

**C-7 Council motion on NOAA EBFM policy
December 13, 2015**

The Council approves sending a letter to NOAA with the following recommendations on the draft NOAA Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Policy (additional text is in bold and underline, deleted text is in strikethrough):

1. Revise the policy statement to read:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) strongly supports **continued progress on** the implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM), to better inform decisions and help achieve and optimize the benefits from marine fisheries by evaluating the trade-offs among and between fisheries (commercial, recreational, and subsistence), aquaculture, protected species, biodiversity, and habitats, while maintaining resilient and productive ecosystems.

The intent is to revise the language such that it conveys that Councils are currently utilizing an EBFM approach. EBFM is a continuum of actions and policy approaches, and several councils are consistent with this policy today. The policy should reflect that, as well as an expectation of further progress.

2. Revise the definition of EBFM to read:

NOAA Fisheries defines EBFM as a systematic approach to fisheries management in a geographically specified area that **contributes to** ensures the resilience and sustainability of the ecosystem; recognizes the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions among the affected components of the ecosystem, including humans; and seeks to optimize benefits among a diverse set of societal goals.

EBFM cannot ensure resilient and sustainable ecosystems; it sets Councils up for failure given our limited authority to affect all potential (non-fishing) actions or environmental conditions that affect the ecosystem.

3. Under guiding principle 2, *Implement ecosystem-level planning (p. 5)*, revise the last bullet to read:

Facilitating the participation of external federal, state (including territories), and tribal, **and other non-governmental** partners in the EBFM process by assessing the cumulative effects of human activities on marine ecosystems to help partners minimize the effects of non-fishing activities on trust LMR and habitats.

This is consistent with the Ecosystem Committee recommendation to broaden stakeholder participation beyond agencies and tribal partners.

4. The letter should emphasize the need for Council coordination and adequate review time for review of the Implementation Plan or EBFM Policy 'Roadmap' that NOAA intends to develop in 2016 subsequent to the adoption of this policy.