

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ECOSYSTEM INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Review of SWFSC Ecosystem Science

Kit Dahl

Staff Officer – Fishery Ecosystem Plan



Regional Fishery Management Councils

- Constituted in Federal fisheries management law (Magnuson-Stevens Act, PL 94-265 as amended, see §302 et seq.)
- The PFMC is one of 8 regional councils; membership from California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho
- Voting members (PFMC): NMFS, state management agencies, Indian tribes, 8 stakeholders appointed by the Secretary
- Nonvoting members (PFMC): USFWS, USCG, PSMFC, DOS, Alaska
- PFMC meets 5 times a year
- Various standing and ad hoc advisory committees



Council Authority

- Fishery management plans, plan amendments, regulations “necessary and appropriate” for implementing FMPs
- PFMC FMPs – organized around species, manage fisheries
 - Coastal Pelagic Species (northern anchovy, market squid, Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, and krill species)
 - Salmon (Chinook, coho, pink, and others)
 - Groundfish (roundfish including sablefish and hake, flatfish, rockfish, sharks and rays)
 - Highly Migratory Species (albacore, Pacific bluefin, and tropical tunas; swordfish; striped marlin; blue, common thresher, shortfin mako sharks, dorado)



Fishery Ecosystem Plan

- A mechanism to integrate ecosystem considerations with fishery management decisions
- A framework to consider policy choices and trade-offs affecting FMP species and the California Current Ecosystem
- Unlike FMPs, the FEP is an informational or “advisory” plan
- Action mechanisms
 - Ecosystem initiatives (Appendix A)
 - Annual “state of the ecosystem” report (prepared by the CCIEA Team)
 - Bringing ecosystem information into stock assessments



FEP Activities and Initiatives to Date

- Annual State of the California Current Reports, 2012-2016
- Initiative 1, Protection for Unfished Forage Fish – Prohibits directed commercial fishing in Federal waters on unmanaged, unfished forage fish species until a Council assessment; defines these “shared EC species” (herrings, mesopelagic fishes, sand lance, saury, silversides, smelts, pelagic squids); sets incidental landing limits
- California Current Atlantis Model (CCAM) review
- Ecosystem effects on sablefish recruitment and stock status
- Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative



Where Do We Go From Here?

- Kinds of Council decisions
 - Fish stocks: assessment, harvest control rules, catch limits
 - Catch control: seasons, areas, quotas, trip & bag limits, gear
 - Socioeconomic dimensions: allocation, participation, efficiency, regional effects
 - Bycatch and take: “fish,” marine mammals, seabirds
 - Habitat impacts of fishing
 - Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS)
- Decision processes
 - Policy frameworks: FMP amendments
 - Management frameworks: regulatory amendments
 - Management cycles: regulatory adjustments
 - Periodic reviews (e.g., EFH, trawl rationalization, FEP)
 - Analytical requirements: MSA, NEPA, RFA, ESA, MMPA, etc.
- Optimum Yield (Patrick and Link, 2015)

