

## REVIEW OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

As part of the Pacific Coast Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the U.S. Portion of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, the Council adopted the Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix (Attachment 1), which provides examples of how the Council could address ecosystem-related issues. (Generally, these are issues that span more than one of the Council's fishery management plans and address priorities identified in the FEP.)

According to the FEP, each year at the Council's March meeting, the Council and its advisory bodies will review progress on any active ecosystem initiatives and determine which of the initiatives listed in Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix, if any, merit Council attention in the coming year. If the Council decides to take up one or more of the initiatives it may request background materials from the appropriate entities. In odd-numbered years, the Council may also assess whether there are new initiatives that could be added to the Appendix.

In September 2016, the Council finished work on the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative, which relates to the contents of the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report presented under Agenda Item F.1. At this meeting the Council's should provide guidance on updating the Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix to reflect completion of the Indicator Review Initiative and other revisions that might be identified.

If the Council decides to move forward on a new ecosystem initiative, it would begin by requesting relevant background information from the appropriate agencies and other entities, which would then be made available to the Council and its advisory bodies at a subsequent Council meeting, scheduled at the Council's discretion. The Council can also consider whether to change the composition of the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) to align member expertise to the subject of the new initiative.

The current Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance workload summary (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1) lists a September 2017 update on progress made on any new initiative identified at this meeting. The Council will recall that the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative, adopted in March 2015, was considerably fleshed out in September of that year. The proposed September 2017 check-in is likely to be similarly useful.

The EWG met by webinar on January 10, 2017, and, based on the discussion, drafted a report, which is included in the briefing materials.

### **Council Action:**

**1) Identify New Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives to be Added to Appendix A, 2) Provide Guidance on Other Updates to Appendix A, and 3) Determine Whether to Begin Work on an Initiative in the Coming Year Including Process and Schedule.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1: Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix To The Pacific Coast Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

2. Agenda Item F.3.a, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Report.

Agenda Order:

- F.3 Review of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** 1) Identify New Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives to be Added to Appendix A, 2) Provide Guidance on Other Updates to Appendix A, and 3) Determine Whether to Begin Work on an Initiative in the Coming Year Including Process and Schedule

PFMC  
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