

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVE SCOPING

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) reviewed the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiative Scoping for Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative. The EAS encourages continued development and application of indicators, including their incorporation into systems frameworks that link the indicators with human impacts and fisheries management needs. For example, describing the status and dynamics of forage species related to directed fisheries would be consistent with the FEP's goals to provide adequate forage for fishery management plan (FMP) species. The EAS recognizes the need for frequent interaction between research on the dynamics of ecosystems and development of indicators. Further collaboration between the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) team and the Council community will be useful to resolve issues of the value of new information versus the resources necessary to acquire, analyze, and apply the information. The EAS recognizes the importance of socio-economic indicators as measures of the human dimensions of Council decisions. The proposed timeline appears reasonable, and the EAS stands willing to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the Electronic Workgroup (EWG) report.

The EAS also reviewed the Climate Shift Initiative and supports the Initiative. The EAS supports the proposed revisions to assess the impact of climate change on fisheries-dependent communities and, thereby, provide a more complete picture of climate impacts. The Climate Shift Initiative will benefit from adaptive management strategies to mitigate climate effects for improved resilience of the ecosystem and fishing communities. Given active efforts by many entities on climate change, it will be valuable for the Council to establish a process to evaluate and incorporate climate shift considerations in its decisions. Given the interdependence of these initiatives, the EAS suggests proceeding with the Climate Shift Initiative in parallel with the Indicator Initiative. The proposed ad-hoc committee would be a useful beginning step.

PFMC
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