



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 10, 2016

TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kit Dahl, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 9-14, 2016, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento, California. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) will meet on Tuesday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 9 in the Feather River Room. The Ad Hoc Ecosystem Work Group (EWG) will meet on March 8 in the Garden Room.

There are two agenda topics under the Ecosystem heading: D.1, California Current Ecosystem Report Including Integrated Ecosystem Assessment and D.2, Update on Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative. A report by the EWG for Agenda Item D.2 is included in the advanced briefing book materials.

Under Agenda Item D.1, the NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Team will present its fourth Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report. As noted in your agendas, before presenting the Report to the Council, Drs. Garfield and Harvey will make a presentation to the EAS and EWG on March 8. This would allow you to draft a report on this topic if so desired.

The Council endorsed proceeding with the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative in September 2015. This initiative would refine and improve the ecosystem indicators presented in the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report. The EWG sponsored a series of five webinars in January and February of this year to inform advisory body members and the public about the indicators currently in the Annual Report and stimulate discussion about their application to the Council process. Agenda Item D.2 is an opportunity to update the Council on these activities and present more recommendations for the completion of the initiative. Current Council meeting plans (see Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1) identify the June and September Council meetings to complete the initiative. This would allow the IEA Team to incorporate resulting recommendations into the 2017 Annual Report.

The Habitat Committee has been invited to the joint briefing for the EAS and EWG, as reflected in your agendas. The IEA Team has been developing indicators to assess habitat status, and this session is a chance for the ecosystem advisory bodies, the IEA Team, and the Habitat Committee to discuss potential habitat status indicators and their applicability to the Council process.

I have also included the briefing material for Agenda Item I.3, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. Since discussion of the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative is likely to touch on the scheduling of Council actions to complete the initiative, the EAS and EWG may wish to incorporate some recommendations into reports for Agenda Item I.3.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. You may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website, as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

Last time we met, in September, was also in Sacramento. I haven't come up with a new fun fact so all I can suggest is, if you have chance, go visit (or revisit) Senator Capitol Kitty's grave.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item D.1 – California Current Ecosystem Report Including Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
3. Agenda Item D.2 – Update on Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative
4. Agenda Items I.3 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
5. EAS-EWG Agendas
6. Hotel-related information
7. Council Roster

PFMC

02/10/16