

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
REVIEW OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the nine initiatives in the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 1) as well as the new initiative on indicator review proposed by the Ecosystem Workgroup (Agenda Item E.2.b, Supplemental Ecosystem Workgroup Report). Most of the initiatives involve scientific considerations. The SSC should consequently be involved throughout the implementation of the initiatives, and particularly during the planning stages. Several of the initiatives appear to involve similar work and could be merged to improve efficiency.

The proposed new initiative could be combined with Initiative 9 (Indicators). Initiative 9 could also address several of the aims of initiative 7 (Socio-economic Effects). The SSC is working with the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment group to identify criteria for selecting indicators for inclusion in the State of the California Current Report (Agenda Item E.1.c, SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee Report). SSC members should be involved in any workgroup established to identify and develop indicators. The full SSC should also be involved in reviewing the outcomes of the workgroup.

Initiative 1 (Effect of Harvest Policies on Age- and Size-Distribution of Managed Stocks) could be expanded to examine the consequences of harvest policies on other life history characteristics which could impact productivity, such as spatial distribution and spawn timing. Considerable research has been conducted on the effects on productivity of changes to life history characteristics. Much of the work for this initiative therefore relates to reviewing existing scientific results so substantial progress could be made on this initiative relatively quickly.

Models such as Atlantis could prove informative in implementing Initiative 8 (Effects of Climate Shifts). The SSC has reviewed the Atlantis model and has made several recommendations regarding the use of this model for the Council process, including the impact of climate shifts (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1; November 2014).