

Council Motion
Arctic Fishery Management Plan
October 7, 2007

The Council recommends development of a comprehensive fishery management plan (FMP) and environmental assessment for the Arctic Management Region defined in the staff discussion paper (north of Bering Strait). This FMP should accommodate existing fisheries in that region. The Council also supports the proposed outreach plan and recommends that staff consider specific outreach during AFN and other seasonal gatherings of northern region community members. The Council recognizes that letters to communities and other entities may be appropriate as part of the outreach program.

The Council also supports these recommendations from the Ecosystem Committee:

1. That the document under development be call an Arctic Fishery Management Plan.
2. That final action on the Arctic FMP be targeted for June 2008.
3. That Arctic fishery management proceed in a stepwise progression. The Council's first step would be expeditious implementation of an Arctic FMP that is simple and straightforward. The conditions under which fisheries might be permitted in the future, and their management, would be addressed at a later stage.
4. That the Ecosystem Committee continue to oversee the development of the Arctic FMP.

The Council clarified the schedule for development of the Arctic FMP:

- December 3-11, 2007, Council meeting in Anchorage – Additional review of FMP outreach plan
- February 4-12, 2008, Council meeting in Seattle – Preliminary review of FMP analysis and draft FMP
- April 1-8, 2008, Council meeting in Anchorage – Initial review of FMP analysis and draft FMP
- April to June 2008 – Ongoing public review of FMP analysis and draft FMP language
- June 2-10, 2008, Council meeting in Kodiak – Final review of FMP analysis and Council approval of FMP
- After the June 2008 meeting, the Council would send its recommended FMP to the Secretary of Commerce for review and approval. Prior to approval by the Secretary, a public comment period would be noticed in the Federal Register.
- 2009 – Anticipated date when the Arctic FMP would be effective

Motion passed 10/0.