

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN (FEP) FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

We would like to commend the Ecosystem Working Group (EWG) on their updated options for the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Visions and Alternative Goals and Objectives.

As for the Vision Statements, we felt they all had merit and each of the vision statements had advocates within the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) with the exception of Vision A. While each of them had strengths and some shortcomings, all of them were considered acceptable although we could not come to consensus as to a preferred one as written. Prior to public review, we suggest to improve Vision D to changes it from negative to a positive tone and suggest the following revision:

The vision can be achieved only with continued commitment to scientific research and ongoing monitoring of the biological, ecological, physical, social, and economic characteristics of the ecosystem. In addition, it requires the resources and support to implement adaptive changes in a timely fashion.

We also envision a vision statement as one that should be less prescriptive in actions and more high level aspirations. We suggest the following modification to C, making it both a true vision statement as well as including aspects that we felt were important from other statements (underlined areas are those modified from C; all suggested modifications to C are also comprehensively specified in Appendix A):

The Council is committed to managing for long-term and sustainable California Current Ecosystem (CCE) fisheries for the benefit of current and future generations of Americans, and to supporting and preserving the abundance and diversity of the ecosystem's living marine resources. The Council's vision for the ecosystem supports sustaining species' populations and the dynamic relationships among species, conserving habitats, and managing species and fisheries to build and maintain resilience to climate variability and change and other potential adverse effects on fishery resources and the marine environment. This vision will be inclusive of science on a broad range of species, ecosystems, and time scales and strive for fair and equitable sharing of harvest benefits. With effective fisheries management, the CCE can provide ecosystem services for current and future generations that contribute to commercial and recreational opportunities, and cultural practices that add to the social wellbeing and culture of fishing communities and the nation.

With these modifications, we were able to come to consensus on this statement being our preferred Vision Statement.

We suggest that advisory bodies and the public are given the opportunity to comment specifically on the goals and objectives, as recommended in EWG Report 1. We also support putting the July 2019 Alternative Goals and Objectives out for public comment as suggested in EWG Report 1 (page 9).

Appendix A: Here we include a version of Vision Statement C with all modifications tracked for transparency:

Alternative C: The Council is committed to managing for long-term and sustainable CCE fisheries for the benefit of current and future generations of Americans, and to supporting and preserving the abundance and diversity of the ecosystem’s living marine resources. The Council’s vision for the ecosystem supports sustaining species’ populations and the dynamic relationships among species, conserving habitats, and managing species and fisheries to build and maintain resilience to climate variability and change and other potential adverse effects on fishery resources and the marine environment. This vision will be inclusive of science on a broad range of species, ecosystems, and time scales and strive for fair and equitable sharing of harvest benefits. With effective fisheries management, the CCE can provide ecosystem services for current and future generations ~~that ensure jobs and incomes~~ that contribute to commercial and recreational opportunities, and cultural practices that add to the social wellbeing and culture of fishing communities.

PFMC
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