

# ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERIES

## SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Project Newsletter No. 7  
December 2001

### REVISED DRAFT SCHEDULED

On November 27, 2001 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced its intent to revise the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Draft Programmatic SEIS. After reviewing more than 21,000 comment letters, NMFS has determined that revisions to the Draft Programmatic SEIS are appropriate and necessary, and will require the release of a revised draft Programmatic SEIS. The object of the revised draft is threefold: to include additional analyses concerning environmental, economic and cumulative impacts, to restructure the alternatives from single-focus to more comprehensive, multi-component alternatives, and to evaluate more concisely the proposed action through editing of the document.

As a result of this decision, NMFS announced a new schedule for the Programmatic SEIS. Between January and September 2002, NMFS will prepare a revised draft Programmatic SEIS incorporating the stated goals above. This will be followed by a public review and comment period on the revised draft. NMFS will prepare the final Programmatic SEIS with a view to issuing a Record of Decision no later than December 31, 2003.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

NMFS will hold three public meetings in January 2002 in order to present a work plan for preparing the revised draft Programmatic SEIS, to answer questions concerning the work plan and schedule, and to solicit suggestions on new, multi-objective policy alternatives. These alternatives will be based on comments received on the January 2001 draft Programmatic SEIS, input received from the public at these January meetings and on recommendations from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). Information from the January 2002 public meetings will be used in crafting the suite of policy alternatives that will serve as the focus of the revised draft Programmatic SEIS.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

**Seattle, WA      January 22, 2002      9am**  
Building 9, Room A/B  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.  
Seattle, Washington

**Anchorage, AK    January 24, 2002      9am**  
Room #154, Federal Courthouse  
222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Bethel, AK      January 25, 2002      9am**  
Meeting location yet to be determined. Check websites for further information.

### DRAFT ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE ON THE WEB PRIOR TO THE MEETINGS

Additional information concerning the meeting agenda, the Bethel meeting, and draft multi-objective policy alternatives will be posted on the NMFS Alaska region website and the Council's website prior to the meetings (see below for URLs). Draft alternatives will be posted on January 15, 2002, for discussion at the public meetings. If you do not have internet access, please contact Steve Davis at that time to receive a copy of the draft alternatives.

NMFS Alaska Region  
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc>

For further information please contact:  
Steven K. Davis  
Programmatic SEIS Coordinator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Tel: (907) 271 3523  
Fax: (907) 271 3030



**National Atmospheric and Oceanic  
Administration, National Marine  
Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802**