

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN (FEP)  
5-YEAR REVIEW

The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) received a report from Dr. Kit Dahl, Pacific Fishery Management Council staff officer regarding the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Update and offers the following comments.

The GAP reviewed the [Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup \(EWG\) report](#) under this agenda item and appreciates the work and reviews EWG members have undertaken. To that end, the GAP supports the first option listed on page 2 of the report, “Appendix Only (Status Quo): Limit the current update to revising the FEP Appendix so that it discusses the initiatives completed to date and considers revisions to the suite of potential future initiatives ...”

The EWG report identified that extensive work on the FEP would involve greater involvement by the Council family and could take time away from effort on the Climate and Communities Initiative. Furthermore, the GAP noted similar workload issues in our [Agenda Item G.2.a. September 2018](#) statement on this issue.

Updating only the FEP Appendix at this juncture likely would not subtract from work on other more immediate groundfish issues and regulations, retains the practicality of the FEP, and does not detract from effort on the Climate and Communities Initiative.

Also, the GAP recognizes some additional funding has been secured toward updating the FEP. If this funding could be used to hire an outside contractor or directed to the states for work on the FEP, the GAP would support the second alternative in the EWG report, the Vision Update Alternative, which would rearrange and revise the FEP’s Purpose, Need, and Objectives, in addition to the FEP Appendix. The GAP supports this as long as it does not take the workload from other issues and projects.

PFMC  
03/07/19\*