ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) presented its primary recommendations for this agenda item in its advance briefing book report. We continue to support those recommendations, particularly our recommendation that the Council identify a Preliminary Preferred Initiative at this meeting so that we may return to the Council in September 2017 with a scoped process for developing that initiative.

The EWG also notes that we received a preliminary briefing from Dr. Melissa Haltuch of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) about ongoing work by the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers (SWFSC) on climate vulnerability assessments for West Coast marine and anadromous species. We understand that the Centers anticipate publishing the results of this work in fall 2017, and we believe that the information from these assessments would be of interest to the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public. In particular, this information may be useful to the Council if it chooses to go forward with the Climate Shift Initiative, A.2.8.

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