

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

For this agenda item, the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) reviewed the proposed ecosystem management agenda items on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council's) Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance (YAG) Summary ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 1](#)). The EWG also discussed potential Council follow-up tasks raised under the Climate and Communities Initiative (CCI), some of which do not fall neatly within ecosystem agenda items and will likely not be addressed unless the Council requests or assigns the work associated with those tasks and considers the results of those tasks under future agendas. The EWG last reported on these CCI follow-up tasks in an April 2022 report on future workload planning ([Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental EWG Report, April 2022](#)). Based on our discussions, the EWG recommends that the Council:

- Add an ecosystem agenda item to both March and September 2023 that reads “Review ecosystem initiative progress.”
- Review the list of CCI follow-up tasks, below, and decide whether to add any of the tasks in Section 1, *CCI tasks that the Council could add to a future agenda without additional background from the EWG*, to its future agendas.

Climate and Communities Initiative Follow-Up Task List – Updated September 2022

(Note: tasks shaded in gray would become part of an Ecosystem and Climate Information Initiative if that is adopted by the Council under Agenda Item H.1.c)

1. *CCI Tasks that the Council could add to a future agenda without additional background from the EWG:*
 - All Fishery Management Plan- (FMP) specific advisory subpanels and management teams to report to the Council on barriers in the management of their fisheries to addressing the effects of ecological or management surprises and shifting stocks through in-season management actions, and on measures the Council could take to increase management nimbleness pre-season and in-season, while supporting long-term stock and ecosystem integrity.
 - All FMP-specific advisory subpanels and management teams could report to the Council on priorities and processes for review of exempted fishing permit applications and recommendations about how such permits could be deployed to advance climate-ready fisheries.
 - All FMP-specific advisory subpanels and management teams could report to the Council on opportunities for and challenges to embedding climate variability and change into our assessments, decision tables, and scientific advice for fishery management unit species, with advice and input from the Scientific and Statistical Committee

- Plan a future workshop, in coordination with National Marine Fisheries Service’s (NMFS) Secretariats to the U.S. Delegations to the Regional Fishery Management Organizations, involving Council, advisory body, and management team members who engage with regional fishery management organizations and other international forums that have management responsibility for West Coast fish stocks to:
 - Develop recommendations to address adapting to and mitigating for the effects of climate change on fish stocks and fisheries at the international level, and
 - Identify measures to improve current transboundary coordination to prepare for shifts in the distribution of managed fish stocks.
- Request that NMFS report to the Council on the West Coast fisheries’ disaster determinations made in response to events that could be characterized as climate variability or change since 2010.
- Request that NMFS report to the Council on coordination among its hatchery, habitat, and hydropower policies to buffer Pacific salmon stocks against climate change effects.
- Task advisory bodies to explore the use of citizen science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, through community-based, and collaborative efforts in data collection for tracking climate change. (Note: Council received public comment report in March 2022 on albacore stomach sampling program, a collaborative project between highly migratory species fishing industry and NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center.)

2. *CCI Tasks that require additional background work from the EWG and others*

- Catalog potential processes to address incorporating climate variability and change data and information into our stock assessments, ecosystem assessments, scientific advice, and decision-making, including expected shifts in our stocks abundance and distribution, and ecosystem conditions, over the next 5-20 years. (Initial discussion provided in Chapter 5 of the updated Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) adopted in March 2022.)
- Use NOAA’s climate vulnerability assessments to prioritize stocks for climate Management Strategy Evaluations intended to develop climate-ready harvest control rules and other management measures.
- Bring FMP-specific ecosystem reporting into the Council process at times when it is most needed and useful, supplementing the annual ecosystem status report and harvest decisions that are under development.
- Define flexibility and adaptability in the context of shifting West Coast stocks and identify appropriate considerations, based on scenario planning results and informed by the report 1 provided by The Nature Conservancy.

3. *CCI Tasks already completed or assigned*

- Ask the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Team to provide an appendix in the annual ecosystem status report that provides information specific to climate change, takes into account the CCI scenarios, and develops climate early warning indicators – done March 2022, see Appendix E of Agenda Item H.2.a, [CCIEA Team Report 1](#), March 2022.

- EWG asked to include a statement in the Council’s Guidance Document on Offshore Non-Fishing Activities on the role of greenhouse gas emissions in climate change and related implications for West Coast fisheries – done March 2022, see Agenda Item C.2.a, [EWG Report 1](#), March 2022.
- EWG asked to reference the final Scenario Planning Report(s) in the FEP as an example of potential impacts of climate change – done, see [FEP at Section 5.2](#).
- Annual updates on actions taken by other U.S. fishery management councils to better prepare fisheries for climate change – assigned to Council staff and planned for initial discussion with other fishery management councils at the May 17-19, 2022 [Council Coordination Committee](#) meeting. A Council staff report on the results of this discussion could be included in background material for FEP initiative discussions in September 2022.
- Develop Council webpage for climate-related work and resources to assist in educating and engaging the public – assigned to Council staff.
- Develop summary report on the Council’s CCI scenario planning process – former Climate and Communities Core Team members are drafting NOAA Tech Memo, *U.S. Pacific Coast Federal Fisheries Scenario Planning Summary Report*.

PFMC
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