

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON 2024-25 CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM STATUS REPORT AND 2025 SCIENCE REVIEW TOPICS

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a presentation from Mary Hunsicker (Northwest Fisheries Science Center) and Andrew Leising (Southwest Fisheries Science Center) on the 2024-2025 California Current Ecosystem Status Report (ESR). The HC appreciates the tremendous synthesis of information that goes into the ESR and the effort to condense this into an informative and digestible report. For instance, the infographics in Appendix B comparing and contrasting positive and negative conditions in a geographic context are helpful. The HC notes that the pdf document no longer has the section bookmarks in the margins of the pdf as in previous year's reports, which allowed for easy navigation of the document. The HC recommends including section bookmarks in future ESR reports.

The HC also received an update from HC Chair Correigh Greene on the Habitat Indicators of Klamath River fall Chinook salmon, Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon and Central Valley spring Chinook indicators (page 21, Appendix J). Since last year's ESR, the authors have begun to distill 46 indicators detailed in previous ESRs into a shorter list of key indicators (3-4 per stock) to highlight ecosystem states that best predict salmon recruitment concisely (Figure 1, below and Figure 3.9 in the ESR). Key indicators for each stock include several related to freshwater conditions, in line with Council concerns that water use issues remain important for understanding stock status and trends. These key indicators provide a 2-year advance outlook, which may be useful in some planning contexts (e.g., advance projections if stocks are in rebuilding plans).

PFMC
03/03/2025



Figure 1 (3.9 in ESR). Stoplight charts of indicators key to the recruitment of Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon (SRFC), Central Valley spring Chinook salmon (CVSC), and Klamath River fall Chinook salmon (KRFC) stocks. Rows are ordered by basin of origin, then life stage. Cooler colors for each cell represent hypothesized better habitat conditions. Colors represent the deviation from the overall mean for each indicator: ± 1 standard deviation (s.d.) is yellow, between 1 and 2 s.d. from the mean is in orange (below the mean) and green (above the mean), more than 2 s.d. from the mean is represented by red (below the mean) and blue (above the mean). Thiamine color coding reflects health risks associated with egg thiamine concentrations based on fry survival and behavior studies on Chinook salmon.