

## ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

For this agenda item, the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) reviewed the proposed ecosystem management agenda items on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council's) Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary ([Agenda Item J.3, Attachment 1](#)).

The EWG requests a webinar with relevant advisory body representatives to review the Science and Statistical Committee's Ecosystem Subcommittee (SSC-ES) report resulting from the SSC's proposed Ecosystem Status Report topics review meeting. The SSC-ES is proposing to review the risk table methodology at this time, and the EWG sees merit in reviewing their recommendations and next steps in addition to work conducted by the Science Centers (as recommended by the Council under Agenda Item H.2) in advance for the September Council meeting.

The EWG requests an in-person meeting in September. An in-person meeting format greatly promotes valuable dialogue, such as occurred at the March 2024 meeting during discussions with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and will facilitate further development of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4. Several EWG members overlap with other advisory bodies (ABs), and therefore additional costs for this format would be minimal while optimizing collaboration and sharing of information.

In our March 7-8, 2024, meeting, the EWG met with 1-2 designated representatives from the GMT and GAP. It was a highly effective discussion. This successful dialogue with the GMT and GAP is also the major reason we are requesting an in-person meeting. Such back and forth interactions are much more difficult to have in virtual meetings. If ABs do not have sufficient time in their agendas for all members to attend, designating one or more representative(s) to do so instead can work well. Having lead representatives also helped facilitate dialogue among the groups.

PFMC  
03/10/24