

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the fishery ecosystem plan initiatives ([Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1, March 2017](#)) and the Ecosystem Workgroup Report (EWG) ([Agenda Item, F.3.a, EWG Report, March 2017](#)) and appreciated receiving an overview from Dr. Kit Dahl, Council Staff.

After reviewing the remaining initiatives, the GMT agrees with the EWG recommendation to prioritize analysis of socio-economic issues through the initiatives process and to combine Initiatives A.2.6 and A.2.7. The GMT has long requested help quantifying socio-economic impacts of our fisheries on coastal communities, particularly with regard to recreational fisheries. Moving forward with analysis of Initiatives A.2.6 and A.2.7 could provide valuable information on the fishery dependence of communities, economic effects of management decisions, and community vulnerability to climate change.

In addition, the GMT thought some of the socio-economic analysis for the individual fishery quota five-year review may be applicable to this initiative. Therefore, prioritization of resources could be given to those sectors where there is less information on socio-economic impacts (e.g. recreational).

The GMT discussed the merit of analyzing cross-fishery management plan (FMP) effects of climate shifts (A.2.8), and agrees with the EWG that this initiative may need to be limited in scope. If the Council chooses to move forward with this initiative, the GMT suggests that the analysis could be limited to the area of interest referenced in the EWG report. Specifically, that it would look at “the physical effects of shifting climate on coastal communities, the effects of a changing ocean environment on Council-managed species, and the economic effects on climate shift on communities that depend on those resources that may be affected by the changing environment.” The GMT thinks focusing on the human dimension of climate change would complement the socio-economic issues that would be considered if the Council approves analysis of A.2.6 and A.2.7. At a minimum, the EWG could consider this narrower focus relative to workload and prioritization when they report back to the Council in September.

Another initiative the EWG document mentions is a proposal previously put forth by the GMT proposing to look at how miscellaneous, unsorted species are recorded on fish tickets by state, and how to better coordinate coast-wide sampling. During the Pacific Fishery Information Network (PACFIN) Annual Data Committee meeting in October 2016, there were initial discussions on how this effort may be most effectively coordinated through this body. This issue may be taken up again in October 2017. The GMT therefore also agrees with the EWG that this proposed initiative be explored by the PACFIN Data Committee and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The GMT sees merit in the Council receiving periodic progress reports on this.

Regarding other initiatives and issues suggested by the workgroup, the GMT has not had the time to review and provide comment on the EWG proposal for an initiative that looks at food webs.

**The GMT recommendations:**

- **Moving forward with a combined analysis of A.2.6 and A.2.7.**
- **Moving forward with analysis of A.2.8, and if the Council desires, they could narrow the scope of the analysis to focus on the human dimension of climate change as described in the EWG report.**

PFMC

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