

AI Ecosystem Team workshop

Sep 9-10, 2008 8:30-4:30
NMML conference room 2049, AFSC, Seattle, WA

DRAFT Agenda / Discussion items

Purpose of Team workshop

1. What new ecosystem information is available about the Aleutian Islands, and is it relevant for the FEP/Council?
2. Is there any evidence of changing conditions that would suggest we should reconsider our analysis of the interactions?
3. How might the Council/Ecosystem Committee best continue act to continue work/implementation of the FEP?
 - o We suggested that the next step is to define an ecosystem policy, perhaps through identifying desirable or undesirable ecosystem states. There are other approaches to evaluating ecosystem trade-offs. We need to advise the Council/EC on an approach to moving forward.
4. What should our next steps be to improve the FEP?

Workshop output

- Meeting summary for Council
- FEP addendum with supplemental information or analysis?
- Guidance to the Council/Ecosystem Committee about ways to move forward
- Plan for further work on the FEP

DAY 1

Intros and discussion of purpose

Roundtable opportunity for each team member to present a brief overview of any new information relevant for the FEP/Ecosystem Team

- ongoing/new research projects, or available data (e.g., Sea Grant Marine Research Plan for the AI)
- other ongoing projects that might be relevant (e.g., AI Marine Transportation risk assessment)
- uses of the FEP (e.g., how indicators are being incorporated in the EcoSAFE)
- others

Review interactions and indicators associated with them

- Any new information that influences our conclusions/discussion?
- Do the indicators alert changing conditions? How to interpret them for the Council?
- Is it possible to develop natural variability thresholds for any of the indicators?
- Did we identify the right indicators? Anything we can do to identify data sources for the ones that we have not yet found?
- How do we evaluate tradeoffs among indicators?

(DAY 2)

Incorporating social science and human dimensions in the FEP

- This is a stumbling block for the Council/Ecosystem Committee, which we ran into when trying to advocate for an economist to join the Team, and also with some of our findings in the FEP
 - Human dimensions are also an important part of the ecosystem policy/tradeoffs discussion (below)
 - Useful to articulate how we consider human dimensions within the plan, and specifically for Ecosystem Committee, what the role of an economist on the Team would be

Approach to ecosystem policy/ evaluating tradeoffs

- In FEP we suggested that a next step for Council would be to better define parts of its goal statement ('ecosystem health and vibrant communities')
- Suggestion was for Council to define desirable/undesirable states of ecosystem
- Is this best approach? What guidance can we give Council/Ecosystem Committee to begin this task?
- How can the Council better use the FEP?
 - what does FEP monitoring mean for the Council? How should they interpret/ evaluate annual information, changes in data trends?
- Using our interactions/FEP, can we help the Council articulate a better policy or metric that can fine tune their decisions?
 - e.g., what type of policy guidance should the Council articulate in order to receive better scientific advice?
 - Can we provide examples based on our interactions?

Plan for further work on FEP

- do we need an addendum to address any of the new information issues that have come up at this meeting?
- Are there areas in the FEP that need bolstering, or are incorrect, that we should edit/ improve?
 - list of unaddressed comments from Dec 07 draft
- do we want to identify a plan for working on some of the larger scale improvements we have talked about in the past?
 - directions we had identified: quantified risk assessment; cumulative impacts/ comprehensive ecosystem assessment (multivariate definitions of AI ecosystem status); expand geographic area of FEP to look at transition areas to east and west; incorporate LTK
- Original plan was that FEP be updated on 3-5 year schedule (re-evaluate ecosystem against 2007 baseline, look at long-term trends and see how things are changing). Are we still on track for that?