

CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM STATUS REPORT

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) calls for an annual report to the Council on status and trends in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Team, composed of staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers and West Coast Region, prepared the 2023-2024 California Current Ecosystem (CCE) Status Report including appendices. Drs. Mary Hunsicker and Andrew Leising will provide an early briefing on the report's content for Council advisory bodies and the public on February 27 and brief the Council under this agenda item.

The purpose of the Report is to present information about the current status of the CCE in a succinct, straightforward format so that the Council may take into account ecosystem variability in its decisions. The Report synthesizes data to present key environmental, biological, and socioeconomic indicators. Trends in physical, biological, and socioeconomic components of the ecosystem – taking into account the effects of fisheries and other human activities – are thus highlighted.

The March meeting is also an opportunity for the Council to select ecosystem science topics for Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) review. The CCIEA Team will submit a list of candidate ecosystem research topics for consideration by the SSC, which will make its recommendation to the Council on which topics it would review. Based on Council guidance, the SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee would schedule a meeting later in the year to conduct the review.

Council Action:

Review the California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Consider Ecosystem Science Review Topics for 2024.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, CCIEA Report 1: 2023-2024 California Current Ecosystem Status Report (*Electronic Only*).
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.1 California Current Ecosystem Status Report Kit Dahl
- a. California Current Ecosystem Status Report Mary Hunsicker, Andrew Leising
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Review the California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Consider Ecosystem Science Review Topics for 2024