

REVIEW OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

As part of the Pacific Coast Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the U.S. Portion of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, the Council adopted the [Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix](#), which provides examples of how the Council could address ecosystem-related issues. Generally, these are issues that span more than one of the Council's fishery management plans and address priorities identified in the FEP.

According to the FEP, each year at the Council's March meeting, the Council and its advisory bodies will review progress on any active ecosystem initiatives and determine which of the initiatives listed in Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix, if any, merit Council attention in the coming year. In odd-numbered years, the Council may also assess whether there are new initiatives that could be added to the Appendix. However, the Council deferred this task from 2021 to 2022. (The revised FEP, see Agenda Item H.1, drops the restriction of considering additions to the Appendix only in odd-numbered years.)

In September 2022, the Council finished work on the Climate and Communities Initiative (CCI). At that time the Council directed the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) to identify candidate initiatives flowing from the CCI, along with other activities that may not be categorized as an FEP initiative. EWG Report 1 presents a draft revised Initiatives Appendix, proposing the elimination of some potential initiatives, the revising and refocusing of others, and the introduction of new ones. At this meeting the Council should review the EWG's recommended revisions and provide guidance on any further updates to the Appendix. (The Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix is currently labeled "Appendix A." But because there are no other appendices to the FEP, in its revision the EWG proposes dropping that label to simplify and clarify references to it.)

The Council also may wish to identify a new ecosystem initiative to begin work on. If it does, it may direct the EWG, in consultation with other advisory bodies, to scope development of the selected initiative or initiatives, reporting back to the Council with a detailed plan of activities at a future meeting. The Council also has the option to change the composition of the EWG to align member expertise with the subject of the new initiative.

Ecosystem items are typically scheduled on the Council's March and September meeting agendas. The Council could thus request an update on any further revisions to the Initiative Appendix flowing from guidance at this meeting in September along with a report on preliminary work on a new initiative.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider Proposed Revisions to Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives Appendix and Provide Guidance,**
- 2. Determine Whether to Begin Work on an Initiative in the Coming Year Including Process and Schedule, and**
- 3. Identify any Other New Activities Flowing from the Climate and Communities Initiative.**

Reference Materials:

