

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a briefing on this agenda item from Dr. Christopher Dahl, Pacific Fishery Management Council staff, and reviewed Briefing Book materials, including supplemental advisory body reports. The GAP recommends the Council adopt the revised [Fishery Ecosystem Plan \(FEP\) Appendix](#).

Relative to the FEP initiatives, the GAP has consistently recommended that initiatives aimed at supporting resiliency in fisheries (such as initiative 2.6) and finding ways to increase adaptability in management processes (such as initiative 2.8) should be prioritized because they will likely provide the most immediate and direct benefits to Council-managed fisheries.

The GAP appreciates the new initiative 2.10 previously proposed by the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) that combines elements of initiatives 2.1, 2.6, and 2.8. In considering the prioritization of the FEP initiatives, the GAP highlights and agrees with the “Overarching Considerations for the Final Initiative” in [GMT Supplemental Report 1](#) “that safety, flexibility in the fisheries management process, and inclusion of co-managers and all stakeholders should be included as cross-cutting and overarching components of the final initiative chosen.” Moreover, the GAP agrees with the rationale provided by the GMT related to the importance of initiative 2.8 because their rationale expands upon previous comments made by the GAP and focuses on topics aimed at making management processes nimbler and more adaptable in response to a changing climate and in support of fishery resilience.

Specific to how to move forward, the GAP supports the approach described by the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) in their [Supplemental EWG Report 2](#). However, rather than adoption of initiative 2.1, Ecosystem and Climate Information for Species, Fisheries, and FMPs, as a stand-alone priority to move forward, the GAP recommends adoption of initiative 2.10, Climate Informed Fisheries Management, because it provides for a more comprehensive initiative that combines several important topics. If the Council adopts initiative 2.10, the work could still be carried out in the manner suggested by the EWG. The GAP supports this approach because adoption of initiative 2.10 signals the Council’s understanding and interest in addressing multiple aspects of ecosystem and climate changes that impact Council-managed fisheries in a comprehensive way while using a staged and logical approach to working on the various aspects of initiative 2.10.