

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SABLEFISH ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) met jointly with the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) to hear a presentation by Dr. Melissa Haltuch and Dr. Nick Tolimieri on oceanographic drivers of sablefish recruitment. Despite management actions sablefish stocks are still in the precautionary zone. Consequently, the motivation for the work presented was to improve estimates of recruitment. As noted in the presentation, the existing model explains only 35 percent to 40 percent of the variance in recruitment. Their new best fit model includes several oceanographic drivers and explains 57 percent of the variance in recruitment. This work shows the utility of including ecosystem variables in the stock assessment process.

The EAS endorses the presenters' intention to expand the geographic scope of the analysis and recognizes that significant resources will be required to do so.

PFMC
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