

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN (FEP) FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) discussed the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Five-Year Review including the ad hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) report (Agenda Item E.3.a, EWG Report 1) and the provided public comments. As a result of this discussion, we recommend that the FEP undergoes a Vision Update as outlined by the EWG with modifications to their report's proposed goals and objectives.

Overall the role of climate change to the ecosystem is going to be essential to the FEP. As demonstrated by the range shift of the Petrale Sole presented in the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) report, shifting ocean ecosystems will increasingly affect fish stocks and fishing communities. As a result, we would like to emphasize the importance of remaining focused on the 'Climate and Communities Initiative Update' (CCI), and we highlight the connections between the FEP and the CCI Update. We feel that the CCI may inform and provide context for a full FEP update in the future.

We have the following comments and recommendations in regards to the EWG Report Section 5 Draft FEP Vision Statement, Purpose Statement, Goals and Objectives (pages 9-11).

- We would like to compliment the EWG on their significant effort and work that they put into the FEP and the EWG report on this topic including consideration of work done by other Councils.
- In regards to the EWG draft vision and purpose statements (Section 1.1 and 1.2), the EAS considers them good articulations of aspirations for the California Current Ecosystem and the FEP. We note the ongoing importance of the FEP in its cross-cutting FMPs nature and appreciate the acknowledgment of this in the EWG draft. We would also like to highlight and applaud that the FEP is increasingly being considered through multiple Council channels. An example of this is the incorporation of forage fish models in the CCE report.
- The EWG recommended changes to the FEP goals and objectives (FEP section 1.3), and the EAS noted that these recommendations are consistent with the current FEP in largely addressing the Council's information needs and process. We recommend the addition of ecosystem-level, outcome-oriented goals (or "aspirations for the ecosystem" goals), including those that particularly focus on the ecosystem within the context of a changing climate. The other Councils' statements that are included in the EWG report provide examples of "aspirations for the ecosystem" goals that could provide a model for improving our FEP.
- We advise that any draft goals and objectives, including those provided in the EWG report, will require further discussion by advisory bodies and interested parties to understand and evaluate their implications.

EAS members have noted that the FEP is widely used and some of the statistics in the descriptive sections are ageing. The Council may want to consider updating those statistics in the context of a Vision Update.