

LENFEST TASKFORCE AND OCEAN MODELING FORUM UPDATE

The Lenfest Fishery Ecosystem Task Force (Task Force) is comprised of an international group of experts in fisheries ecosystem science, and is addressing the question of how regional fisheries management organizations can better incorporate ecosystem principles into management, in developing Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEP). The Task Force will review how fisheries ecosystem planning has occurred around the United States and the world, and aims to provide a flexible framework of options for FEPs that can support specific regional priorities.

The Task Force will hold a series of meetings and provide recommendations in 2016. Its main output will be an outline of the components of effective FEPs. It will provide a set of specific questions that every FEP should address and a set of recommendations for how each question can be answered. The goal is for managers to be able to do so using existing data and a way that is useful for their specific management contexts, ecological dynamics, and socioeconomic circumstances.

The Ocean Modeling Forum (OMF) is a collaboration between NOAA (Dr. Phillip Levin) and University of Washington (Dr. André Punt). The OMF fosters networks of scientists and managers to improve the way ecosystem models are used, and brings together multiple models to explore key environmental and management issues. The OMF is currently supporting two pilot working groups on Pacific sardine and Pacific herring. Our briefing will describe the OMF's objectives, and outline the sardine and herring case studies.

Dr. Levin, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, will provide a summary of the Task Force work plan and the OMF collaboration and pilot projects.

Council Action:

Council Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1: Lenfest Ecosystem Task Force Fact Sheet.

Agenda Order:

- H.1 Lenfest Taskforce and Ocean Modeling Forum Update
 - a. Report of Lenfest Taskforce and Ocean Modeling Forum
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. Council Discussion

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