



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Protected Species Science Program Review

Theme 1: Information Needs

## AFSC Overview



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Deputy Director for Science and Research

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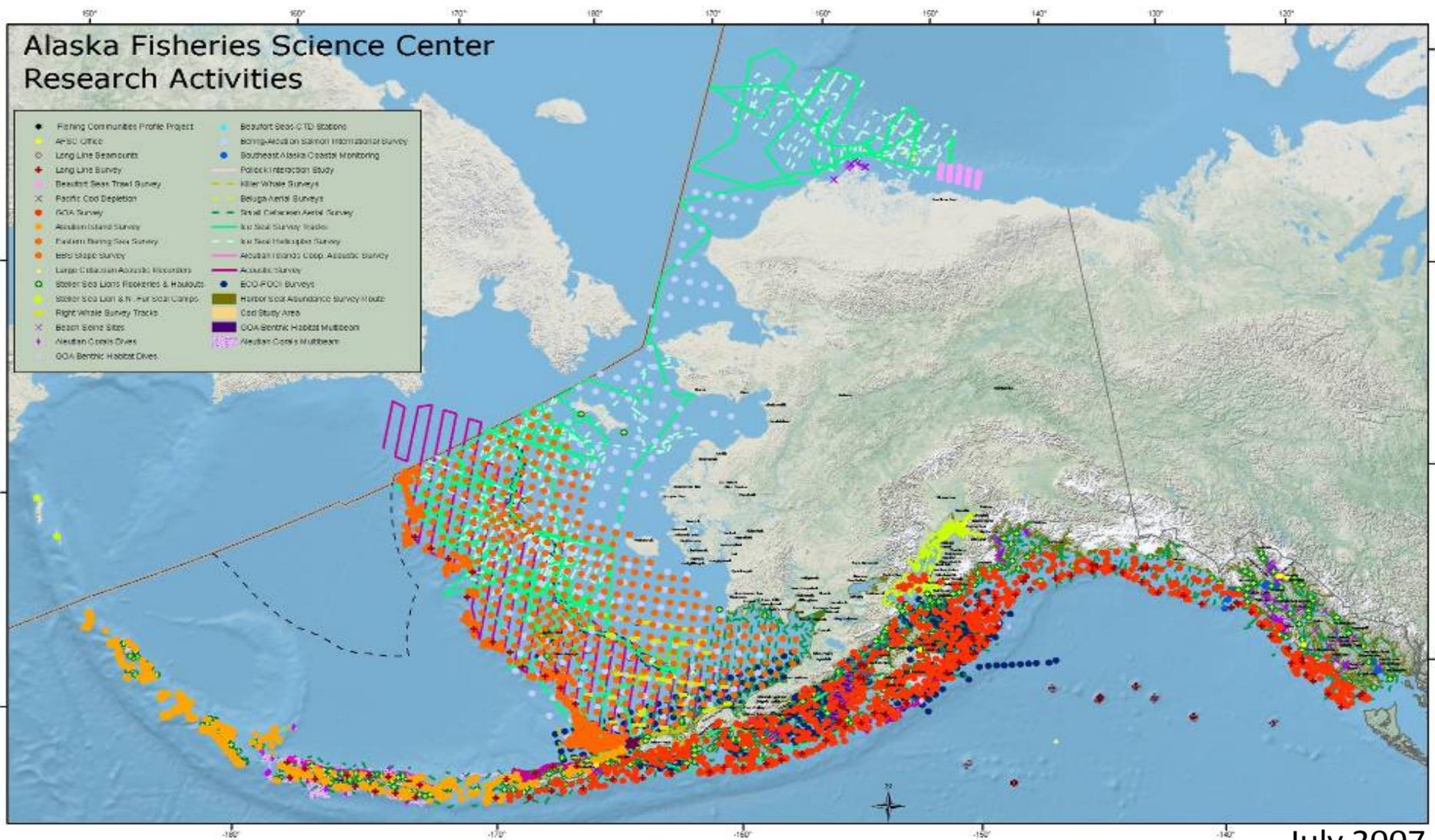
## AFSC Mission

The mission of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center is to plan, develop, and manage scientific research programs which generate the best scientific data available for understanding, managing, and conserving Alaska's living marine resources and the environmental quality essential for their existence.

# Alaska Fisheries Science Center

- Employment: ~ 450 people (Federal and Contract)
- Locations:
  - Seattle, WA
  - Juneau, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Anchorage, Little Port Walter, and the Pribilof Islands, AK
  - Newport, OR
- 2015 Funding: ~ \$62.2M initial federal allocation and \$15M reimbursable; additional federal funds are often provided for project-specific purposes

# Alaska Fisheries Science Center

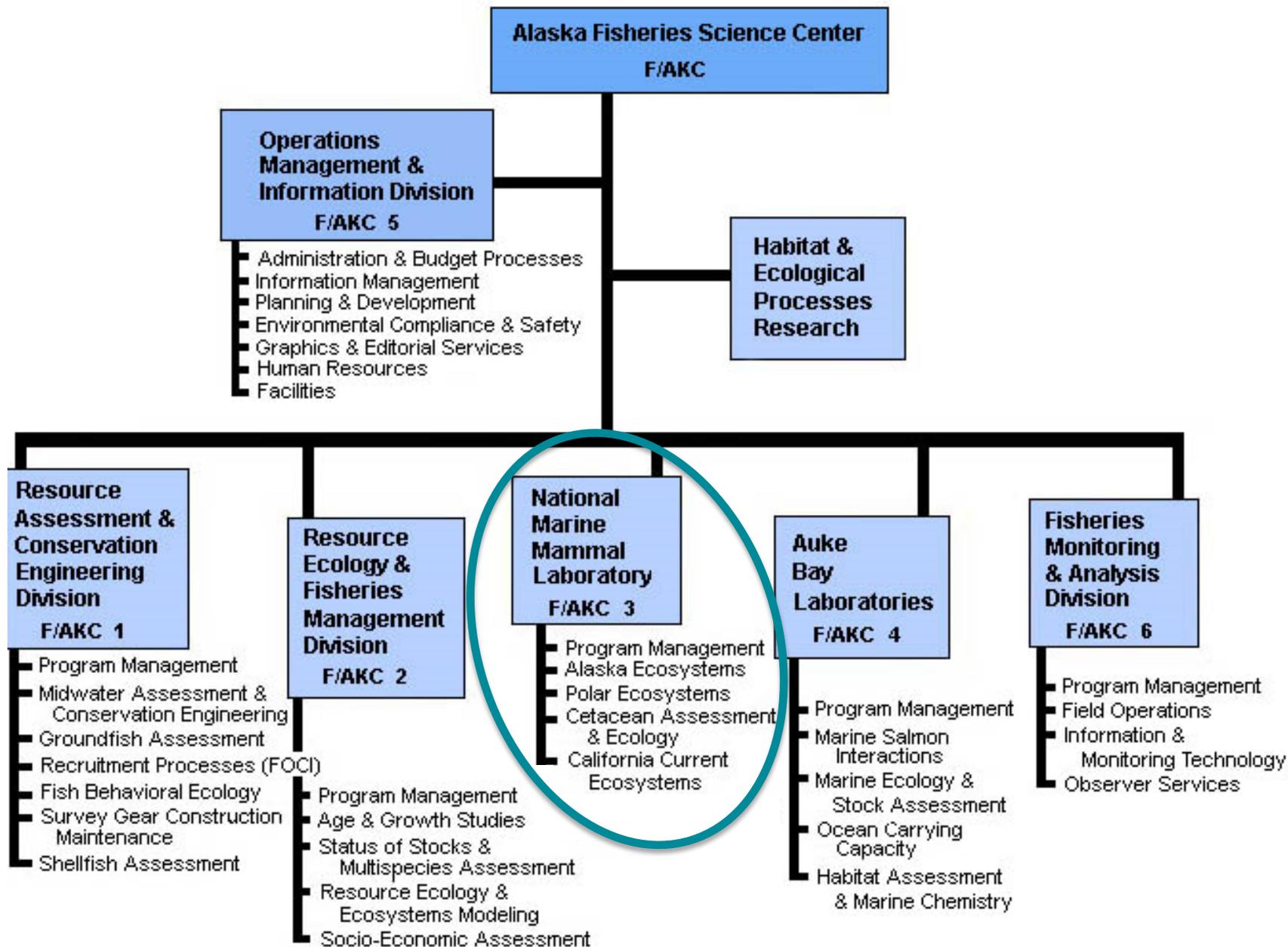


July 2007

# AFSC Studies Marine Mammals in 7 Large Marine Ecosystems

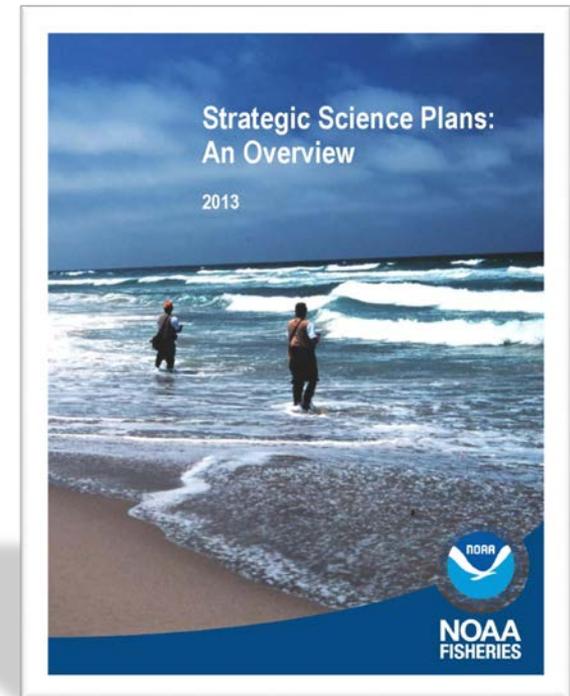


- Gulf of Alaska
- East Bering Sea
- Aleutian Islands
- Northern Bering & Chukchi Seas
- Beaufort Sea
- West Bering Sea
- California Current



# Setting Priorities – AFSC’s Strategic Science Plan: A Model for the Nation

- The “science side” of NOAA Fisheries has adopted the AFSC’s model of the Science Plan and Implementation Process to set research and funding priorities annually
- Each Science Center and the Office of Science and Technology now have Strategic Science Plans
- An Annual Guidance Memorandum starts the process each year



# AFSC Director's Guidance for FY15



- Emphasized two core research foci:
  - Support assessments required for federal management of fish, crab, and marine mammal stocks
  - Provide information to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Alaska Regional Office for management decisions, to support quota monitoring, and for legal and regulatory analyses

# AFSC Director's Guidance for FY15

Identified ten funding priorities:

1. Continued success of our observer programs and progress with electronic monitoring capabilities
2. Funding for use of NOAA ship time and of pre-paid charter time
3. Sustained stock assessments of groundfish, shellfish, and protected species
4. Research on process studies linking recruitment of commercially important species to environmental change
5. Research on the western population of Steller sea lions



# AFSC Director's Guidance for FY15

Funding priorities continued:

6. **High-Arctic research on marine mammals**, fish, and habitat including the Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Survey and AFSC commitments to the Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey (Arctic Eis)
7. Producing 20-year climate forecasts for commercially important fish species
8. Bycatch reduction research
9. Research responding to fishery stock assessment Science Program Reviews
10. Fulfilling commitments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Gulf of Alaska Project research program funded by the North Pacific Research Board



# Rating Criteria for FY2015:

## Characterize Mission Attributes

- If AFSC did not execute this Activity, to what degree would other organizations NOT be able to provide similar capabilities?
- Is the Activity central to AFSC's ability to achieve its strategic plan's goals and objectives?
- How are the outputs of this Activity used? (Use in stock assessment or fishery/protected species management are rated most highly.)
- Is the Activity one of the emphasis areas in the current Annual Guidance memorandum?

# Rating Criteria for FY2015:

## Risk Assessment of Potential Impacts

- If AFSC did not execute this Activity, what would be the scale of the impact on local communities, stakeholders and the regional economy, i.e., what would be the degree of impact for those segments that are impacted?
- If AFSC did not execute this Activity, how severe would the risks be to the core scientific, technical and organizational competencies required to execute AFSC's mission functions today and in the future?
- If AFSC did not execute this Activity, the political risk to NOAA/NMFS would be: (very high to none)

# AFSC Resource Status

## FY15 Permanent Allocation

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mammals	\$12,694,667
Fish	\$36,373,804
Enforcement / Observers	\$7,797,338
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	\$200,392
Other Activities Supporting Fisheries	\$4,785,064
<b>AFSC Allocation:</b>	<b>\$61,851,265</b>

# Match up of AFSC Mission and Resources

## AFSC Mission

- 50% MMPA assessments
- 50% NOAA Arctic research
- 50% NMFS fishery observers
- 46% FSSI stock assessments
- 66% Continental Shelf
- 45% U.S. LMEs
- 50% Landed fishery catch

## AFSC Resources

- 12% NMFS labor
- 17% NOAA vessel time
- Since FY11: Level labor Costs = 17% reduction in staffing (- 60 FTEs)
- Level budget allocations

# AFSC Arctic Mission

## Development

- 118% increase in maritime transit through the Bering Strait from 2008-2012
- 1 Million Adventure tourists in 2013
- 1 Million tons trans-shipped in 2012
- 90 Billion Barrels of about 13% of the world's undiscovered oil
- 35% of Alaska's Jobs are tied to the energy sector
- \$1 Trillion worth of minerals
- \$3.7 Billion of offshore leases since 2005
- 30% of the world's undiscovered gas reserves

## Climate Change

- 4.57 Million Square Miles of Arctic sea ice melted between March and September 2012
- 2x the Warming Rate in Alaska as the rest of the U.S. in the last 60 years
- 40% Smaller: the Polar Ice Cap today than in 1979



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# Questions?