

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON THE FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN UPDATE

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) first adopted its Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) in April 2013, at the end of a three-year process to discuss, design, and develop the FEP and its appendix. In March 2019, the Council began the process for its first FEP update. Throughout 2019, the Council designed the FEP update process and drafted new visionary language for the FEP, including new goals and objectives. From March 2020 through September 2021, the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) provided the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public with updated FEP chapters for their review and comment.

At its September 2021 meeting, the Council directed the EWG to address comments on the draft revised FEP provided in advisory body reports. Council staff made a [final revised draft](#) available to the public in November 2021.

The Council, its advisory bodies, and the public have had opportunities at each March and September meeting from March 2019 to the present to review and comment on successive chapters of the FEP. As the work has proceeded, and at the direction of the Council, the EWG has modified the FEP to take into account comments received at each stage of the document. Given that deliberative process, we do not anticipate the Council receiving comments that would fundamentally alter the updated FEP at this meeting. Therefore, the EWG recommends that the Council finalize the FEP at this meeting, taking into account any final edits or comments from advisory bodies and the public.

Under Agenda Item H.3.a, the EWG has provided draft updates to the FEP appendix, including new and revised potential ecosystem initiatives, for review and comment by the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public.

Guidance Document on Agency Non-Fishing Activities in the California Current Ecosystem

In March 2021, under the FEP Update Agenda Item, I.3.a, the Council asked that the EWG return in March 2022 with a draft guidance document on agency non-fishing activities in the ecosystem (previously Chapter 5 in the 2013 FEP). The EWG has provided that draft document, taking into account the comments of the advisory bodies and the public from March 2021 for this meeting under Agenda Item C.2.a, Marine Planning. In our report for C.2.a, we recommend that the Council guide further work on the draft guidance document under marine planning agenda items, rather than under FEP-related agenda items.