

## FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVE 4: GROUND FISH AND SALMON RISK TABLES – 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. 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 table assessment methodology and an example application to two groundfish species.

In March 2024 the Council directed the EWG to work with National Marine Fisheries Service Science Center staff to further develop the methodological framework for groundfish. Depending on the outcome of this work, the Council could consider using risk tables for selected stocks as part of 2027-2028 groundfish harvest specifications decision-making. Further development of the groundfish risk table methodology was reviewed at the August 5 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Ecosystem Subcommittee webinar. For reference, the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Team Report submitted for review by the SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee is attached. The Subcommittee Report is available on the Council September briefing book webpage under Scientific and Statistical Committee Materials. The full SSC will consider the Subcommittee's findings and make a recommendation to the Council on further development and application of the methodology to setting groundfish harvest specifications. To provide context, the CCIEA Team will provide a summary of its report under this agenda item. The attached EWG Report 1 contains additional recommendations for the Council to consider when implementing the risk table methodology in groundfish harvest specifications and, more generally, further work related to the initiative.

The Council also directed that this type of methodology be applied to selected salmon stocks and the Ecosystem Subcommittee discussed this application during its webinar. At this time no specific methodology has been developed or formally presented for review. EWG Report 1 includes a recommended timeline for developing the methodology. Based on recommendations from the SSC and other advisory bodies, the Council should adopt a work plan identifying who will be responsible for developing the methodology, how such a methodology will be reviewed, and when and how it may be applied within the salmon management process.

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 at this Council meeting. 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 products.

It appears that for the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) these objectives are in the process of being met. Development of processes and products for the Salmon FMP are in a nascent stage and the Council has not yet provided guidance on any future work to develop and implement processes and products for its other two FMPs. Therefore, the Council should provide guidance on any further actions needed to integrate ecosystem and climate considerations into its FMP management processes outside of future ecosystem agenda items.

**Council Action:**

- 1. Recommend Next Steps for Utilizing the Groundfish Risk Tables for Setting Harvest Specifications Including Advisory Body Roles.**
- 2. Adopt a Work Plan for the Salmon Risk Tables That Includes Tasking for Methodology Development and a Pathway for Potential Future Use in Salmon Management.**
- 3. Provide Strategic Guidance on Other Work to Integrate Ecosystem and Climate Information into FMP Management Processes.**

**Reference Materials:**

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

**Agenda Order:**

- H.1 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4: Groundfish and Salmon Risk Tables – Progress Review Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Recommend Next Steps for Utilizing the Groundfish Risk Tables, Adopt a Work Plan for the Salmon Risk Tables

PFMC  
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