

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FISHERY
ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES APPENDIX AND NEW INITIATIVE

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) reviewed the Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives Appendix and New Initiative (Agenda Item H.1) as well as Supplemental Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) Report 2 and submitted additional public comments. The EAS is grateful for the thoughtful modification to the document, inclusive of advisory body input, and revised list put forward. We are particularly appreciative of the addition of candidate initiative 2.10, constructed based on the EAS's previous guidance.

The EAS supports the proposal put forth by the EWG to sequentially move forward with the components of 2.10. To that end, we recommend the Council signal its intent to move forward with the concepts encompassed in Initiative 2.10 by beginning with Initiative 2.1, Ecosystem and Climate Information for Species, Fisheries, and Fishery Management Plans and, after this initiative is successfully underway, task the EWG with more fully evaluating how to add in components of Initiatives 2.6 and 2.8. Doing so embraces the components of 2.10 and recognizes that a strong foundation for 2.6 and 2.8 could be provided through Initiative 2.1. In particular, the EAS recognizes, due to the EWG's attention to workload considerations, this approach emphasizes achievable goals within a forward planning approach, and is likely to increase the near- and far-term success of the objectives of Initiative 2.10.

We would also like to offer the following thoughts on the proposed plan:

- We recognize that Initiative 2.10 is too large an undertaking to be completed within two years and, as described, envisioned that significant progress would be made within four years, and we discussed whether to recommend the Council simply adopt 2.1 at this time. However, we noted that while 2.1 in many ways could inform the development and execution of 2.6 and 2.8, the approach taken through the execution of 2.1 could be less informative if the explicit intent to move forward with the proposed components of 2.6 and 2.8 were not clearly indicated (e.g., if the Council only approved 2.1, rather than 2.10). The persistence of fishing communities is a key aspect of 2.1. As proposed by the EWG, the development of Initiative 2.1 is largely Science Center-focused. The initiative development should be inclusive of input from all stakeholders and not lose sight of the importance of communities and equity concerns as it moves forward. Focusing on fish and fisheries may be an implicit feature of this plan but explicitly identifying those communities that may be more dependent on fisheries, less resilient, or more vulnerable and the impacts of FMP-specific climate issues on those communities and stakeholders should be a sustained consideration. The EAS also notes that there are significant opportunities to work with the fishing fleets to get on-scene information that could help inform or guide these forward-looking initiatives and recommends consideration of how best to make use of this valuable source of data and insight.

Additionally, we concur with the EWG that draft Initiative 2.2 be identified as “future work under the Western Regional Action Plan (WRAP) on climate science (Agenda Item H.2)” due to its strong scientific focus.

Finally, we reiterate our recommendation from March 2022 that safety, nimbleness in the fisheries management process, and inclusion of co-managers and all stakeholders be included as cross-cutting and overarching components of whichever initiative the Council selects.

PFMC
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