

CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM REPORT

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has scheduled an annual summary report on the state of the California Current ecosystem (CCE). The report is part of the Council's overall initiative to develop a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) (see Agenda Item K.1) to advance ecosystem-based fishery management in the Council process.

The Council has tasked the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) with development and presentation of the first annual report at the November Council meeting. The Council has requested that a focus of the report should be biophysical trends known to affect shifts in abundance of Council-managed species. The Council is also interested in annual reports that are not voluminous, but provide clear, straightforward explanations of the trends and indicators most relevant to Council managed fisheries.

At the June 2012 Council meeting, the Council approved an outline of the annual report that included report sections on Pacific basin-scale climate indicators, regional climate indicators, regional lower trophic level biological indicators, regional higher trophic level biological indicators, and human dimensions indicators. The Council's annual report is intended as a synthesis of information and analyses from external efforts and more detailed reports on the CCE. In particular, NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) initiative (see Agenda Item K.2) and its team of scientists were an integral part of this year's inaugural effort.

The 2012 IEA effort was recently completed and is currently undergoing an extensive peer-review process. Additionally, under Agenda Item K.1, the Council will be reviewing a first draft of its developing Fishery Ecosystem Plan. Completion and coordination of the review materials for these two efforts were the priority of the EPDT and the IEA team. It is anticipated that the Council's Annual State of the Ecosystem Report will be distributed at the November Council meeting in Costa Mesa, California and posted to the Council web page shortly after the Council's supplemental comment deadline of October 23, 2012.

Council Action:

- 1. Review the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem report.**
- 2. Provide feedback on future annual or interim ecosystem reports.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item K.3.a, Supplemental Attachment 1: Annual State of the California Current Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Ecosystem Plan Development Team
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Council Discussion

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