

## HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT

The Habitat Committee (HC) received an informative presentation from Chris Harvey (Northwest Fisheries Science Center) and Andrew Leising (Southwest Fisheries Science Center) on the 2022-23 California Current Ecosystem Status Report (ESR). The HC appreciated the monthly breakdown that described how basin-scale climate patterns in the California Current became disrupted by atmospheric anomalies, extremely variable upwelling and downwelling processes, and a major marine heatwave, which resulted in generally unfavorable conditions and mixed ecological signals. The presenters requested feedback from the HC on essential fish habitat (EFH) fishery management plan considerations, such as ecosystem indicators, that should be highlighted in the report or appendices. For instance, they noted it would be beneficial to frame their indicator evaluations through their contribution to the functioning of EFH (e.g., as good foraging habitat conditions). The HC determined that it may be too late in the process to highlight considerations for the Coastal Pelagic Species and Highly Migratory Species EFH reviews, but ecosystem indicators should be considered for the upcoming Salmon EFH review. HC members also expressed interest in learning more about basin-scale pH and hypoxia trends, but understand there are issues with data availability, large spatial gaps, and high spatial and temporal variability in these environmental conditions.

The Habitat Committee also received an update from Habitat Committee Chair Correigh Greene on the Habitat Indicators of Klamath and Sacramento Chinook salmon stocks and the recently added Central Valley Spring Chinook indicators ([E.1.a, HC Report 1](#)). While this report is in the ESR appendix, the HC wants to highlight this effort and its applicability to the risk assessments and Ecosystem Status Reporting moving forward. The HC recommends identifying which indicators are most predictive of productivity estimates. This work is expected to be part of an upcoming workshop on best practices for developing spotlight charts for salmon populations.

PFMC  
03/05/23