

## ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON COUNCIL RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) discussed Presidential Executive Orders and Administration Updates (Agenda Item D.1) and Council Response to Executive Orders and Administration Updates (Agenda Item D.2) during its meeting on May 27, 2025.

As the primary advisory body (AB) responsible for stewarding the California Current Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) through the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process and the lead AB for Ecosystem Initiative 4, the EWG offers the following comments on how these activities help align the work of the Council with guidance from the Executive Order on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness, especially with respect to “analytical practices that will improve the responsiveness of fisheries management to real-time ocean conditions.”

The ESR and its appendices include recent and near-real time information on ocean conditions that span all of the Council’s Fishery Management Plans, and connect those conditions to outlooks for the population dynamics and distributions of Council-managed species. The development of risk tables as part of groundfish stock assessments in FY25, a direct outcome of Ecosystem Initiative 4, also allows for inclusion of more recent ocean conditions in the harvest advice provided to the Council. Specifically, there is a category for environmental and ecosystem conditions in the risk tables that allows the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to adopt a higher or lower level of scientific uncertainty associated with the population status estimate. The EWG also continues to support the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment team’s [proposal](#) from March 2025 to streamline and modernize the ESR by moving some of that information online, similar to NOAA’s [marine heatwave reports](#) or to the Reports Dashboard for the [Pacific Fishery Information Network](#).

With the Council, the EWG and Science Centers are also working on implementing and evaluating dynamic ocean management approaches that increase responsiveness to ecosystem conditions. As an example, EcoCast was created as a fishery assistance tool to achieve conservation objectives while avoiding fisheries time-area closures (such as the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area). EcoCast was developed with fishery participants for efficiency purposes, to better identify places to fish and those to avoid. The EcoCast team worked closely with the Council and fishermen from the start on what would be most useful for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits. The concept, construction, and implementation of EcoCast has been presented at multiple fisherman town halls. This and other dynamic ocean management tools can directly support more rapid response to changing ecosystem conditions.