

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM AND INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM
ASSESSMENT REPORT AND SCIENCE REVIEW TOPICS

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) appreciated the presentation provided by Dr. Chis Harvey and Dr. Toby Garfield regarding the California Current Ecosystem (CCE) Status Report, 2018. The SAS is generally supportive of the objectives for the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA). Improving the understanding of how ocean populations of salmon respond to ecosystem process should promote sustainable fisheries into the future.

The SAS recognizes that the CCIEA is very much a work in progress. We advise that the Council review the objectives of this effort and provide guidance on how best the project may enable future management of our fisheries. The SAS seeks to learn more about how this project could further inform the management process and highlight key factors which result in robust ocean populations of salmon.

The SAS cautions that this ecosystem analysis avoid interpretations which could be misconstrued by competing interests. For example, with regard to stream hydrology, researcher have highlighted short-term trends in maximum flow events were strongly positive in Klamath-Trinity and have preliminarily postulated that these events could be harmful to incubating salmon eggs. This interpretation is in stark contrast to the interest of habitat managers where dam releases are increasingly used strategically to improve salmonid habitat and discourage mechanisms leading to parasitic infection among juvenile and adult migrants. An interpretation that peak flows seen in the Klamath-Trinity are detrimental to salmon production could be misconstrued by those who have other purposes for diverting these flows.

Hence, the SAS would encourage this well-intentioned effort to clarify its objectives and critically interpret the data used in supportive analyses.

PFMC
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