

Institutional Arrangements for Ecosystem - Based Management in Alaska Marine Regions (530)

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What does ecosystem-based management mean?

Ecosystem-based management means looking at the big picture for managing marine areas and resources. It means addressing the long-term consequences of today's decisions, and it means thinking of various resources as interrelating parts of systems rather than as individual components to be managed separately. It means awareness of many scales of effect, from local and national to international and even global.

To what extent are the current agency mandates and management actions resulting in an ecosystem-based approach to management in Alaska marine regions?

The research proposed in this project examines the major federal and state management institutions with jurisdiction in waters off Alaska with respect to their recent use of ecosystem-based management. The approach is to assess each agency's role in contributing to ecosystem-based management, and how efforts across agencies are resulting in broader management approaches. The results of the study may be compared to experience in other areas and to the rapidly evolving scientific literature on ecosystem-based management approaches in order to explore ways to implement coordinated, regional ecosystem-based management in Alaska.

What alternative pathways exist for increasing ecosystem-based approaches in ways that improve management of living marine resources?

A number of different agencies are currently developing new ecosystem-based management approaches. For example, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is in the process of developing a regional approach to ecosystem-based management in concert with the State of Alaska; and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is restructuring to meet the demands of an ecosystem-based management plan. Alternatives such as maintaining the status quo, developing more cooperative planning mechanisms, developing methods of collaboration and designation of a lead entity or facilitating institution have been identified in research to date. Additional approaches to marine ecosystem management in Alaska will be identified through research performed under this study.



White-lined Dirion, *Dirona albolineata*