

Ecosystem Workgroup Report for September 2020, F.2.: Fishery Ecosystem Plan Update



Agenda Item F.2.a
Supplemental EWG PPT1
September 2020

Working from:

3

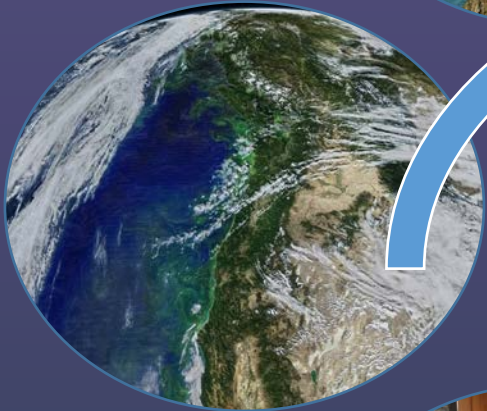
- F.2 Situation Summary: Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review
 - F.2, Supplemental Pre-Recorded Video¹: Briefing Update on Fishery Ecosystem Plan (deReynier) – *from Council's YouTube channel*
 - F.2, Attachment 1: Proposed Outline of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Chapters 4 and 5 (Excerpted from Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 1, March 2020)
 - F.2.a, EWG Report 1: Draft Revised Fishery Ecosystem Plan Chapter 3
 - F.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 2

The Pacific Fishery Management Council envisions a thriving and resilient California Current Ecosystem that continues to provide benefits to current and future generations and supports livelihoods, fishing opportunities, and cultural practices that contribute to the wellbeing of fishing communities and the nation. (March 2020)



1st

F.2.a, EWG Report 1: Draft Revised Fishery Ecosystem Plan Chapter 3



Agenda Item F.2.a
EWG Report 1
September 2020

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON THE FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN UPDATE

At the March 2020 meeting, the Council updated its Fishery Ecosystem Plan's (FEP's) Vision Statement, Purpose Statement, Goals, and Objectives. For this September 2020 meeting, the Council asked that the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) provide a draft Chapter 3, an overview of the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). The Council also asked that the EWG provide revisions to the draft outline for Chapters 4 and 5 of the FEP that the EWG had presented to the Council in March (see Appendix 2: <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2020/03/g-2-a-supplemental-ewg-report-1.pdf/>).

Draft Chapter 3 is provided in this advance briefing book report. The EWG plans to review and re-draft outlines for Chapters 4 and 5 in a supplemental report. The draft Chapter 3 presented in this report is not complete and some sections have not yet been updated from 2013. We recognize that Chapter 3 is long and anticipate that readers may have comments both at and following the September meeting. While we welcome any comments from the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public, it would be particularly useful to receive comments and ideas at the September meeting on:

- Section 3.2.3, *Habitat Classification*. This is a new section for 2020, and replaces the 2013 section on Benthic Habitat with the intent of making the section inclusive of more habitat types. We would be grateful for comments from the Habitat Committee on whether this section highlights the appropriate data and classification methodologies.
- Sections 3.4.2 – 3.4.6, within *Fisheries of the CCE*. We are testing a revised framework for this section and, for this September meeting, recommend that readers focus on the overall organization of this section, although comments on details are welcome. The EWG plans to hold a discussion session with social scientists at its September 2020 meeting to elicit ideas and guidance for this section.
- Section 3.5.2, *Ecosystem-Based Management Measures Within FMPs*. Comments from the management teams and advisory subpanels would be particularly helpful to updating this section.
- Section 3.5.4, *Tribal and State Fisheries Management*. Comments from the tribes on the proposed organization of the discussion of tribal fisheries management would be helpful for re-drafting this section. The 2013 FEP version of this section is included for context.

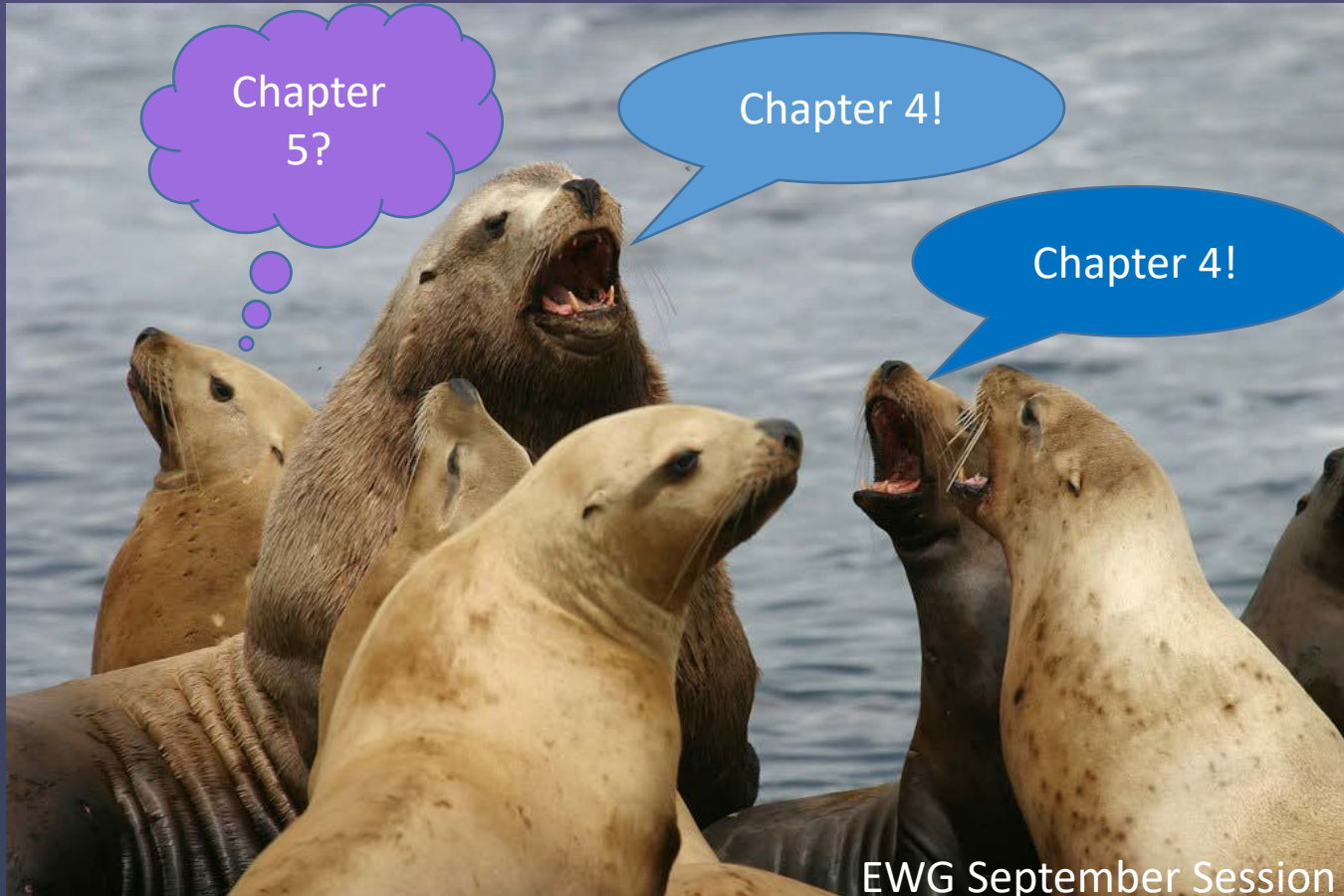
Finally, in revising and updating Chapter 3, the EWG recommends moving the following text from the 2013 introduction to Chapter 3 into the updated Chapter 2:

2.4 Geographic Range of the FEP

The geographic range for the Pacific Coast FEP is the entire U.S. West Coast EEZ. The West Coast EEZ does not encompass all of the CCE, nor does it include all of the waters and habitat used by many of the Council's more far-ranging species. The Council also recognizes the importance of freshwater and estuarine ecosystems to the CCE and may expand this initial effort to include these ecoregions in the future. The Council does not believe that designating the EEZ as the FEP's geographic range in any way prevents it from receiving or considering information on areas of the CCE or other ecosystems beyond the EEZ.

2nd

F.2, Attachment 1: Proposed Outline of Fishery Ecosystem Plan **Chapters 4 and 5** (Excerpted from Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 1, March 2020)

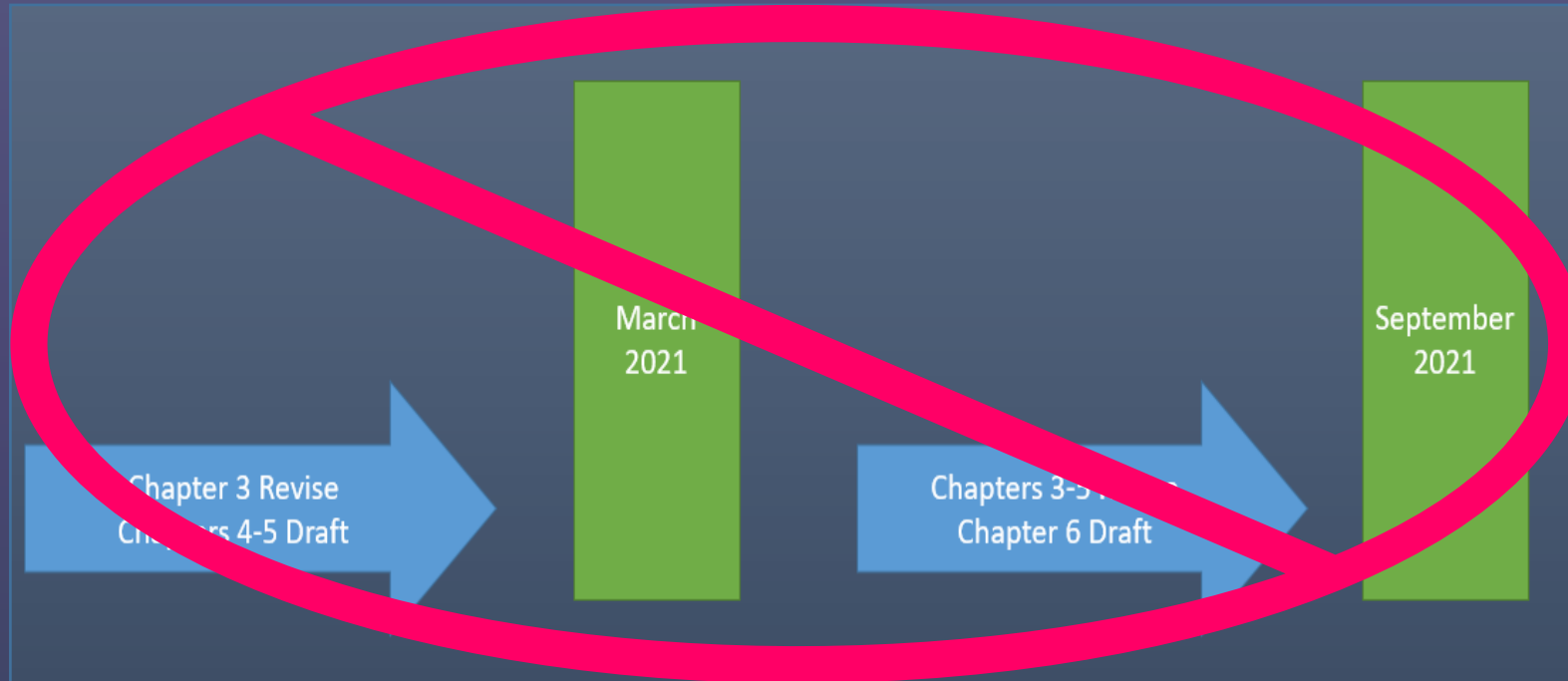


Chapter 4: Environmental change, human activities, and social-ecological dynamics in the California Current Ecosystem

Chapter 5 PFMC Policy Priorities for Ocean Resource Management

3rd

F.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 2



Agenda Item F.2.a.
Supplemental EWG Report 2
September 2020

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON THE FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

For its advance briefing book report (Agenda Item F.2.a., EWG Report 1), the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) provided an updated draft of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan's (FEP's) Chapter 3, *California Current Ecosystem Overview*. During the EWG's September 8-10, 2020 meeting, we held a roundtable discussion with economists and other social scientists who regularly work to characterize and assess the fisheries and fishing communities that are part of the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). We are grateful for the willingness of participating scientists to help us think about future drafts of Chapter 3 and are looking forward to hearing further thoughts on Chapter 3 from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), its advisory bodies, and the public.

During the EWG's September meeting, we also discussed needed revisions to the draft outlines for Chapters 4 and 5, to better take into account the FEP goals and objectives that the Council had adopted in March 2020. With this supplemental report, we are proposing draft revisions to the Chapter 4 outline, and are recommending pulling Chapter 5 out of the FEP to make it a stand-alone document for greater ease of use. Chapter 4 is intended to discuss environmental change, human activities, and social-ecological dynamics in the CCE, so that the larger Council family can understand interactions between different ecosystem components in order to better meet our FEP goals and objectives. A revised draft outline for Chapter 4 is provided in Appendix 1 to this report.

In the 2013 FEP, Chapter 5 was intended to serve as a stand-alone chapter that would provide "non-Council entities with information on some of the Council's highest priority concerns for non-fishing activities within the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). . . discuss[ing] species, habitat types, fisheries, and ecological functions of particular concern to, or that may strongly drive, the Council's policies for CCE resources." During the EWG's September discussions, we realized that not only did this chapter have a different audience from the rest of the FEP, it would be easier to use as intended if non-Council entities operating in the EEZ could access it separately from the FEP. The existing outline of Chapter 5 of the FEP is provided on pages 2-4 of Agenda Item F.2., Attachment 1. The EWG would particularly appreciate a chance to collaborate with the Habitat Committee over this winter to refashion the Chapter 5 outline so that it can better stand separate from the FEP and serve its intended purpose. The bulk of the EWG's workload over the fall and winter will be dedicated to further revising Chapter 3 and to re-drafting Chapter 4, so we do not believe that pulling the existing Chapter 5 out of the FEP will affect the pace of the FEP's revision.

For this September 2020 meeting, the EWG recommends that the Council:

- Review and provide comments on the new Section 2.4 and revised draft Chapter 3 of the FEP provided in EWG Report 1 for this agenda item, forwarding comments from Council advisory bodies and the public as appropriate;
- Review and provide comments on the draft outline for Chapter 4 found in Appendix 1 to this supplemental report;
- Task the EWG with continued drafting of Chapters 3 and 4 for the March 2021 Council meeting;

March 2020

June 2020

September 2020

Chapters
1 & 2
adopted

New
scientists
added to
EWG

Chapter 3
draft;
Chapter 4
outline

March 2021

September 2021

Chapters 3-4 draft;
Chapter 6
becomes 5, gets
outline

Standalone
MSP
document
outline

Final re-
drafted FEP
available for
review

- Review and provide comments on the new Section 2.4 and revised draft Chapter 3 of the FEP provided in EWG Report 1 for this agenda item, forwarding comments from Council advisory bodies and the public as appropriate;
- Review and provide comments on the draft outline for Chapter 4 found in Appendix 1 to this supplemental report;
- Task the EWG with continued drafting of Chapters 3 and 4 for the March 2021 Council meeting;
- Task the EWG with working with the Habitat Committee and other advisory bodies, as appropriate, to outline what is now Chapter 5 as a stand-alone document for the March 2021 Council meeting.