

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE
THE CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (CCI)

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) thanks the Ad Hoc Climate and Communities Core Team (CCCT) for an excellent report, and a thoughtful set of recommendations for potential Council action. We have the following recommendations for further Council action. **First, we agree** with the CCCT that next steps be directed to the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG), and the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) as the core advisory bodies for the Council on ecosystem issues, along with the other Council advisory bodies for fishery management plan (FMP)-specific strategies.

Second, we support the following specific CCCT recommendations for potential Council action.

Under #1, **science-focused activities** to provide the Council with actionable information, we support 1.a.i, ii, iii, and iv. These relate to ways to progressively integrate climate change data and information into fisheries management tools such as stock assessments and harvest control rules. We also support 1b, which would enhance the role of fishermen as “citizen scientists” to provide their on-the-water observations, including tracking climate change signals in fish stocks.

Under #2, **implementing revisions to ongoing management processes**, we support 2.a.i, tasking advisory bodies to explore activities to increase flexibility, responsiveness, and adaptability within the Council process. Also 2.a.ii, subsections 1-3, which relate to FMP-specific information, barriers, and opportunities which management teams and advisory bodies can discuss, and then report findings and recommendations back to the Council on a regular basis. We also support 2.b-f, which relate to workshops, staff activities, and specific tasks for the EWG. Additionally, we recommend the Council expand on 2.d by establishing a Climate Change agenda item within the March Council meeting, in conjunction with the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Report.

Under #3, **continued Council collaboration** with partner agencies and stakeholder groups, and engaging new partners as appropriate, we support 3.a and 3.c. Under these actions, the Council would ask NOAA to provide a report to the Council on the West Coast fisheries’ disaster determinations made in response to events that could be characterized as climate variability or change since 2010. And, the Council would ask NOAA to draft a report evaluating the Council’s scenario planning process and outcomes.

Regarding recommendations for specific Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) initiatives:

As we noted in our H.1 report on the Five-Year FEP Review, we recommend the Council expand the CCI by moving forward with the **Cross-FMP Effects of Climate Shift Initiative**. To help implement this initiative, we suggest the Council assemble a group with broad expertise, consisting of climate and social scientists, a geographically diverse group of fishermen, fisheries managers, and others. The group would address both what is known within in the scientific community and what is observed on the water, and the concerns of fishing communities with regard to the longer-term effects of climate change. Developing standardized reporting from fishermen who are routinely on the water should be developed as part of this initiative. The committee, perhaps a

subgroup under the EWG, would then develop recommendations for forward-looking scientific investigations into the effects of climate change on West Coast fish and fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations.

PFMC
09/13/21