

## SABLEFISH ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS

In March 2016, the Council requested the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluate ecosystem indicators that may influence sablefish recruitment. They requested this evaluation to consider incorporating ecosystem indicators in the sablefish management framework since stock biomass has not increased as anticipated under the precautionary strategies implemented for this important stock.

Scientists from the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Science Centers collaborated on this project. Dr. Melissa Haltuch from the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center will brief the Council and its advisors at this meeting on progress made in evaluating potential ecosystem indicators of sablefish production. The Council may want to provide guidance on this work after receiving this briefing.

### **Council Action:**

**Review progress in evaluating sablefish ecosystem indicators and provide guidance on future work.**

### Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2.a, NMFS Report: A Decade On: Re-evaluating Oceanographic Drivers of California Current Sablefish Recruitment.

### Agenda Order:

F.2 Sablefish Ecosystem Indicators

John DeVore

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review Progress and Provide Guidance