

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM AND INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM
ASSESSMENT (IEA) REPORT AND SCIENCE REVIEW TOPICS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation by Drs. Chris Harvey (Northwest Fisheries Science Center) and Toby Garfield (Southwest Fisheries Science Center) on the 2020 California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) California Current Ecosystem Status Report ([Agenda Item G.1.a, IEA Team Report 1, March 2020](#)). The report provides important information on environmental, biological, social, and economic indicators and provides an ecosystem perspective on West Coast fish stocks, fisheries, and coastal communities for the Council process.

The SSC appreciates the CCIEA team's openness and responsiveness to the Council and SSC questions and recommendations, and their continuing efforts to improve the Status Report with additional information and improved figures and tables. The 2020 Status Report includes several new indicators and analyses including: an indicator-based outlook for natural origin fall Chinook salmon returns California's Central Valley (section 4.3), measures of port-specific commercial revenue as a proportion of total West Coast commercial revenue (section 6.3), and a habitat compression index describing the availability of cool upwelled water which can inform the impact of marine heatwaves (section 7.2).

The SSC noted that figure 4.4.1 had a data error indicating that the greenstriped rockfish fishing rate exceeded the proxy F_{MSY} . It did not. This data point has been corrected and a revised version will be provided by the IEA team.

The CCIEA team has proposed three potential topics for review in September 2020: 1) An examination of California sea lion pup count and growth data used as indicators of forage conditions. This topic would focus on the interpretation of these metrics as sea lion populations approach or reach carrying capacity; 2) The proposed habitat compression index to describe the impact of marine heatwaves on oceanographic conditions and potentially inform whale entanglement risk; and 3) The development of port-specific commercial revenue indices to understand the distribution of revenue among West Coast ports through time. The SSC agrees with the importance of all three of these proposed topics, although the third topic would likely require a substantial amount of additional work to be ready for the methods review in September. The SSC also suggests that a review of the methods underlying the natural origin central valley fall Chinook stock indicator may be an appropriate topic for review if suitable analysts are available to present this topic.