

## **Ecosystem Council or Regional Ocean Governance – Council Action, June 2005**

The Council supported the Ecosystem Committee's recommendation, to explore the idea of an ecosystem council, or similar regional collaboration, to move forward with an ecosystem approach to management (EAM). The Council supports identifying the Aleutian Islands as a pilot ecosystem area for this approach.

As a next step, the Council Chair will pursue setting up a public workshop, co-hosted in partnership with the State of Alaska and NOAA Fisheries, to develop the idea of such a council. The Chair will meet with the State of Alaska's Subcabinet on Ocean Policy in late June, and with staff, will coordinate the logistics of setting up the workshop. The workshop will involve all interested collaborating agencies and area stakeholders, and if possible, may take place prior to the October Council meeting.

The Council also concurred with the Ecosystem Committee's recommendation of a preliminary preferred structure (see illustration below), to focus initial discussion during the workshop, with the understanding that it will likely be modified through the public process.

### ***Ecosystem Committee Recommendation – June 2, 2005***

The Ecosystem Committee developed a recommendation for the Council to move forward with the ecosystem approach to management project, as outlined in their minutes from April 4, 2005. With one objection, the Committee recommends that the Council consider the variation of Option 2 developed by the Ecosystem Committee, which is depicted on page 19 of the staff discussion paper, as the preliminary preferred model for a regional ecosystem council, acknowledging that this option is likely to be modified as a result of public input. The Committee recommends that the Aleutian Islands be used as a potential test case for developing an EAM process. As a next step, the Committee recommends that the Council charge the Chair (Ms Madsen), working with NOAA Fisheries and Council staff, to coordinate with the State of Alaska to set up a process for a workshop. This would include logistical discussions of the format of the workshop, when it should occur, and how best to incorporate broad public participation. At a minimum, this coordination would occur prior to the October Council meeting; if possible, the resulting workshop may also occur before then.

**Illustration of Ecosystem Committee's variation of Option 2: Setting up an ecosystem council with support from the NPFMC, NOAA Fisheries, and the State of Alaska**

