

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON  
UNMANAGED FORAGE FISH REGULATIONS

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) supports the draft regulatory language as specified in Supplemental NMFS Report Agenda Item D.2.a, and more specifically, the definitions of directed commercial fishing for Shared Ecosystem Component (EC) Species. The EWG feels the current definitions of limits provided in the NMFS report strike an appropriate balance between setting the limits high enough so they meet the Council objective of not constraining existing fisheries while also being low enough to prevent development of new directed commercial fisheries in the future. The state and tribal representatives appreciated the opportunity to work closely with NMFS staff since March to consider the available information on landings, and other identified impacts on these species, in an effort to develop appropriate definitions of “directed” provided in the NMFS report.

The EWG discussed the value of a future re-evaluation of the landing limits provided in the directed definitions given the different issues currently affecting EC species accounting (e.g., limited market categories or sorting). A five-year re-evaluation seemed like a sufficient time period to allow for incorporating any modifications to coding, sorting, outreach or other means to improve the ability to better characterize catch of these species, while also providing sufficient time for a resultant data stream to evaluate.

PFMC  
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