

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON UPDATING THE LIST OF FISHERIES

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) met via teleconference on June 14th, 2013 and reviewed the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) report regarding proposed updates to the Federal list of fisheries and gear authorized for use in the West Coast exclusive economic zone (Agenda Item H.1.b, Supplemental EPDT Report, June 2013). The EAS commends the EPDT for a thorough treatment of a complex issue, and offers the following comments.

The EAS appreciates the difficulty of listing every existing species and fishery on the West Coast, but some members expressed concern that line 18 of Table 2¹ is too vague and does not meet the Council intent of identifying existing fisheries and authorized gears in “the most specific and narrow terms possible.” Similarly, line 10 is inclusive of all species of squid other than market squid, which could also be interpreted more broadly than existing fisheries, and new fisheries for forage species such as the pelagic neon flying squid would be allowed without notification. The EAS understands the intent of the language was to prevent the exclusion of existing, mostly State-managed fisheries with small landings of a wide variety of non-Fishery Management Plan species, but the EAS could not reach consensus that the proposed list is adequately specific to prevent the unrestricted development of new fisheries. Some members of the EAS were concerned that removal of line 18 could inadvertently prohibit or burden some existing legally-authorized fisheries and supported retaining the language provided by the EPDT.

It was also pointed out that the Council’s direction to the EPDT in June, under item C² could be interpreted to mean preventing development of non-existent fisheries rather than applying an appropriate application process and management, as needed, to requests for future fisheries.

The EAS agreed that the list would benefit from additional Council, state, tribal, Council advisory body, and public input, and recommends that the proposed list be adopted for public review.

PFMC
06/19/13

¹ „18. Finfish and Shellfish Fisheries Not Listed Above and Not

¹ Otherwise Prohibited (Non-FMP)”.

¹

² “C. The EPDT’s report shall include any analysis on the possible effectiveness of the List’s application process in meeting the goal of preventing development of non-existent fisheries.”