

# ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERIES SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



*Project Newsletter No. 4  
February 2001*

## **DRAFT SEIS AVAILABLE**

On October 1, 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced its intention to prepare a new Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery Management Plans (FMPs).

In January 2001, NMFS published the Draft Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Programmatic SEIS. 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.

## **DRAFT SEIS REVIEW PERIOD**

The draft SEIS is available for public review and comment during a 90-day period which began on **January 26, 2001** and ends on **April 26, 2001**. Public hearings will also be held during March and April of 2001 to receive testimony on the Draft SEIS (see back page of this newsletter for dates and locations). Comments received from the public will be considered by NMFS when preparing the final programmatic SEIS.

## **HOW CAN I SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SEIS?**

Through April 26, 2001, you can submit comments on the Draft SEIS, request more information about the SEIS, be added to the SEIS mailing list, learn more about the project, or become involved in the process by:

- ☞ Visiting the NMFS Alaska Region web site at: [www.fakr.noaa.gov](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov)
- ☞ Mailing your comments to:  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Alaska Regional Office  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802
- ☞ Faxing your comments to:  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Alaska Regional Office  
(907) 586-7249  
Attn: Lori Gravel

***Comments on the Draft SEIS will be accepted by NMFS until April 26, 2001.***

## **HOW CAN I GET A COPY OF THE DRAFT SEIS?**

Due to the scope of this programmatic SEIS, **it is a very large document, consisting of eight volumes and over 3,300 pages**. Because of its large size, NMFS has made the document available in several formats to make it easier for the public to review:

- 1) The complete SEIS is available on-line at the NMFS Alaska Region web site: [www.fakr.noaa.gov](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov)
- 2) The complete SEIS and the Executive Summary are available on a compact disc.
- 3) The complete SEIS is available in printed format (eight volumes).

If you would like to receive a copy of the SEIS either on CD or in print, please contact Steven K. Davis, NMFS, 222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Room 517, Anchorage, AK 99513.

## **PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE**

NMFS will be holding five public meetings to provide information and solicit comments on the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries Draft SEIS. The public meetings will begin with an “open house” style meeting followed by a formal public hearing. The open house portion of the meeting will give members of the public the opportunity to ask questions “off the record” to SEIS team members and view

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
MARCH 27, 2001 (Tuesday)	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Open House 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	JUNEAU, ALASKA Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Drive Hickel Room
MARCH 28, 2001 (Wednesday)	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Open House 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	PORTLAND, OREGON Federal Building, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Conference Room C
MARCH 29, 2001 (Thursday)	5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON NOAA Facilities, AFSC 7600 Sand Point Way NE Building 9, Conference Rooms A & B
APRIL 3, 2001 (Tuesday)	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Open House 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	KODIAK, ALASKA Fishery Industrial Technology Center Near Island
APRIL 11, 2001 (Wednesday)	5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Open House 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Formal Hearing	ANCHORAGE, ALASKA Anchorage Hilton, 500 W. 3rd Avenue Aleutian Room

project displays and information. 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.



National Oceanic & Atmospheric  
Administration, National Marine  
Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802