

FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN COORDINATED
ECOSYSTEM INDICATOR REVIEW INITIATIVE

The Pacific Coast Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the U.S. Portion of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem includes the Initiatives Appendix, which provides examples of how the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) could address issues that affect two or more Council Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) or coordinate major Council policies across the FMPs to fulfill identified FEP needs. According to the FEP, biennially, the Council reviews potential ecosystem initiatives to determine whether any of them should be taken up in the coming year and assess whether there are new ecosystem initiative proposals that could be added to the appendix.

In March 2015, the Council identified a new initiative, Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review, to pursue. This initiative would refine and improve the ecosystem indicators presented in the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report (for reference, the 2016 Report is [Agenda Item D.1.a, NMFS Report1](#), March 2016). The Council directed the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG), the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Ecosystem Subcommittee to assess the overall performance of the indicators and how they can be better linked to management decision-making.

In September 2015, the Council endorsed the recommendations in the Ecosystem Workgroup Report (EWG) Report ([Agenda Item D.1.a, EWG Report, September 2015](#)) relative to further development of the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review while directing Indicator Review participants to evaluate potential use of indicators for monitoring climate change rather than taking on a separate climate change related initiative. At the September 2015 meeting, the Council also asked the NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team to work with sablefish assessment scientists and members of the SSC to initiate a comprehensive review of the sablefish stock throughout its range and to explore potential relationships between stock status and ecosystem changes that could help inform the next assessment.

In March 2016, the Council received another EWG Report ([Agenda Item D.2.a, Ecosystem Workgroup Report](#), March 2016) that reviewed the outcome of five webinars held in January and February 2016 intended to help Council advisory bodies understand the current suite of indicators and think about recommendations on indicators relevant to their area of responsibility. At the same time the Council endorsed the EWG's recommendation to identify future Council decisions for which focused indicator presentations would be useful.

As of the advanced briefing book, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel had fulfilled the Council's request to provide input on relevant indicators. Their reports are attached.

The EWG also drafted the attached report providing context for Council final action.

Council Action:

Final Council Guidance on Indicators for Incorporation into the 2017 State of the California Current Ecosystem Report.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1.a, Ecosystem Workgroup Report.
2. Agenda Item D.1.a, Highly Migratory Species Management Team Report.
3. Agenda Item D.1.a, Salmon Advisory Subpanel Report.

Agenda Order:

- D.1 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Final Council Guidance on Indicators for Incorporation into the 2017 State of the California Current Ecosystem Report

PFMC
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