

Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) NEFMC Process Public Outreach Workshops

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NEFMC's EBFM Process

Don't design solution without understanding the problem

- Phase I Decide on how to develop EBFM
- Phase II Develop example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP)
- Phase III Stakeholder engagement
- Phase IV Prepare action to submit preferred and non-preferred alternatives
- Phase V Submit plan, implement regulations, adjust



NEFMC's EBFM Process

Don't design solution without understanding the problem

- Phase I: Decide on application and approach
 - Concept of developing an eFEP was approved by the Council in April 2015
 - Council chose a wholistic, comprehensive approach that would replace existing management plans



NEFMC Approach

- To prepare:
 1. A policy describing goals and objectives, and approaches, for taking account of ecosystem processes in fishery management, and
 2. An example of a fishery ecosystem plan that is based on fundamental properties of ecosystem (e.g., energy flow and predator/prey interactions) as well as being realistic enough and with enough specification such that it could be implemented. The example should not be unduly constrained by current perceptions about legal restrictions or policies.
 3. With respect to number 2, it is understood that the example might not be implemented, but it should make clear what a fishery ecosystem plan would actually entail and it should focus debate.

NEFMC Approach

- The Council is pursuing a fundamentally different EBFM approach relative to other Fishery Management Councils and management authorities.
- Unlike other EBFM approaches, the NEFMC is focused on place-based management and trophic guilds (i.e., energy production units) as management units rather than managing fish stocks using independent harvest control rules.
- The new approach addresses the implications of both biological interactions (i.e., predator/prey) and fishery interactions (bycatch and mix species fisheries).



Phase II

example Fishery Ecosystem Plan

- Phase II-A: Worked example/demonstration
 - Independent peer review by NEFSC
 - Final report September 2019
 - Peer review of a Worked Example was requested by the Council in September 2016
 - Results presented to the Council in September 2018



Phase II

example Fishery Ecosystem Plan

- Phase II-B: Develop example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP)
 - Discussion document to outline a framework for how fisheries could be managed with EBFM
 - Does not specify methods or exact details
 - Lays out concepts and describes framework for fitting them together
 - Sep 2019: Final draft approved by Council in September 2019
 - Jan 2020: Initiated MSE Steering Committee to advise on Phase III



Phase III

Stakeholder Engagement

- Phase III-A: MSE Steering Committee recommendations
 - Public Outreach Workshops
 - Hire science communicator to develop workshop materials
 - Document, pamphlets, video, presentations, news releases, webinar, social media etc.
 - Design materials to be used in small and large format information workshops
 - Match up presentations with stakeholders expected at workshops
 - Use visually rich orientation presentations, create visual material. A visual storybook may be very effective
 - Develop Tangible Worked Example(s)

Phase III

Stakeholder Engagement

- Phase III-A: MSE recommendations for workshop objectives
 - Build greater understanding of EBFM as a tool to assess and manage fisheries
 - Identify potential opportunities and concerns that different stakeholders see in EBFM
 - What opportunities do you see to use EBFM to improve existing assessment and management systems?
 - What do we stand to lose in shifting towards an EBFM approach?
 - Give opportunity to stakeholders to define next steps, building a willingness to continue participation in the process.



Phase III

Stakeholder Engagement

- Phase III-B: Management Strategy Evaluation
 - Develop objectives
 - Identify performance metrics
 - Identify potential management procedures, harvest control rules
 - Evaluate relative performance against a simulated system with known characteristics against stated objectives



Phase IV and V

Develop and implement FEP

- Phase IV-A: Council decides on how to apply MSE management procedures
 - Develop and implement a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) or
 - More incremental approach within existing plans
- Phase IV-B: From viable MSE strategies, develop management alternatives for final FEP, analyze effects and conduct public hearings
- Phase V: Submit final plan, implement regulations, measure effects and make adjustments

