

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP REPORT ON SABLEFISH ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS:
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

Dr. Melissa Haltuch of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center presented a summary of her work on assessing the effects of climate change on U.S. West Coast sablefish productivity and on the performance of alternative management strategies to a joint meeting of the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) and the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel.

The EWG found Dr. Haltuch's presentation enlightening and was pleased to note that the Northwest Fisheries Science Center intends to move forward with additional work on the potential effects of climate change on West Coast sablefish recruitment and productivity. The EWG supports expanding the management strategy evaluation (MSE) to include the full range of the North Pacific stock. Dr. Haltuch indicated that this MSE should be considered as providing strategic level information addressing stock biomass trends over the next several decades. The EWG recommends that the groundfish management process consider whether the strategic advice from the MSE could have more tactical, or near-term, applications to the sablefish stock assessment.

Finally, the EWG notes that juvenile sablefish appear to feed on the same northern cheeseburger copepod species that support so many of our ecosystem's northern species (see Ecosystem Status Report at 4.1).

PFMC
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