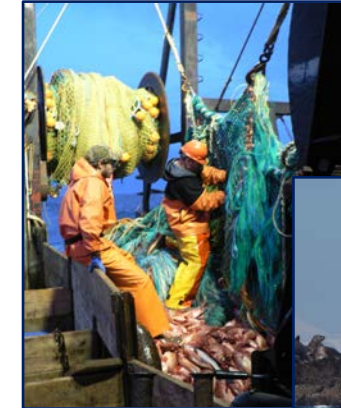
Use of ESRs in the Council Process

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Responding to ESR Questions

- ▶ What is the Council perspective on the potential and realized utility of the ESRs?
- ▶ How can the function of the ESR team better meet Council needs?
- ▶ Some perspective on current unresolved issues
 - ▶ Whether/how to include economic and socioeconomic information
 - ▶ How/when should ESRs inform TAC-setting
- ▶ How do NPFMC efforts align or contrast with national EBFM efforts?



Distinguishing ESR usefulness for Plan Teams, SSC, Advisory Panel, and Council

- ▶ **AFSC and ADFG authors** prepare stock assessments
 - ▶ **Council Plan Teams** (stock assessment review bodies)
 - ▶ Stock assessment review bodies, recommend biological target/limit fishing levels (ABC/OFL)
 - ▶ **Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)**
 - ▶ Review and approve stock assessments, set ABC/OFL
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- ▶ **Council's Advisory Panel** (industry/stakeholder advisors)
 - ▶ Recommend catch limits
 - ▶ Recommend management measures, identify problems in need of resolution
 - ▶ **Council** (appointed regional fishery experts from AK/WA; State/Fed fishery agency leadership)
 - ▶ Final recommendation on all catch levels (biological, reduced as necessary)
 - ▶ Decides which problems to address and what management actions to recommend

ESR authors have always been responsive to Council

- ▶ Continual evolution, refinement, improvements to ESR over time

Communication, accessibility

- Evolution over time from compendium of data
- Impact assessment, top trends
- In briefs pamphlet

Including non-traditional information

- Citizen science
- Local knowledge
- Traditional knowledge

Integrating ESR information into actionable pathway

- Working directly with stock authors
- Risk table development

Examples of when ESR information is most useful to Council

(vs earlier in process)

Explanations for unexpected events

- providing a “why” when trends go awry
- eg 2018: narrative to explain GOA Pacific cod collapse

Hot topics / “in briefs” / oral presentation during harvest specifications

- Provides overview of ecosystem changes, events/trends to watch out for
- Opportunity for Council members to ask questions about information presented or trends

Examples of other Council uses of ESR information (outside of harvest specifications)

Comprehensive, programmatic evaluations

- 2004 Groundfish PSEIS – programmatic evaluation of impact of groundfish fisheries on the environment shaped early versions of ESR
- ESR information has been used to supplement that and other program-level evaluations since then

Other Council management analyses

- Incorporate data trends, indices from ESR compilations

Support of Fishery Ecosystem Plans

- FEPs help to shape the Council's priorities and objectives for a management region
- ESRs have been an onramp to track metrics related to those objectives

Research priorities

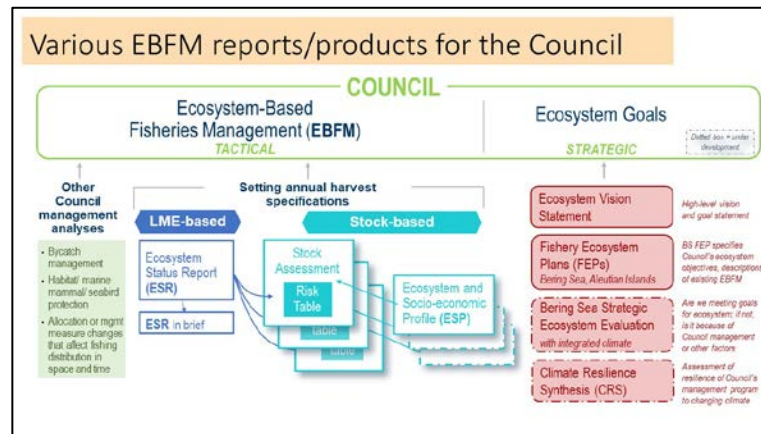
- Understanding ESR information underpins relative urgency of information needs

Council struggles with how to act on ESR information

- ▶ ESR presentation for Council is largely informational, to provide context
 - ▶ Understand the environment in which other groups have been looking at setting biological limits for species
- ▶ Council and AP members less likely to have a science background
- ▶ IDEAS:
 - ▶ Continue to draw connections in presentation between ESR information and where the Council will see that play out in risk tables, ESPs, species-specific info
 - ▶ Remind Council that ESR presentation isn't actionable every year, but it is critical when explaining the unexpected/ providing a narrative

Council struggles with plethora of ecosystem / EBFM products

- ▶ Specifications products: ESRs, ESPs, Risk Tables
- ▶ Indicator products: ESRs, Climate report, FEP objectives report
- ▶ Predictive products: ESRs, ACLIM, models
- ▶ More Council issue than ESR team issue
- ▶ IDEAS:
 - ▶ Clear and consistent messaging about purpose of different products, and how the Council is expected to use them
 - ▶ Cross-communication among staff working on different products
 - ▶ Better delineation of how products and groups should align



Example of graphic prepared to explain different strategic and tactical products

Opportunities at NPFMC compared to other national EBFM efforts

- ▶ Starting point: Council takes pride in the way ecosystem science is used to support NPFMC management
- ▶ Trust in scientific explanations for changing stock status, distribution, etc.
- ▶ Less trust in scientific expertise on economic and socioeconomic information
 - ▶ industry members have expertise and access to on-water and confidential data on costs, markets, etc.
- ▶ Some Council member interest in tools that provide a more actionable role for Council members to review acceptable levels of risk tolerance
 - ▶ eg MAFMC



Summary thoughts

ESR purpose met effectively when information is integrated throughout process

All Council members do not yet fully understand how/where/to what degree that integration happens

ESR narrative is critical during unusual events

What is role for ESR information when integration is working and nothing is unusual?

Is there a role for predictive ESR information to be discussed with more confidence? (while maintaining credibility)

