



National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Meetings to Discuss Alaska Groundfish SEIS

NOAA Fisheries will be holding five public meetings to provide information and solicit comments on the [Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement \(SEIS\)](#) for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery management plans. The schedule of meetings is available on the Internet at: www.fakr.noaa.gov

The SEIS performs several important functions: (1) It is a planning and reference document to describe the current management regime for groundfish fisheries in Alaska; (2) it describes and analyzes current knowledge about the physical, biological, and human environment in order to assess impacts caused by past and current fishery activities; (3) it provides the environmental baseline that will be used to shape future management policy and a future range of potential management actions; (4) it examines the effects of the current groundfish fishery management regime, as well as selected alternative management regimes, on the human environment to assess whether a different management regime should be implemented.

The public meetings will begin with an “open house” style meeting followed by a formal public hearing. During the public hearing portion of the meeting, individuals will be heard one at a time and their comments will be recorded and incorporated into the body of comments that will be considered when preparing the Final SEIS.

“The open house portion of the meeting will give members of the public the opportunity to ask questions of team members and view project displays and information,” said Steve Davis, SEIS team leader for NOAA Fisheries.

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The meeting schedule is as follows:

March 27, 2001	5:00 - 6:00 pm Open House 6:00 - 8:00 pm Formal Hearing	Juneau, Alaska Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Drive Hickel Room
March 28, 2001	5:00 - 6:00 pm Open House 6:00 - 8:00 pm Formal Hearing	Portland, Oregon Federal Bldg., 911 NE 11 th Ave. Conference Room C
March 29, 2001	5:00 - 7:00 pm Open House 7:00 - 9:00 pm Formal Hearing	Seattle, Washington NOAA Facilities, AFSC 7600 Sand Point Way NE Bldg. 9, Conf Rooms A & B
April 3, 2001	5:00 - 6:00 pm Open House 6:00 - 8:00 pm Formal Hearing	Kodiak, Alaska Fishery Industrial Technology Center Near Island
April 11, 2001	5:30 - 7:30 pm Open House 7:30 - 10:00 pm Formal Hearing	Anchorage, Alaska Anchorage Hilton, 500 W 3 rd Avenue Aleutian Room

NOAA Fisheries conducts scientific research and provides services and products to support domestic and international fisheries management, fisheries development, trade and industry assistance, enforcement, and protected species and habitat conservation programs.