

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

During its March 2017 meeting, the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) discussed several items of importance to future Council planning – specifically for the September 2017 meeting. These included:

- EWG attendance at a meeting between the Ecosystem Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSCES) and California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) scientists to preview work requested from the March 2017 meeting:
 - Whether it is feasible to use indicators to anticipate regime shifts;
 - Possible indicators related to the future status of salmon stocks;
 - Possible indicators to assess the status of the forage base;
 - Follow-up sablefish management strategy evaluation work.
- Meetings of the EWG and Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel to conduct scoping and discuss draft timelines and other background materials and priorities for ecosystem initiatives on: a combined initiative on the socio-economic effects of fisheries management practices on fishing communities (FEP appendix at A.2.7) and on human recruitment to the fisheries (A.2.6); and an initiative on the effects of near-term climate shift and long-term climate change on our fish, fisheries, and fishing communities.
- Council agenda time for:
 - An update from the Science Centers on their climate vulnerability assessment for marine and anadromous species;
 - Choosing a next ecosystem initiative, including reviewing background information and hearing comments from advisory bodies and the public.

The EWG felt that their attendance at the September meeting between the SSCES and the CCIEA team would benefit future discussions and planning on related items (e.g., scoping ecosystem initiatives and use of indicators), provide an opportunity to share in the presentation of the sablefish management strategy evaluation results, and would advance their ongoing education on the merits, and caveats around various indicators and implications for potential use in management. We also note that the fishery ecosystem plan itself is scheduled for a review and update beginning in March 2018. If the EWG meets in September 2017, we would begin initial planning for that review for reporting to the Council in March 2018.