

Council Member Ongoing Development

November 15-16, 2022

<http://www.fisherycouncils.org/cmmod-workshops/2022> - presentations and other material will be posted here.

Councils' EBFM Activities Overview

North Pacific

- Litigation – programmatic evaluation of groundfish fisheries
- Management framework – objectives, ecosystem vision statement
- FEPs (Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea)
- FEPs are strategic planning documents = “action informing, not action forming”
- Evaluation of cumulative effects
- Climate Change Task Force – climate resiliency synthesis report
- Ongoing challenges: managing expectations, stakeholder buy-in, how to fit tools in existing process

Pacific

- Started addressing EBFM in 2009
- Ecosystem advisory sub-panels for FMPs
- “inform but do not overwhelm”
- Krill harvest ban (was initially disapproved)
- Climate and Communities Initiative Scenario Planning

Western Pacific

- Council EBFM pillars:
 1. Science and Data
 2. Council Process
 3. Building Community Resilience & Stakeholder Engagement
- Ecosystem Science & Planning Workshop, 2007 - 10 objectives to guide implementation
- Shift from species-based FMPs to place-based FEPs
- Ecosystem Chapter in SAFE reports
- Ecosystem considerations in every amendment

Gulf of Mexico

- Ecosystem Committee
- Special Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committee
- Ecosystem Technical Committee
- Red grouper work
- Red tide history surveys (SEFSC)

- modeled red tide removals as “fleet”
 - varied red tide severity for projection analysis
- Contracted LGL Ecological Associates for development of Gulf of Mexico FEP

Caribbean

- Moving from species-specific FMPs to island-based FMPs – direct response to stakeholder request
- Have developed goals and objectives. Waiting for ESR
- Have mission statement
- Completed conceptual model
- FEP outline

Mid-Atlantic

- EAFM Decision Framework structured after NOAA’s Integrated Assessment guidance
 - Prioritize with risk assessment
 - Refine with conceptual model (2019)
 - Analyze with MSE (2022)
- Summer flounder – identify & evaluate management procedures to reduce recreational discards in summer flounder
- Unmanaged forage fish amendment – EC species
- Unmanaged species’ landings report – request from GARFO annually?
- Northeast Regional Marine Fish Habitat Assessment

New England

- NEFMC Risk Policy related to EBFM – staff prepares risk matrix to present to the SSC
- Needs structured framework for decision-making
- Forage Fish Policy
- Developing an Ecosystem Plan for George’s Bank
- EBFM public outreach materials on website
- eFEP – “example” FEP – describes framework. More adaptive to changes in ecosystem production. Focused on George’s Bank.
- Stock complexes/fishery functional groups
- Stock complex harvest control rules.

EBFM “On Ramps”

- Systematic approach
- A lot of Councils ***are already doing EBFM*** (multi-species, stock complexes, non-fishing activities, habitat, etc)
- “Doesn’t matter what you call it as long as the needs of stakeholders are met”
- There are many options and entry points for systematic ecosystem approach.

EBFM in Alaska

- EBFM “ingredients” vs. “recipe”

- Council advisory groups all get to hear ecosystem info first, before they tackle individual challenges/management decisions.
- ESR “In brief” – 4 page summaries have section on management uses. Filled in AFTER Council discussions/decisions
- ESPs – Ecosystem and Socio-Economic Profile
 - Annual process
 - Appended to and presented with stock assessments
 - Stock-specific indicators
- National ESP Program – developing. Alaska and New England.
- Risk tables for stock assessments – introduced in 2018 and produced for all full assessments. Document concerns external to assessment models. May be used to justify reductions from Max ABC.

ESRs and how they are used by Councils

- Mid-Atlantic gets *every April*
- Used to update risk assessment and provided to Council so they can see how risk may be changing for managed species.

Pacific Council FEP

- Living document. Helps prioritize management actions/initiatives
- ESRs are driving what gets done & what is realistic to attain.
- Gets reviewed with advisory bodies. Acts as a “holding pen”
- Staff and workgroup translate priorities into workplan tasks
- Ecosystem workgroup – state reps, NMFS staff (Regional Office, Science Center). Meets as needed and is a flexible group. NMFS staff has been very receptive.
- Ecosystem agenda items are included in March and September
- Initial list of initiatives based on the National Standards

MAFMC Risk Assessment

- Council deliberately intends to keep FMPs as they are
- Rearrange their Integrated Ecosystem Assessment loop and start with risk assessment
- State of the Ecosystem (SOE) Reports
 - subsets of ESRs that are more digestible for managers and focus on risks to meeting management objectives
 - addresses other factors that are outside Council’s (fisheries) activities (i.e., climate change, shifting currents, etc)
- Risk elements report status –
 - 30-32 elements matrix
 - Species and sector-level risk elements
 - Based on risk assessment
 - Council evaluated summer flounder as high-risk species
 - Next step is MSE – conceptual model helps determine what type of simulation is needed for the system.

EBFM General Discussion

- EBFM is a way to address climate change in fisheries. Connection is understood but needs to be overtly stated.
- EBFM allows more flexibility
- EBFM can address shifting distribution of stocks and other consequences of climate change
- EBFM explicitly acknowledges communities & socio-econ environment and includes as a component.
- Traditional stock assessments are increasingly problematic. Have catch limits that don't get met, stocks that are not rebuilding, etc.
- EBFM can address feedback loops created by single-species management

Capacity Building Discussion

- Has to be ground-up approach (e.g., MREP)
- Timing of when people engage is important (e.g., not at the end of the amendment)
- Know Your Baseline (staff AND Council members)
- Connect more with APs
- IEA Teams – provide education & keep Councils informed
- Improve communication –
 - language, acronyms. Use simple language
 - videos to reach stakeholders that don't have access to meetings
 - make the narrative interesting
 - small bites
 - Be more positive. Examples of how management will benefit stakeholders.
- Work on retaining capacity and building resiliency. Keep people engaged.
- Coordination and communication among Science Centers, Regional Offices, Council = three-legged stool
- Send message to CCC that EBFM is where climate action can happen.
- Look to leverage funding by supporting things like social and environmental justice.