

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN
FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) focused the bulk of their discussion on the content of Chapters 4 and 5 of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (Plan). We would like to thank the Ecosystem Workgroup for their hard work on these additions to the Plan and provide the following comments.

Overall, the revised Plan provides a helpful integration of information and activities of the Council, is well-grounded, and provides an accessible presentation of ecosystem-based management as implemented by the Council. The new draft appears to be well-referenced, which is a strength that will contribute to its future use. While it is expected that the majority of the “in review” references will ultimately be published, there were some concerns about whether the inclusion of references “in preparation” was appropriate.

Given the important role of science in Council decision-making, the EAS felt that Chapter 5 could be more fully developed by, for instance, providing examples and illustrations of linkages between science and management and by including consideration of the role of community science in decision-making. We appreciate the inclusion of the information on risk assessment since risk assessment is likely to play an important role as the Council considers strategies to address rapidly changing and less predictable ocean conditions.

PFMC
09/10/21