

UPDATE ON 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 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. The Council directed the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG), the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee Ecosystem Subcommittee to assess the overall performance of the indicators and how they can be better linked to management decision-making. In addition, the Council directed the EWG to modify Initiative A.2.8, Cross-FMP Effects of Climate Shift Initiative, for consistency with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Draft Climate Science Strategy.

In response, in September 2015 the EWG submitted a report ([Agenda Item D.1.a, EWG Report, September 2015](#)) describing 1) a recommended process and objectives for the Indicator Review, 2) decision points in the Council's four fishery management plans where ecosystem status information could be integrated, and 3) proposed edits to the Climate Shift Initiative. The Council then endorsed development of the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review and endorsed the EWG's recommended process but decided not to move forward with the Climate Shift Initiative presently. Instead, as part of ecosystem indicator review, Indicator Review participants should evaluate potential use of indicators for monitoring climate change.

The attached EWG Report reviews progress to date, principally the outcome of five webinars held in January and February 2016. In these webinars members of NOAA Fisheries' Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team made presentation on the existing suite of indicators included in the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report (see Agenda Item D.1) and the EWG then moderated discussion about the indicators. The EWG plans to submit a supplemental report describing continuing activities to complete the review of indicators. In particular, the EWG seeks to foster greater engagement by Council advisory bodies in this review process.

According to the current Year-at-a-Glance planner (Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1), the Council intends to complete this initiative in September so that results can be incorporated into the 2017 State of the California Current Ecosystem Report.

Council Action:

Consider Issues Relevant to the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative and Provide Guidance on Future Process and Schedule.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.2.a, Ecosystem Workgroup Report.

Agenda Order:

- D.2 Update on Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider Issues Relevant to the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative and Provide Guidance on Future Process and Schedule

PFMC
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