

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON REVIEW OF  
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix (Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 1) of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) and the March 2017 statement of the Ecosystem Working Group (EWG) on the FEP Initiatives (Agenda Item F.3.a, EWG Report). While the CPSMT recognizes the value of each potential ecosystem initiative described in the FEP Appendix, we recommend the Council give priority consideration to two initiatives as being currently most beneficial for CPS fisheries management. These are the combination of initiatives A.2.6 *Human Recruitment to the Fisheries* and A.2.7 *Cross-FMP Socio-Economic Effects of Fisheries management initiative*; and A.2.8 *Cross-FMP Effects of Climate Shift Initiative*.

The combination of initiatives A.2.6 and A.2.7 is also recommended by the EWG. The CPSMT recognizes this as a cross-FMP effort but believes this combination of initiatives can benefit CPS management by providing a better understanding of the setting and conditions in which the fishery operates, which is important when assessing the economic effects of past, present and future management approaches. Socioeconomic effects on CPS fisheries have not been considered in depth by the Council in recent years. In addition, the FEP Appendix recognizes the advanced average age of individuals in various Council-managed fleets, indicating a priority in analyzing factors in the sustainability of fishing communities.

In addition, the CPSMT recognizes the timely importance of the *FEP Cross-FMP Effects of Climate Shift Initiative* (A.2.8). The CPSMT has long recognized the strong and rapid effect of climate on all CPS populations and CPS fisheries management. As reported in the introduction of the 2016 California Current Ecosystem (CCE) Integrated Ecosystem State of the California Current report “All the basin-scale and regional climate indicators confirm that since 2013 the Northeast Pacific has experienced exceptional climate variability, reaching new maximum values for many parameters.” In a more dynamic climate scenario, predicting CPS distributions, abundances, and overall responses to a changing California Current Ecosystem becomes even more difficult. We believe that information supported by this initiative on the combined, long-term effects of climate variability on multiple CCE species would help improve CPS assessments, management and fishery resilience.

In summary, the CPSMT concurs with the recommendation to combine Initiatives A.2.6 and A.2.7, and supports moving forward with that combined initiative, as well as moving forward with Initiative A.2.8.