

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES APPENDIX AND NEW INITIATIVE

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) report on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) ([Agenda Item H.1.a, EWG Report 1, September 2022](#)) and offers the following comments and recommendations.

In March 2022 the CPSMT, after recognizing the value of each of the nine potential ecosystem initiatives described in the FEP Appendix ([Agenda Item H.3.a, EWG Report 1, March 2022](#)), identified four potential ecosystem initiatives as the most beneficial for CPS fisheries management.

- *2.1 Ecosystem and Climate Information for Species, Fisheries, and FMPs [Fishery Management Plan];*
- *2.2 Science Policy and Planning for Understanding the Effects of Oceanographic Conditions and Recruitment on Council-Managed Finfish Species;*
- *2.6 Supporting Fishery and Fishing Community Resilience;*
- *2.8 Assess Flexibility in Fisheries Management Process.*

After review of the EWG's revised draft, the CPSMT still finds the four initiatives initially proposed above as the highest priorities for consideration with respect to CPS. However, given that the new proposed initiative 2.10 *Climate-Informed Fisheries Management Initiative* combines three of the four elements the CPSMT previously identified for consideration, the CPSMT supports this new proposed initiative, with one addition. The CPSMT notes that aspects of this newly proposed initiative, specifically Action Area a) "*Develop climate and ecosystem indicators to inform fishery management decisions at the FMP level, which may be stock specific*", would benefit from efforts within Initiative 2.2, which includes "the goal of identifying the most important factors dictating year class strength". The CPSMT sees adding this component to initiative 2.10 as something that would strengthen it greatly and recommends that the Council pursue an initiative that includes all these components.

The CPSMT recommends adopting the FEP Appendix, and strongly recommends potentially updating the scientific name of Pacific sand lance to *Ammodytes personatus* under *1.1 FEP Initiative 1, Protection for Unfished Forage Fish*, following a thorough review of the relevant scientific literature (see Orr et al. 2015) to help ensure that the correct species is protected by that initiative. The CPSMT recognizes that this change would have implications for all the FMPs that include this ecosystem component species as well as for Federal regulations related to this initiative, but views those as strictly administrative issues given that such a change in the scientific name to keep up with the taxonomy would be consistent with the intent of the initiative to protect unfished forage species in the California Current Ecosystem.

Literature Cited:

Orr, J. W., Wildes, S., Kai, Y., Raring, N., Nakabo, T., Katugin, O., et al. (2015). Systematics of North Pacific sand lances of the genus *Ammodytes* based on molecular and morphological evidence, with the description of a new species from Japan. Fish. Bull. 113, 129–156. doi: 10.7755/fb.113.2.3. <https://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/orr.pdf>

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