

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN: CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the briefing book materials on this agenda item, including the [Ecosystem Working Group \(EWG\) Report 1 \(March 2018\)](#), and offer the following input. The GMT focused specifically on the advisory body input that the EWG outlined would be helpful at this meeting.

Goal Statement

The GMT reviewed the goal statement, believe it is appropriate, and have no edits or additions.

Webinars

Some of the GMT were able to view some or all of the four webinars on this item and appreciate that they are available online in multiple formats for others to view. Those who viewed the series found the webinars very informative and well done. We were particularly interested in the parts of the presentations that explored how the forecast events would affect management actions. The GMT, and we assume others, are looking forward to seeing how these ideas are further developed in the near future and how the Council might specifically use climate-change information to inform fisheries management and decision making. We viewed the information presented in the webinars as progress towards direct implementation of these ideas.

The Nature Conservancy Workshop

The GMT looks forward to having some of its members participate in The Nature Conservancy (TNC) workshop in May that will address some of the issues brought up report. In Section 3.0 of their report, the EWG outlined a comprehensive set of questions for the Council to consider; we hope that the TNC workshop will facilitate that discussion and help synthesize information from the webinars in order to provide meaningful input to the Council in September.

Tribal Report

The GMT notes that there is a detailed tribal report on climate change and appreciates the concerns of the tribes regarding natural resources issues and bringing them to the Council discussion on ecosystem-based management. The tribes have unique concerns due to the cultural impacts as resources decline or disappear, or as the tribes are displaced from traditional fishing, hunting, and gathering areas.

Monitoring and Research

As noted in the EWG report, as the Council moves towards ecosystem-based fishery management and takes on issues of climate impacts, the demands on monitoring and research only grow. There will need to be consideration of how and by whom that work will be conducted, as well as how it will be funded. On the draft year at a glance ([Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1](#)) the Council is scheduled to have preliminary discussions on research and data needs in a broader context, and this type of work should be included in those discussions.