

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM REPORT
INCLUDING INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Council staffer, Dr. Kit Dahl, briefed the Habitat Committee (HC) on the 2015 California Current Ecosystem Report prepared by the West Coast NOAA Science Centers. The HC has the following comments:

1. We support the Scientific and Statistical Committee's recommendation that Council advisory bodies play a more active role in reviewing and providing input on this annual report to improve its usefulness to the Council.
2. Additional summary information on the ecosystem or the fisheries should be included in the report. While the highlights in Box 1.1 identify the main points contained in the report, including the implications of those points on the ecosystem and/or the fisheries would help to inform the Council's management decisions (i.e., "What does it all mean?").
3. Strengthen (or include) habitat indicators in the report.
4. Time series figures are confusing when on different time tracks. Use consistent time periods when possible.
5. California Current Ecosystem (CCE) indicator data could be overlaid in GIS to produce maps that highlight the status of multiple ecosystem indicators (e.g., areas at risk or areas that are improving). Visual representation of ecosystem indicators would give the Council a geographic perspective on the magnitude of ecosystem conditions.

PFMC
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