

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON REVIEW OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) statement, their analysis of Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiatives, and the ideas for potential new initiatives suggested by the EAS, the Ecosystem Workgroup, and the Groundfish Management Team. While the CPSMT recognizes the value of each potential ecosystem initiative in the FEP Appendix, we recommend the Council give priority consideration to two initiatives as being most beneficial for CPS fisheries management at this time. We believe both initiatives would complement the work currently being conducted for the California Current Ecosystem Integrated Ecosystem Assessment and development of the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report.

The CPSMT has long recognized the importance of ecosystem considerations in CPS fisheries management and incorporates a description of known, important ecosystem elements in its Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) reports. To enhance this effort to more fully address ecosystem considerations for the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and across FMPs, the CPSMT sees merit conceptually in the draft potential ecosystem initiative entitled “Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative” recommended by the EWG (Agenda Item E.2.b, Supplemental EWG). The CPSMT believes this initiative will advance our knowledge and support a more comprehensive understanding of ecosystem issues through identification of physical, socio-economic and biological indicators. This initiative would require a long-term approach, and the CPSMT recommends that activities conducted for this initiative progress at a pace that reflects other CPSMT workload commitments.

Similarly, the Cross-FMP effects of climate shift (A.2.8) and the California Current Ecosystem Integrated Ecosystem Assessment work could be mutually beneficial, and this initiative also intersects with efforts such as the Ocean Modeling Forum group, the National Marine Fisheries Service Draft Climate Science Strategy, and other ongoing ecosystem work.