

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FISHERY
ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVE SCOPING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) Report (Agenda Item D.1.a) which provides information on two potential Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) initiatives: Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative (FEP, A.2.10) and Climate Shift Initiative (FEP, A.2.8). The CPSMT reiterates its support from March 2015 for both initiatives and offers the following comments.

Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative (FEP, A.2.10)

The CPSMT supports moving this initiative forward for advisory body review as proposed by the EWG and the series of webinars that will be held to educate Council advisory bodies and the public on the contents of the 2015 CCES Report with subsequent posting to the Council website as key to helping inform advisory body review following the proposed timeline.

Climate Shift Initiative (FEP, A.2.8)

The CPSMT recognizes the value of this initiative as a process or vehicle to provide for more coordinated Council interaction with the various climate research efforts underway, reducing the potential for duplication of efforts, and also to inform or enhance aspects of those efforts that address key needs of Council managed fisheries and associated fishing communities.

The CPSMT supports the creation of an ad hoc working group to implement this Initiative. Membership of the working group or committee should include subject area experts, and should include advisory body representatives to address potential impacts to fishing communities. In addition to discussing and reporting on the effects of climate change, the committee could be charged with developing what the EWG describes as an “inventory of proactive fishery management strategies and adaptive processes to promote resilience in fisheries and communities.” The ad hoc committee could also be charged with developing methods to test the adequacy of current fishery management strategies, and whether they are sufficiently adaptive to ensure resilience of fisheries and communities.

Should the Council include this in the scope of action, the CPSMT recommends that the committee also include members from Council management teams. The management teams representatives could provide advice on which or how various fishery management strategies might or not might align with current approaches or fishery management plans, whether such approaches could be readily incorporated or might require substantial change to current practices to be implemented. Relative to both ecosystem initiatives under consideration, current and future workload commitments of advisory subpanels and management teams, must be considered.