

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE

To prepare this report, the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) Report on Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 3: Climate and Communities (Agenda Item G.3.a) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Climate and Communities Workshop Report (Agenda Item G.3). In addition, this report draws from input from members of the CPSMT that attended the Climate and Communities Workshop convened by TNC in Portland, Oregon in May 2018, and the webinar conducted by the EWG on August 21, 2018.

In response to the questions the EWG posed in its report (Agenda Item G.3.a, EWG Report 1), the CPSMT notes that identifying the single-most central or principal constraint is difficult. The CPSMT is aware that scientific work relative to climate shift is advancing and significant efforts are underway to better understand the physical, biological, socio-economic, and management implications of climate shift for CPS species among others (two ongoing projects include *From Physics to Fisheries: A Social-Ecological Management Strategy Evaluation for the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem* (NOAA-OAR-CPO-2017-2004998; Informational Report 5, September, 2018), and *Climate change impacts on the sustainability of key fisheries of the California Current System* (NSF: 1600283).

In addition to better understanding these processes, the CPSMT sees value in identifying how licensing (license limitation programs – Federal and/or state) and regulations (gears, seasons, allocation) might hinder or foster flexibility relative to minimizing risks to fisheries. For example, the Council could identify those management programs and tools that support flexibility, e.g. open access quota set-asides, for applicability across the suite of Council-managed fisheries. This might be accomplished through an update of existing ecosystem-based management measures in the fishery ecosystem plan (FEP) (Section 3.5.1.2) to reflect the current suite that exist in each of the fishery management plans (FMPs) (dependent on Council action under Agenda Item G.2). The CPSMT also identified the Council meeting process, multi-year harvest specifications, data coverage limitations, and less than timely data as factors that could constrain flexibility. Identifying key constraints and exploring possible approaches to minimize them is worthwhile but it may be difficult to fully grasp what may result as a consequence of making changes in isolation. To grapple with this complexity, the EWG suggests a scenario planning process and the CPSMT sees this as a useful approach.

The CPSMT supports the Council undertaking this Climate and Communities Initiative, but recognizes the need for additional time to fully develop responses to the questions posed by the EWG, to consider how and whether other research might inform these responses, and develop recommendations. The CPSMT appreciates the EWG's efforts to provide opportunity for discussion on this Initiative via webinar and finds that this format is very expedient for conveying information (such as the series of webinars it hosted last winter) and that webinars might allow for general discussion, but that they are less useful for facilitating management team discussions that support developing comments or suggestions for Council consideration. In addition, given the limited time between the EWG webinar and this meeting, the CPSMT suggests the Council

schedule actions at a future council meeting (i.e. March 2019) which will allow more involvement from the management teams.

In conclusion, the CPSMT offers the following initial recommendations:

- Update the list of ecosystem-based management measures in the FEP (Section 3.5.1.2) to reflect the current suite that exist in each of the FMPs (dependent on Council action under G. 2).
- Review existing FMP measures and determine those that could potentially be applied to additional species, or incorporated across FMPs to build resilience into fish stocks and create or improve flexibility for fisheries.
- Consider using the scenario planning approach and explore some examples for review at the March 2019 meeting.

PFMC
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