

February 15, 2023

To: Dan Holland and Kristin Marshall, PFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee
Marlene Bellman, PFMC Staff

From: Chris Harvey and Andy Leising, NOAA Fisheries California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment team (CCIEA)

cc: Yvonne deReynier, Ecosystem Workgroup
Kit Dahl, PFMC Staff

Re: Ecosystem Status Report topics for SSC-ES review in September 2023

Dear Dan, Kristin and Marlene,

As you know, since 2015, the SSC-Ecosystems Subcommittee and the CCIEA team have met at September Council meetings so that the SSC-ES can review selected indicators and analyses that go into the Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) each March. These meetings have been greatly beneficial to the CCIEA team, and we believe they have resulted in clear improvements to the quality and scope of the ESR, and the value of information provided to the Council.

As part of the Council-established process for planning these September SSC-ES / CCIEA meetings, the CCIEA team is asked to provide a proposed list of potential review topics prior to the preceding March Council meeting, with the understanding that the list could be amended during the March meeting between the CCIEA and the full SSC.

This year, we would like to propose the alternative of *not* holding a topic review in September. We are proposing this in part to manage workload and expectations on the CCIEA ESR team. We would instead take the time and effort normally focused on preparation for September and apply it to ESR improvements we have discussed previously with the SSC, the Ecosystem Workgroup, and/or Council staff, or to other priority requests that may arise. These areas of focus include:

- Ongoing improvements to ESR efficiency, automation, and use of Open Science practices;
- Continued refinement of the Climate Change Appendix and salmon indicator portfolio, from the SSC-ES review of September 2022;
- Potential requests to develop indicators or indicator summaries specific to petrale sole or other potential pilot stocks, in relation to FEP Initiative 4; and
- Ongoing improvements to other previously reviewed topics (e.g., threshold analyses, fishery participation networks, and species distribution model outputs)

If, during the March 2023 PFMC meeting, the SSC identifies ESR-related topics that they do wish to review in September 2023, we will be happy to consider those and determine if the key analysts will be available to present on them.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to support the CCIEA team and improve the ESR.

Sincerely,

Chris Harvey and Andy Leising