



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Brad Pettinger, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2024

TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2024 Council meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 5-11, 2024, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Fresno Convention Center in Fresno, California. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) and Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) will meet **in person** on Thursday and Friday, March 7 and 8. There are three Ecosystem topics scheduled on the Council agenda for Saturday, March 9, described below.

H.1 California Current Annual Ecosystem Status Report

The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team (CCIEA) has produced the 2023-2024 California Current Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) and appendices (Agenda Item H.1.a, CCIEA Team Report 1). There will be an [online briefing](#) by Drs. Mary Hunsicker and Andrew Leising on this year's ESR on February 27 at 9 a.m. You are encouraged to attend.

In previous years you have made recommendations on improvements to the report as recorded in Appendix C. You have the option to do so again this year.

H.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4 – Progress Review

The purpose of the initiative is to develop on-ramps for integrating ecosystem and climate information into Council fishery management plan decision making. Since September 2023 the EWG met with the Groundfish Management and Coastal Pelagic Species management teams and advisory subpanels to solicit further input on integrating climate and ecosystem information into those processes. Also, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Ecosystem and Groundfish Subcommittees reviewed the risk assessment methodology and application presented by the EWG. The EWG will provide a briefing on its recommendations as part of its February 27 webinar (see link above for information.)

The EAS should submit a supplemental report providing their perspective on work needed to complete the initiative, keeping in mind the five guidance items listed in the situation summary. The EWG may wish to submit a second supplemental report based on any additional discussion about the initiative.

H.3 Climate and Communities Initiative Review and Prioritize Tasks

The Council completed the Climate and Communities Initiative (CCI) in September 2021, which focused on a scenario planning process to elicit ideas on how to mitigate climate change effects to Council fisheries. Potential follow-up activities emerging from the Initiative were identified. The Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup has submitted a report summarizing its revisitation of materials produced during the scenario planning process to produce a more comprehensive list of potential tasks. Follow-ups that relate to projects proposed for Inflation Reduction Act funding should be given priority.

The EAS should submit a supplemental report with recommendations on the list of tasks identified by the EWG.

The EAS and EWG also may wish to draft reports for Agenda Item J.3, Future Council Agenda and Workload Planning, to comment on the scheduling of ecosystem and other items on future agendas.

In addition to the enclosed briefing materials, you may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advance briefing book. Visit the [March 2024 Meeting webpage](#) to access these materials. Public comment is available only in electronic form through the Council's [e-portal](#).

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.3: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Items H: Ecosystem Matters
3. Agenda Items E: Cross-FMP Matters
4. Agenda Items J: Administrative Matters
5. EAS and EWG Meeting Agendas
6. Informational Reports
7. Hotel Information and Council Roster

PFMC
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