

INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT (IEA) REPORT

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been working on an initiative to incorporate ecosystem principles in ocean and coastal resource management. An integrated ecosystem assessment (IEA) is a synthesis and quantitative analysis of information on relevant natural and socioeconomic factors in relation to specified ecosystem management goals and is an important element in the implementation of ecosystem approaches to management. This is a relatively new assessment tool that is being first applied to the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) as a pilot.

The Council received an overview of the IEA effort at its March 2011 meeting where Council directed the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) to work with the IEA team on ways to best focus this pilot effort for use in Council management. Specifically, the EPDT and the IEA team discussed the list of species this initial pilot effort would focus on. The long-term plan is for the IEA to include species from each of the Council's four Fishery Management Plans and across trophic levels. For this initial effort, the IEA team focused on four pilot species, bocaccio, sablefish, Pacific whiting and canary rockfish and explored expanding the analysis to include Sacramento River Chinook salmon, Pacific sardine, and albacore tuna. Additionally, the EPDT and the Ecosystem Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee have met with the IEA team and have provided input on the report's development and future work.

At this meeting, Dr. John Stein, Acting Director of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and Dr. Cisco Werner, Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science will provide a brief overview of a discussion document (Agenda Item H.1.b, Attachment 1) that assess the status and trends of key climate drivers, predator-prey interactions, and non-fishing pressure for the four focal groundfish species. The Science Centers and the IEA team are interested in Council feedback on ways to expand and improve the format and content of the report so that it is the highest value for use in Council management.

Council Task:

1. Provide feedback on the IEA report.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.b, Attachment 1: Discussion Document: Development of an Annual Report on Conditions in the California Current Ecosystem (*Introduction and Summary, complete document in electronic format only*).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. IEA Report
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. Council Discussion
- Mike Burner
John Stein and Cisco Werner