

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
COUNCIL FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN (FEP) DEVELOPMENT

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the current draft Pacific Coast Fishery Ecosystem Plan (Agenda Item H.1.a Attachment 1) and the draft outline for the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report (Agenda Item H.1.a Attachment 2). We extend our thanks to the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) for the time and effort they have dedicated to this work. The draft Fishery Ecosystem Plan was highly informative. We look forward to the next iteration of this document in November. The CPSAS offers a few comments on these documents.

Regarding priority work for the development of the Ecosystem Plan, the CPSAS was pleased to learn the EPDT has started to examine interactions between fisheries and some of the unmanaged forage fish discussed under Agenda Item G.1. We would encourage the EPDT to continue this work.

With respect to the outline for an Annual Report, the CPSAS concurs with the Council recommendation that the length of the annual report should be limited to no more than 20 pages, and should incorporate research from National Marine Fisheries Service Science Centers in addition to other relevant scientific processes and institutions.

The CPSAS is supportive of the content of the Annual Report as outlined and notes that the physical indicators such as sea surface temperature conditions, primary productivity, and river/stream outflows are particularly useful in understanding annual abundance and distribution of CPS species. We suggest also including water chemistry parameters such as pCO₂, pH, salinity and other measurements, now currently collected on a growing network of buoys along the west coast, as this information will be essential to understand future impacts of ocean acidification on marine resources and fisheries.

PFMC
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