

**SUMMARY OF
PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPING AN
ECOSYSTEM FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

[Assumed a January 1, 2008 Start]

In November 2006, the Council passed a motion to initiate the process of developing an ecosystem fishery management plan (EFMP) and took further action in April 2007 confirming this intent contingent on new additional funding. The intent is to develop an umbrella type EFMP structure that allows management under the current four FMPs to continue while broadening and enhancing the Council's overall management approach and capability. With an umbrella EFMP, the Council's management recommendations could reflect a broader ecosystem approach and proposed fishery regulations could be enacted under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to cover all aspects of the environment that may relate to fishery productivity and conservation, including those deemed necessary within marine sanctuaries.

To accomplish the EFMP, the Council staff envisions a two year process and a preliminary estimated budget of about \$400,000. This effort would include:

- A Plan Development Team (PDT) made up of 10 agency/tribal members—1 from each coastal state; 1 tribal; 1 each from the NMFS NWR, SWR, NWFSC, and SWFSC; and 2 from NOS;
- An Advisory SubPanel made up of 10 members—2 familiar with each FMP (potentially from the 4 standing subpanels), a conservation representative, and a representative of coastal communities;
- A contractor to help facilitate the effort; and
- Council staff.

During the first year, the PDT, facilitated by a contractor and Council staff, would begin by meeting to develop the proposed EFMP outline and required work products. The working products of the PDT would be reviewed by the Subpanel to incorporate the views and knowledge of the industry and public into the final draft products for review by the Council and its other advisory bodies. Development of work products and initial drafts would be timed to result in a draft EFMP and programmatic environmental impact statement (or environmental assessment) for formal public review likely following the June Council meeting of the second year and final adoption by the Council in November [2009].

Developing true ecosystem management will have to evolve over time and cannot be totally attained by one initial plan. The Council's preliminary choice of an umbrella structure for the EFMP is based on the great diversity and management complexity within its current four FMPs and within the West Coast environment. The EFMP will likely focus on identifying the general ecosystem principles applicable to the species the Council manages rather than trying to elucidate all the currently known detailed information for the region and tie that directly to management actions. The programmatic nature of the plan will facilitate adding more detailed actions at a later date as specific interactions are better known and can be better qualified.

PFMC

06/26/2007