

March 8, 2011
B. Enticknap, Oceana
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Agenda Item J.1. Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan

Draft Purpose and Need Statement

Within the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in coordination with tribal co-managers and the four states, manage approximately 112 species and 18¹ recreational and commercial fisheries combined in four Fishery Management Plans (FMPs); Coastal Pelagic Species, Highly Migratory Species, Groundfish, and Salmon, plus Pacific halibut. These fisheries all take place within a complex and dynamic large marine ecosystem, including species that interact with each other in the marine food web, changing oceanographic conditions, protected species, and a variety of non-fishing human uses and activities outside of the Council's management responsibility and authority (e.g. shipping, hydrokinetic energy development, pollution discharge).

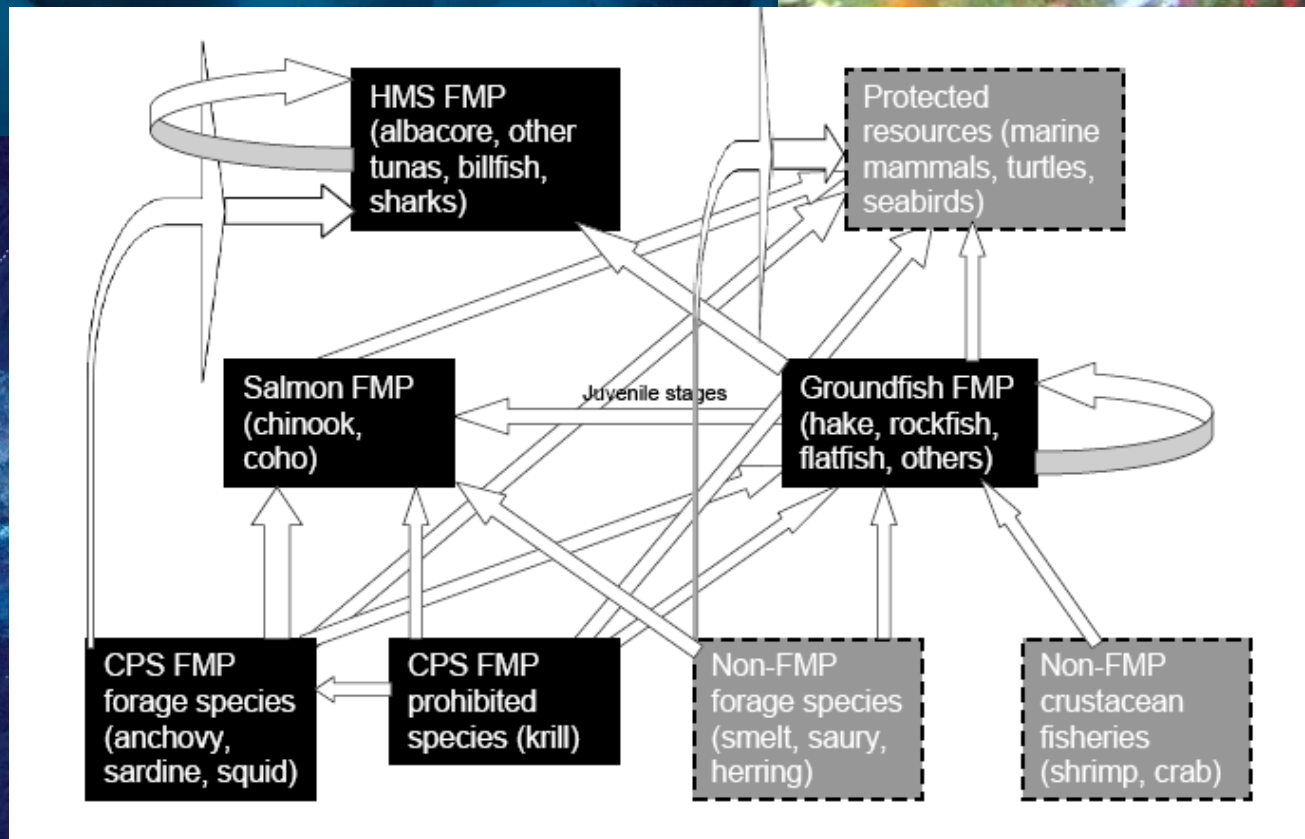
In order to advance the conservation and management of long-term sustainable fisheries that provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, including the protection afforded to the marine ecosystem, the Council and NMFS are proposing to develop an Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (EFMP) for the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). The EFMP will provide analytical tools and structure necessary for accounting for ecosystem needs when setting Optimum Yield catch levels and managing fisheries. The EFMP will help ensure that management of any one of the Council's fishery groups (Coastal Pelagic Species, Groundfish, Highly Migratory Species, and Salmon) does not negatively affect the management potential of the other species groups, non managed species, or their habitats. The EFMP will identify key forage species in the CCE, will identify the value of the ecological services that such species provide, and will consider, and if appropriate implement, conservation and management measures that maintain their functional role as prey for managed species and all other components of the CCE. The EFMP will help keep the Council updated on current and potential effects on the CCE from human and natural causes (e.g. creation of dredge pile islands, industrial contamination, climate change, etc.). The EFMP will allow the Council and NMFS to improve decision making and advance precautionary, coordinated, and innovative approaches to ecosystem-based fisheries management.

This federal action would establish an EFMP to compliment the ongoing conservation and management of federally managed fisheries in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone off Washington, Oregon and California, as authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and pursuant to NEPA and other applicable statutes and executive orders.

¹ Groundfish FMP – 89 species, 3 primary fisheries (groundfish trawl, non-trawl and recreational). Salmon FMP – three species, 5 fisheries (commercial and recreational ocean chinook and coho, pink salmon). HMS FMP – 13 species, 5 fisheries (commercial albacore, coastal purse seine, harpoon swordfish, drift gillnet, West Coast recreational). CPS – 6 species, 4 fisheries (commercial sardine, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, anchovy). Pacific halibut – managed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, along with NMFS, and catch sharing by the PFMC (tribal, non-tribal, commercial and recreational).

“The overall objective of ecosystem based fishery management is to sustain healthy marine ecosystems and the fisheries they support”

Pikitch



5: 346-347.