

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON FISHERY ECOSYSTEM  
PLAN INITIATIVES AND DRAFT UPDATES TO THE FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN  
APPENDIX

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) reviewed the Ecosystem Workgroup's (EWG's) draft revised Initiatives (in [Agenda Item H.3.a, EWG Report 1](#)) and discussed the relevance of these Initiatives to HMS management. Two initiatives particularly useful for informing, and potentially shaping, future discussions of HMS management are highlighted:

- Initiative 2.8, Assess Flexibility in Fisheries Management Process, and
- Initiative 2.1, Ecosystem and Climate Information for Species, Fisheries, and fishery management plans.

As described in the EWG report, the purpose of Initiative 2.8 is to identify dynamic ways in which National Marine Fisheries Service and the Council approach decision-making, review, and subsequent regulatory processes in response to changing environmental conditions. The EWG references the connection between this Initiative and the Climate and Communities Initiative (CCI) goals for management actions that are flexible and responsive to the effects of near-term and long-term climate change. The HMSMT envisions additional potential benefits this approach could offer HMS management. The Council has embarked on a now 7-year process to create flexibilities that promote innovation in the HMS fishery, and the HMSMT has reviewed numerous exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications in support of this effort. The HMSMT continues to see interest from HMS fishery participants in this process. The HMSMT sees the potential for future work of the EWG on Initiative 2.8 to provide useful insights for how to promote continued innovation in HMS fisheries, yet provide sufficient caution against adverse environmental impacts.

Initiative 2.1 appears to be intrinsically related to Initiative 2.8. Under Initiative 2.1, the HMSMT anticipates collaboration with members of other Council advisory bodies to evaluate how ecosystem and climate information can be used to assess scientific uncertainties and set effective harvest policies and practices for HMS fisheries.