

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) discussed Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Future Agenda Planning and related EAS agenda and workload planning items and has the following comments.

The EAS is looking forward to meeting in person in March 2024, and would like to reiterate that we would appreciate meeting for two days, as it is not possible to complete our work in a one-day meeting when focusing on the Ecosystem Status Report and the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Initiative 4. The EAS finds in-person meetings far more effective than virtual meetings to reach an informed consensus.

The EAS reviewed the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) report (Agenda Item H.10.a, Supplemental EWG Report 1, September 2023) and would like to offer support of their recommendation to create a standalone ecosystem agenda item to discuss the follow up of recommendations from the Climate and Communities Initiative (FEP Initiative 3). This will allow greater focus on remaining recommendations and provide a concise suite of projects that can inform funding opportunities, such as those available from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Lastly, the EAS was encouraged by funds dedicated from the IRA that specifically address climate ready fisheries. We note that the current ecosystem and climate issues fit well within the vision for these funds and the Council is well poised to be competitive for additional IRA funds. In particular, these funds could support opportunities for increased Pacific Council focus on environmental drivers, fisheries, and fishing communities within the realm of a changing climate.

PFMC  
09/13/23