

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON THE CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) thanks Dr. Kit Dahl and Mr. Jonathan Star for their organization and support of the region-focused scenario planning workshops for the Climate and Communities Initiative (the Initiative). We also thank Ms. Jennifer Gilden for improving the design and layout of background materials for the workshops. The EWG members participated in all four workshops and were impressed by the breadth and scope of ideas the participants discussed. We thank Jonathan, Kit and the members of the Climate and Communities Core Team (CCCT) for their efforts in hosting four engaging workshops with a diverse range of participants. We are also particularly grateful to all of the workshop participants, some of whom regularly participate in the Council process, but also new volunteers who brought new ideas and inspiration. The EWG would also like to acknowledge the thoughtful public comments under this agenda item from The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The scenarios discussed in the workshops are not meant to be prescriptive, but instead are intended as thought exercises to explore challenges we might face in the future, as well as to generate ideas for actions that can be taken to adapt and respond to those challenges.

The EWG notes that potential actions resulting from this initiative may include short-term actions to update fisheries regulations or Council Operating Procedures, as well as longer-term actions that may require shifts in data-collection and analysis processes, fishery management plan amendments, or additional ecosystem initiatives. For the priority action areas listed in Report 1 (Agenda Item I.2, attachment 1), the EWG suggests the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) task the CCCT with reviewing the Priority Action Areas as well as the Regional and Stakeholder Implications and Actions, and workshop worksheets to identify future pathways for including ideas therein into the Council process.

The CCCT would review and synthesize the workshop results to identify potential actions to prepare our fish stocks, fisheries habitat, and fishing communities for a variety of future effects of climate change. Council advisory bodies and the public could then provide further review, discussion, and prioritize actions for implementation, whether through direct Council action or in future Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiatives or fisheries regulations. In particular, we recommend that the CCCT look at notes from the afternoons of the second days of each workshop, where participants discussed future science, management, industry, and community actions that could help mitigate the potential negative effects of any of the future scenarios. We also recommend that the CCCT review The Nature Conservancy's report on flexibility in fisheries management plans (Agenda Item I.2.c, Public Comment), since management flexibility was a matter of significant discussion at the regional workshops.

Following the review of the workshop results by the CCCT, the EWG suggests:

- A workshop in May or June 2021 for members of the Council's advisory bodies to jointly discuss the way forward and the priority actions and indicators from the winter 2020-2021 workshops;

- Reports from the CCCT, EWG, and other advisory bodies for Council consideration in September 2021;
- Council final action on the initiative in September 2021, which would include:
 - recommendations on actions the Council can take in 2022 and beyond to prepare our fish stocks, fisheries, and fishing communities for a future of climate change; and,
 - recommendations on future ecosystem initiatives that may need to be developed to take longer-term actions to prepare for climate change.

PFMC
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