

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM STATUS REPORT AND SCIENCE REVIEW TOPICS

The Habitat Committee (HC) heard an excellent presentation by Drs. Chris Harvey and Toby Garfield, NMFS Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Center co-leads for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA). Drs. Harvey and Garfield presented a detailed overview of the annual California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Science Review Topics. The report is an annual summary of environmental, ecological, economic, and social indicators.

The HC is interested in plans that the IEA Team might have for further developing a data and information portal (dashboard) to allow ready access to the broad array of temporal and spatial information that are being synthesized by the Team. The HC is interested in future applications of the IEA in essential fish habitat consultations across each of the Council's fishery management plans. The CCIEA presenters referenced the CCIEA Team's Future Seas California Current Project which will employ modeling to explore potential impacts of climate change on highly migratory species and coastal pelagic species in the California Current. The HC is interested in understanding what datasets or information would be needed to track how the IEA might identify climate change driven latitudinal shifts in marine population distributions.

The CCIEA presentation included a timely examination of potential interactions between commercial fishing activities and in newly established Wind Energy Areas off California and wind energy Call Areas off Oregon. The IEA Team is in the process of pulling together information that will support identifying effects of wind energy infrastructure on oceanographic processes and species.

PFMC
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