

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON REVIEW OF
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) discussed [Agenda Item H.3.a, Ecosystem Workgroup \(EWG\) Report 1, March 2022](#) on their joint March 1st webinar. The CPSAS supports the EWG's draft revised Initiatives including proposed removals and new additions, and offers the following recommendations for new Ecosystem Initiatives for the Council to consider directing the EWG to scope for development.

We recommend *Initiative 2.8, Assess Flexibility in Fisheries Management Process* plus an addition to the EWGs draft scope of this initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to identify ways in which Council decision-making and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) review and regulatory processes can be made more dynamic to respond to rapidly changing environmental conditions caused by near-term climate shift and long-term climate change. Increased flexibility in fisheries management is especially critical for CPS stocks which fluctuate over short time scales, yet are vitally important as forage for larger fish, seabirds and marine mammals, in addition to their vital importance to industry. We recommend the Council ask the EWG to add language to the scope of this initiative to integrate fishers knowledge into the draft Initiative. Fishers spend the most time on the ocean and can add information that may not typically be available through other sources. Integrating fishers knowledge is needed to achieve the most efficient and useful flexibility and will help identify areas of risk to better preserve socio-economic goals of Council-managed fisheries.

Second, we recommend *Initiative 2.1, Ecosystem and Climate Information for Species, Fisheries, and FMPs [Fishery Management Plans]*. Under this initiative, the Council would support Integrated Ecosystem Assessment scientists, management teams, and advisory bodies collaborating on developing climate and ecosystem information in support of harvest-setting processes and stock assessments. We see potential for this initiative to support the goals of Initiative 2.8 as well as improve ongoing single-species management review and decision making.