

**Ecosystem Committee Report
October 24, 2018
Dr. Paul Mickle, Vice-Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes.

Draft Outline of a Fishery Ecosystem Document

Staff presented an outline of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan and highlighted various ecosystem efforts that have been conducted to date. Staff noted that the outline was based on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan, and that an FEP is a strategic planning tool, not an actionable document. The Committee discussed the benefits of an ecosystem plan, how cumulative effects could be quantified, and how the document should start small with key features and expand from there. Specifically, the plan should be efficient in identifying species that are most susceptible to effects of environmental change.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **to direct staff to develop a fishery ecosystem plan using the outline presented (agenda item Q-4), which shall include recommendations for how to integrate ecosystem factors into the council decision-making process.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

The Committee discussed how an FEP should be developed, and recommended that a broad range of stakeholders and scientists be included. It was noted that there are several members of the SSC and an ecosystem SSC that can be helpful in developing an FEP. Committee members discussed that including stakeholders in the FEP development would be key.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **To establish a technical ecosystem committee to consist of no more than 13 ecosystem scientists from the Science Center, SSCs, academia and other stakeholders to assist the council on the development and implementation of a fishery ecosystem plan.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

The Committee discussed that this technical committee should have an application process. The Committee did not determine if it would require a formal call for applications (such as is the case with an AP or SSC) or if it would allow staff to populate the technical committee. Staff will begin the process of developing an FEP and bring it to the Council at a later date.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.