

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM ON FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES:  
SCOPING AND SELECTING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the briefing book materials on this agenda item and offers the following recommendation.

The GMT appreciates the information in the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Working Group (EWG) report ([Agenda Item, I.2.a, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Report 1, September 2017](#)) which provides background and exploration of potential workload relative to the three initiatives that the Council considered in March 2017. In March the GMT indicated support for prioritizing socio-economic analysis through the initiative process ([Agenda Item F.3.a., Supplemental GMT Report, March 2017](#)). However, the GMT recognizes that climate change will have implications for Council managed resources and fishing communities. Given the recent significant momentum to understand these issues throughout many forums, it seems a good time for the Council to focus effort on this topic. Although workload may be heavy, the GMT is hopeful that this initiative would ultimately help the Council move forward in incorporating climate information into Council decision making. As stated in the draft goal statement, this initiative would also evaluate the connections between fish stock vulnerability and fishing community vulnerability to climate shift. **Therefore, the GMT recommends adopting a cross-fishery management plan (FMP) climate initiative (A.2.8).**