



# NOAA FISHERIES

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

## Theme 6: Communication

### Summary

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) has an open communication policy regarding stock assessments. Assessment scientists work closely with internal researchers such as survey scientists, process study experts, and life history researchers. Working groups are commonly formed to help balance assessment needs with Center resources and funding opportunities. Public and Stakeholder participation occurs at multiple levels including Plan Team, SSC, and Council meetings. In addition, AFSC scientists conduct outreach with members of the public. This includes Public presentations on stock assessment findings, presentations at scientific meetings and conferences, meetings with Industry, and cooperative research with Industry. The AFSC also works closely with the Alaska Regional Office to ensure management concerns are addressed.

Recent outreach efforts have included releasing timely assessment update newsletters to the sablefish stakeholders (including regular advertizing of the sablefish tagging program).

### External

Other activities to enhance communication:

1. National committees that focus on stock assessment in which AFSC scientists participate
2. Presentations to stakeholders
  - a. Annual surimi school presentations (<http://surimischool.org/>)
  - b. Annual presentation to skippers (organized by APA and UCB)
  - c. Presentations to EBS pollock stakeholders prior to November Plan Team Meetings (held at UW)
3. Interagency committees/meetings e.g., TSC of Canada - US Groundfish Committee
4. Cooperative research (including chartering commercial vessels to conduct surveys, special survey projects (e.g., Martin Dorn's acoustic survey in WGOA))

### Internal

1. MACE-REFM survey priorities for acoustic DAS
2. RACE seminar series (e.g., to communicate that disease studies like ichthyophonous might inform considerations of natural mortality etc)
3. Age-growth priorities
4. Rockfish Working Group (survey and assessment authors)
5. Maturity Working Group