

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) discussed future council meeting agendas and workload planning at our meeting on March 9th and would like to offer the following comments.

The EAS discussed the benefit of a formal opportunity to participate in the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) annual review of revisions to the indicators included in the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Annual Report, as proposed in Agenda Item H.3, Public Comment. While EAS members can observe the SSC's review in September, it is focused more on the technical details raised by the National Marine Fisheries Service IEA Team. So rather than attend the SSC meeting, the EAS believes that engaging with the IEA Team separately to discuss revisions to indicators and how ecosystem information is packaged and presented to the Council for the following March meeting could further the EAS's understanding of the Annual Report and help ensure it is most useful for Council management. To facilitate this, the EAS would prefer to invite the IEA Team to meet with us either prior to or in conjunction with our September meeting.

The EAS had a robust discussion about workload, acknowledged that the scope of ecosystem-related issues that affect Council fisheries is increasing, and discussed the timing of those issues relative to our usual meeting schedule (i.e., March and September), and our capacity to have more meetings. The EAS typically reviews and comments on the Council's Research and Data Needs (currently scheduled for June 2022), and we noted that the planned transition to the online database would likely allow us to identify priorities and provide updates with relatively low impact to our workload. For other items, such as Marine Planning, some members felt that it could be beneficial for the EAS to receive updates, and potentially comment on those items. Notably, as climate and other ecosystem issues become more broadly considered by the Council (e.g., in the context of stock assessments), some EAS members identified those an opportunity for the EAS to provide input even though these may not be explicitly identified as "ecosystem" items. While the EAS is committed to be responsive to Council-identified priorities that the Council believes would benefit from EAS engagement or advice even if such requests fall outside of the EAS's current schedule, the EAS was generally concerned that this could result in a significant increase in our overall workload, and would appreciate the Council taking that into consideration.

PFMC
03/11/22