

NOAA Perspective on the Bering Ecosystem Study



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New Guidance

- US Climate Science Strategic Plan – new ecosystems chapter emphasizes climate-ecosystem interactions in high latitude and coastal areas
- NOAA Strategic Plan – new emphasis on ecological forecasting
- Arctic Research Commission – Bering Sea predictability



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Fundamental NOAA Missions

- Observe and Predict Climate
 - Seasonal forecasting – variation from norms
 - Interannual forecasting of climate modes, e.g., El Nino
 - Long-term climate projections, e.g., global warming
- Manage coastal and marine resources
 - Traditional approach – success and failure
 - Ecosystem approach – keeps the scientists busy, but will it work?
 - Precautionary approach – politically impossible?



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Intersection of BEST and NOAA

- BEST can provide the scientific underpinning to support eventual ecosystem approach to resource management in the Bering Sea
- Lead to NOAA “operational” Bering Sea Ecological Forecast System



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NOAA Role in BEST

- Continuing Activities
 - Fishery stock assessments and ancillary data
 - In situ moorings
 - Satellite observations



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NOAA Role in BEST

- New Pilot Projects
 - Retrospective synthesis of Bering Sea environmental data
 - Moorings in northern Bering Sea
 - Coupled physical-biological model development



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NOAA Role in BEST

- Future Activities
 - Seek funding for continuing observation and modeling system
 - Build decision support system for resource managers- including ecological forecasting system for Bering Sea



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SEARCH and BEST

- BEST is being planned as a component of SEARCH
 - Bering Sea recognized as a key biological component in the SEARCH science plan
- SEARCH IWG and SSC will support BEST needs



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