

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKPLAN AND UPDATE

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) received an update from Ms. Gilly Lyons on the Flexible and Adaptive Management project (Adaptive Management project), which is focused on identifying and applying management innovations that allow for more timely and efficient responses to a changing environment. The EAS also reviewed the groundfish workload priorities and concerns expressed by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) in March ([H.8.a Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2025](#)) and by members of the trawl industry in [Supplemental Informational Report 3 \(April 2025\)](#). We appreciate that there is interest in exploring adaptive management mechanisms for groundfish and also want to encourage other advisory bodies to provide their thoughts on priorities for other fishery management plans (FMPs) which may align with the Adaptive Management project objective.

We are concerned that other FMP advisory bodies may not be meeting in conjunction with the April Council meeting or may not have time on their agendas to fully consider how their respective FMP management processes may be made more responsive or flexible. While the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) advisory bodies are meeting this week, their agendas are full of scheduled Council decision items and they may not have the capacity at this meeting to fully consider potential priorities for adaptive management. For example, there are long-standing management issues with key CPS stocks, including the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, and Pacific sardine which may benefit from focused attention external to the CPS management cycle and may be good candidates for consideration through the Adaptive Management project.

The EAS recommends that the Council identify priority topics for the Adaptive Management project after other advisory bodies have had an opportunity to provide input and the Council has a better understanding of the scope of items for consideration. This will help ensure the key objectives of the project (i.e., how the Council's and federal processes could better respond to rapidly changing environmental conditions) and the Fishery Ecosystem Plan goal to develop and implement strategies for improving flexibility and responsiveness to near-term climate shift and long-term climate change are met.

To facilitate this, the EAS recommends the Council consider broadening the proposed agenda item for June that is currently focused on scoping for groundfish flexibility, or add a cross-FMP item to identify priority topics for the Adaptive Management project across FMPs.