

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM
REPORT ON ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS

At their August 2016 meeting, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) addressed the Council's request to consider the usefulness of information in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE) Status Report to answer various questions concerning the resources managed by the Council. The HMSMT reviewed the Ecosystem Workgroup Reports on this subject for the March 2016 Council meeting ([Agenda Item D.2.a, Ecosystem Workgroup Report, Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental Ecosystem Workgroup Report 2](#)), which set forth the key tasks to (1) identify the most appropriate of the indicators available to the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Team that may be useful to the Council, and (2) to achieve a more explicit understanding of their connection to Council decision-making.

The HMSMT identified the following focal areas that could be relevant to Council decision-making for HMS management. The HMSMT recognizes the existing work on indicators could be used in both points below:

- 1) Use of indicators in spatial management
 - For example, expand the use of dynamic ocean management approach (e.g., EcoCast ([March 2016, Agenda Item F.2.c](#)) from the current Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area¹ to other HMS fisheries where protected species interactions may occur.
- 2) Ecosystem-based assessments
 - Support long-term data collection needs and development of modeling platforms.

The HMSMT appreciates the Ecosystem Workgroup's efforts and the informative annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report. In particular, the HMSMT concurs with the Ecosystem Workgroup's preliminary view that drawing clear connections to management decisions may require additional, more focused analysis. However, the information in the annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report 2016 does help to identify the types of ecosystem information which could potentially be applied to HMS management after sufficient refinement. The HMSMT would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the IEA Team to provide additional input in the future.

PFMC
08/19/16

¹ The Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area closes from June 1 - August 31 during a forecasted or occurring El Niño event off the coast of Southern California.