

ECOSYSTEM WORKGROUP SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN FIVE-YEAR REVIEW - SCOPING

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) submitted an [advance briefing book](#) report with its thoughts on updating the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) and held further discussions on this issue at its September 6-7, 2018 meeting. We submitted our advance report well before the September meeting in order to solicit thoughtful consideration and comments from the Council family in time for our discussions at this meeting. The EWG continues to support its recommendations on this agenda item from its advance briefing book report, and provides the following further recommendations for the Council's consideration:

- We posed questions to the Council's advisory bodies and the public over the summer and at our August 21 informational webinar, in order to solicit opinions on the utility of the FEP to participants in the Council process. Ideas and comments provided at this September meeting will allow the EWG to draft a more detailed proposal for an updated version of the FEP. If the Council directs the EWG to proceed with a detailed proposal for an FEP update, we recommend consideration of that draft for the March 2019 meeting.
- The EWG does not favor just updating the FEP as it is, and instead recommends taking a more thoughtful approach on how to make the FEP more useful in 2019 and beyond. The existing FEP reflects the state of scientific knowledge and policy priorities from the 2010-2013 period. Council progress on ecosystem issues since that time, and the annual updates through the ecosystem status report, have changed our baseline state of knowledge. A revised FEP should reflect our current state of knowledge and experience.
- Our advance briefing book report discusses the loss of science positions on the EWG, with our transition from Ecosystem Plan Development Team to EWG. The scope and content of the FEP update, specifically how much new scientific information would be included, will depend on whether the Council decides at this meeting to supplement our current membership with science positions.