

FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVE 4 – PROGRESS REVIEW

The purpose of this Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative is to develop on-ramps for integrating ecosystem and climate information into Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) fishery management plan decision making, with a focus on harvest specifications processes. “On-ramp” refers to the timing and method for incorporating such information. The Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) presented a workplan for this initiative in March 2023 ([Agenda Item H.2.a, EWG Report 1](#)). Consistent with the workplan, in September 2023 it provided a proposed risk assessment methodology (“risk tables”) and an example application to two groundfish species. It also described a method for the Council to select other on-ramps through a “species selection” process. The Council directed the EWG to continue work on identifying on-ramps in management processes but put on hold further development and implementation of the proposed species selection process. Per Council direction, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Ecosystem and Groundfish Subcommittees reviewed the risk assessment methodology and application, and reported to the full SSC in November 2023 (see the [Subcommittee Report](#) and page 2 in [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)). Since September 2023, the EWG met with the Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species advisory bodies to solicit further input on integrating climate and ecosystem information into those management processes. The EWG will provide a supplemental report describing the results of those consultations and making recommendations on any further work needed to address the objectives of the initiative.

According to the EWG’s March 2023 workplan, the Council would finish the initiative and make any needed near-term adjustments to its advisory body schedules for considering ecosystem and climate information in September 2024. It stated this initiative would be complete when the Council has:

- adopted and implemented an ongoing process for choosing new species to be subject to ecosystem and climate information products, and
- ensured that advisory bodies have future opportunities and processes for conferring with ecosystem scientists on the potential contents of those reports.

Council Action:

Provide guidance on:

- 1. Potential on-ramps for groundfish and CPS as updated by the EWG;**
- 2. Potential use of the risk assessment methodology (risk tables) in groundfish and CPS management processes;**
- 3. Development of other methods to integrate climate and ecosystem information in management processes;**
- 4. Further development and implementation of the species selection process; and,**
- 5. Schedule and timeline for completing the initiative.**

Reference Materials:

1. *Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 1.*
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4 – Progress Review Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Identify On-Ramps for Climate and Ecosystem Information including Harvest Policies and Specific Management Actions; Council Discussion and Direction on Next Steps

PFMC
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