

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FISHERY
ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES: SCOPING AND SELECTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) received a report from Kit Dahl concerning the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) report on Potential Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiatives (Agenda Item I.2.a, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Report 1). In its review of the report, the CPSMT notes the EWG has determined it is more practical to separately address FEP Initiatives A.2.6 and A.2.7 rather than as a combined initiative as proposed in March 2017. The following CPSMT recommendation reflects consideration of this change.

The CPSMT supports all three proposed initiatives, however, if the Council chooses only one, the CPSMT recommends Initiative A.2.7, *Effects of Fisheries Management on Fishing Communities* as a priority. The CPSMT continues to recognize the timely importance of the *FEP Cross-FMP Effects of Climate Shift Initiative* (A.2.8), which should be next on the priority list, if the Council chooses to move forward with two initiatives. The CPSMT has long recognized the strong and rapid effect of climate on all CPS populations and CPS fisheries management. In a more dynamic climate scenario, predicting CPS distributions, abundances, and overall responses to a changing California Current Ecosystem becomes even more difficult. However, the EWG report notes that scientific work relative to climate shift may already be available to inform some of the identified workshop topics, and efforts are underway that support a better understanding of the physical implications of climate shift, thus the CPSMT sees benefits of a focus on achieving a better understanding of how the various levels of fishery regulation and management systems combine to impact fishery operations as proposed under Initiative A.2.7. Initiative A.2.6, *Human Recruitment to the Fisheries*, could provide needed information to the Council as to whether and how current management/regulations hinder entrance into fisheries by younger participants. The CPSMT sees A.2.7 as providing broader baseline information that would be useful to and could feed into any climate-related work that may come in front of the Council, or as part of an initiative focusing on human recruitment to fisheries.

As a first step under this initiative (A.2.7), the EWG report suggests an evaluation of the community-related goals and objectives across FMPs and topics this white paper could address. The white paper could provide a better understanding of the setting and conditions in which the Council-managed fisheries operate, which is important when assessing the socio-economic effects of past, present, and future regulations. Baseline information would facilitate subsequent examination of how policies or regulations (state, Federal, tribal) might foster or preclude fishermen and fishing community adaptation to a variety of influences or forces including management actions, market conditions, or the vulnerability of fishermen and communities to the effects of climate shift/change, and the longer-term socio-economic impacts that might result from those adaptations or effects. The CPSMT notes socioeconomic effects on CPS fisheries have not been considered in depth by the Council in recent years. In particular, current impacts of the multi-year directed sardine fishery closure on fishery participants and communities are not well understood. In conclusion, while the CPSMT sees significant merit with all three initiatives, it recommends A.2.7 for consideration as the Council's next ecosystem initiative to pursue.