

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON
THE FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN 5-YEAR REVIEW

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) submitted a detailed advance briefing book report for this agenda item. Based on our discussions at our March 6-7, 2019 meeting, and taking into consideration the possibility that the Council may wish to proceed with a scenario planning process in support of the Climate and Communities Initiative, which the EWG expects will be fairly resource intensive over the next year, we recommend that the Council:

- Delay decision on *how* to update the fishery ecosystem plan ([FEP] status quo, Vision Update, or Full Update) until the Council and the public have had an opportunity to more thoroughly review the draft Vision Statement, Purpose Statement, Goals, and Objectives.
- Send our draft Vision Statement, Purpose Statement, Goals, and Objectives—as modified by the Council at this March 2019 meeting—out for public review and comment.
- Consider comments received on the revised draft Vision Statement, Purpose Statement, Goals, and Objectives at its September 2019 agenda.
- Task the EWG with drafting more detailed FEP update alternatives for March 2020, based on: revisions to the Vision Statement, Purpose Statement, Goals, and Objectives; information generated during the pursuit of the Climate and Communities Initiative; and information on the current or potential future uses of the FEP.

The EWG is concerned about how the timing of the FEP update may intersect with and be affected by the timing of the Climate and Communities Initiative. Ecosystem issues necessarily impact the full Council family. The Council's scenario planning and FEP update discussions and activities may compete with one another, and that competition for time affects Council advisory bodies, the public, IEA scientists, and the Council's agenda. However, the EWG also thinks that what the Council family learns from the Climate and Communities Initiative may inform the path the Council takes with its FEP update. We are recommending a public review of the draft Vision Statement, Purpose Statement, Goals, and Objectives in 2019, in order to maintain momentum on the FEP Update, while also giving the Council and the public time to think further about how to structure that update.