

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVES APPENDIX AND NEW INITIATIVE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation from Dr. Kit Dahl (PFMC Staff) on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiatives and draft updates to the FEP Appendix proposed by the Ecosystem Workgroup. The SSC previously reviewed the FEP Initiatives in [March 2022](#). The updated Appendix has been revised to address input provided by the Council and its advisory bodies. It also includes a new initiative, “Climate-Informed Fisheries Management,” which was recommended by several advisory bodies. In general, the SSC is supportive of the updated FEP Appendix.

The SSC notes that the work proposed in initiative 2.4, “Cross-FMP Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Initiative,” would likely need to be conducted in concert with state fisheries management agencies as EFH extends beyond the Federal jurisdiction. The SSC’s previous comments from March 2022 also remain relevant for the updated FEP Appendix. For example, the work described in proposed initiative 2.2, “Science Policy and Planning for Understanding the Effects of Oceanographic Conditions and Recruitment on Council-Managed Finfish Species,” may be more appropriate once better oceanographic models and data sources become available. Proposed initiative 2.8, “Assess Flexibility in Fisheries Management Process Initiative,” should consider ways flexibility may have both negative and positive effects on fishery stakeholders.

The newly proposed initiative 2.10 combines elements from initiative 2.1, “Ecosystem and Climate Information for Species, Fisheries, and Fishery Management Plans (FMPs),” initiative 2.6, “Supporting Fishery and Fishing Community Resilience Initiative,” and initiative 2.8, “Assess Flexibility in Fisheries Management Process Initiative.” The SSC notes that the combined initiative would be a significant undertaking and take several years to complete. Given the multi-phased nature of the proposed work, it might make more sense to conduct the work sequentially, starting with elements from initiative 2.1 rather than committing to the entirety of initiative 2.10.

PFMC  
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