

Pacific Fishery Management Council Fishery Ecosystem Plan

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Pacific Fishery Management Council
Staff Officer
May 22, 2014



Why an FEP?

Improve Fishery Management Performance of Existing
Fishery Management Plans, via Improved Science

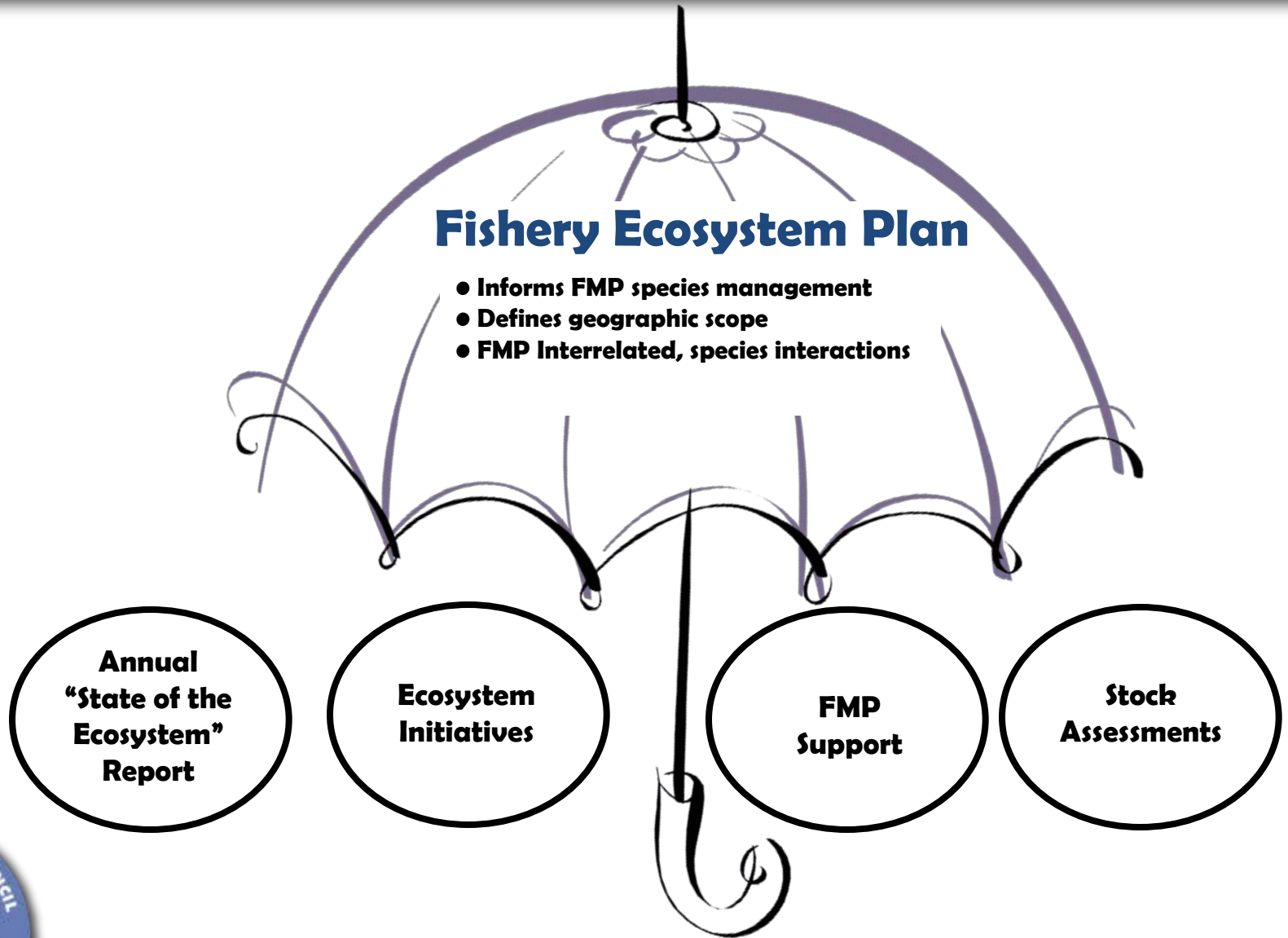
Coastal Pelagic Species

Groundfish

Salmon

Highly Migratory Species





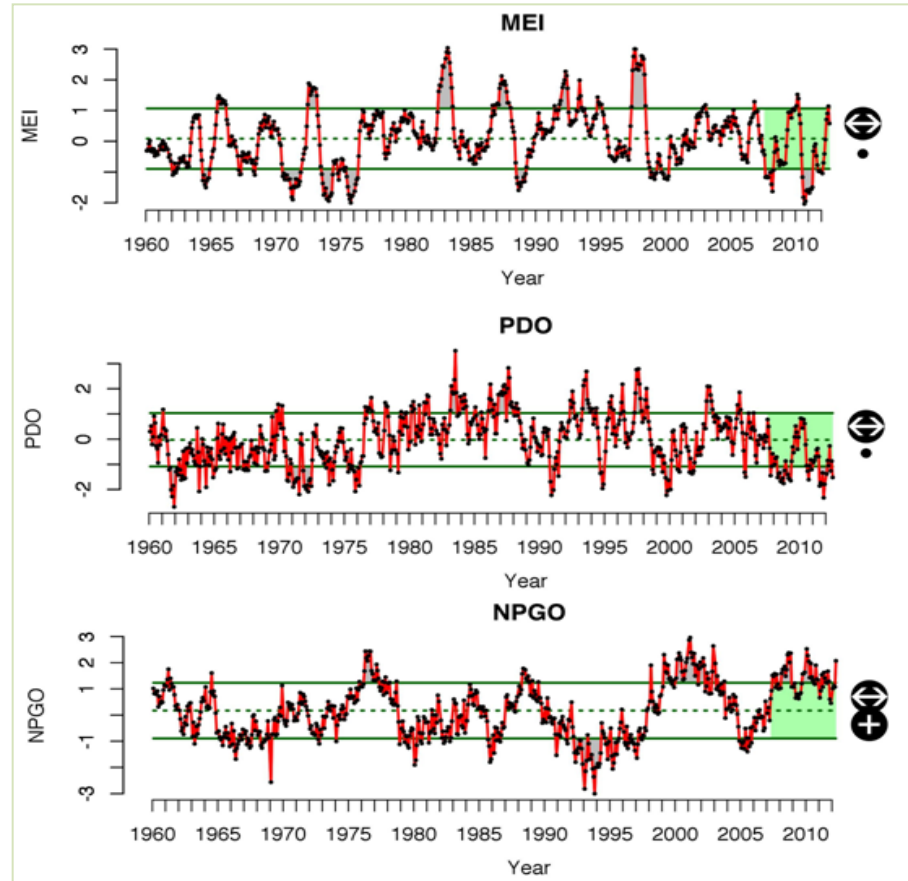
Fishery Ecosystem Plan

- FEP and FEP Initiatives adopted in April 2013
- State of the Ecosystem Report and Review of Initiatives
 - Annually at March Council meetings
 - West Coast Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
 - Consideration of new initiatives every other year (odd years)
- Full FEP Review scheduled for 2018



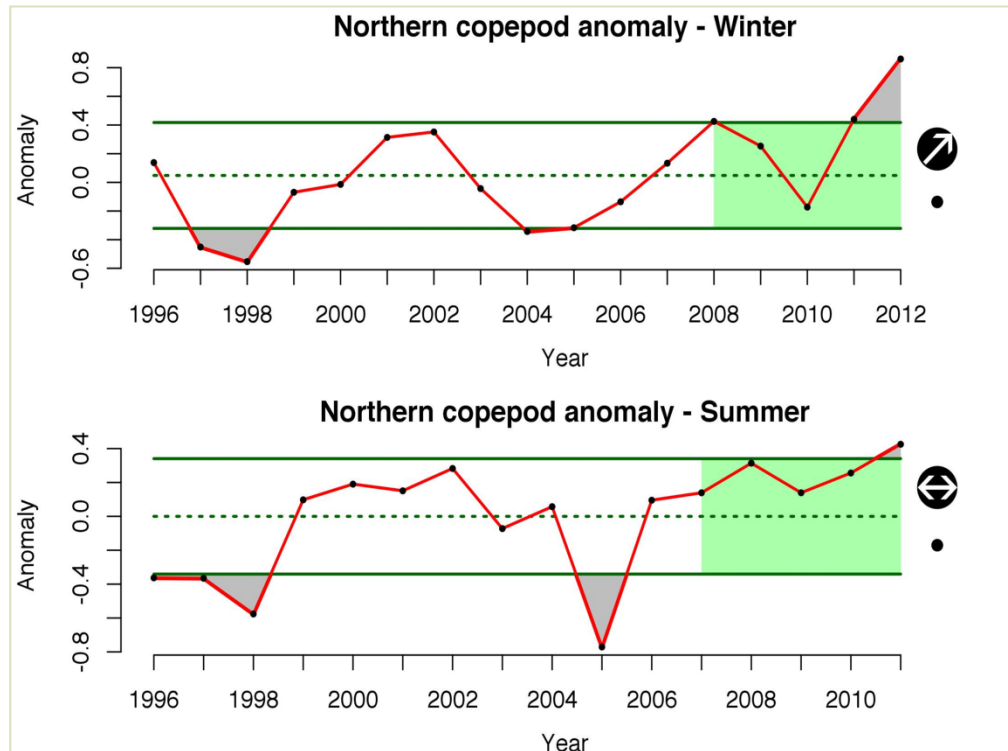
Fishery Ecosystem Plan

State of the California Current Ecosystem



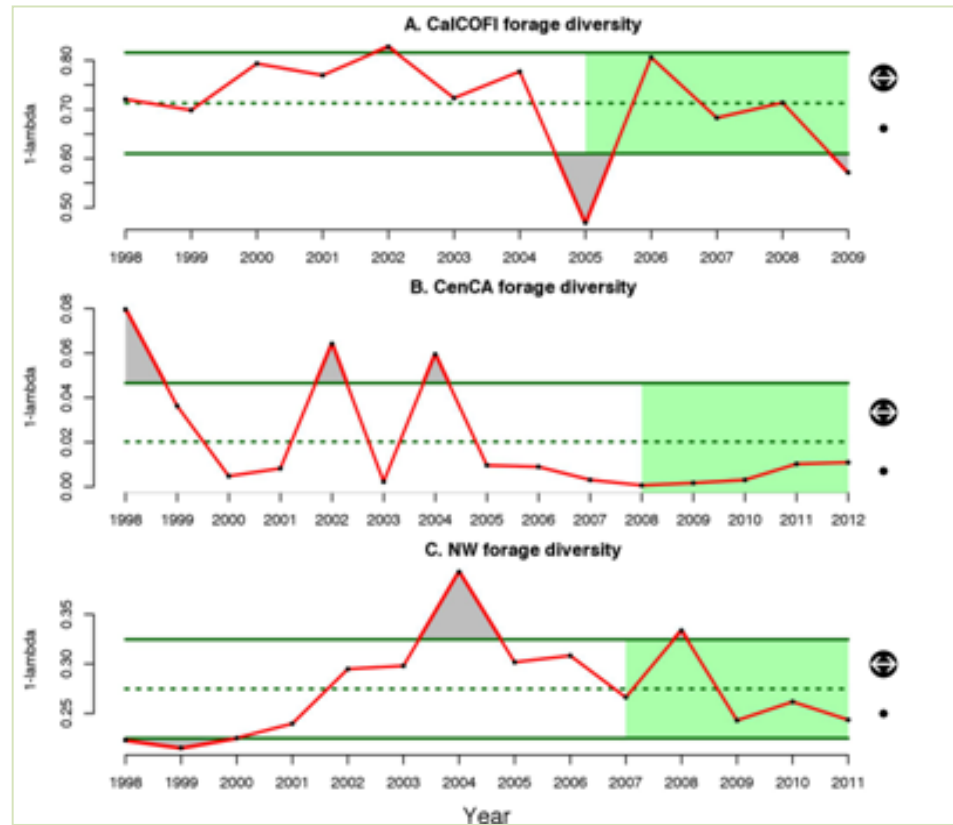
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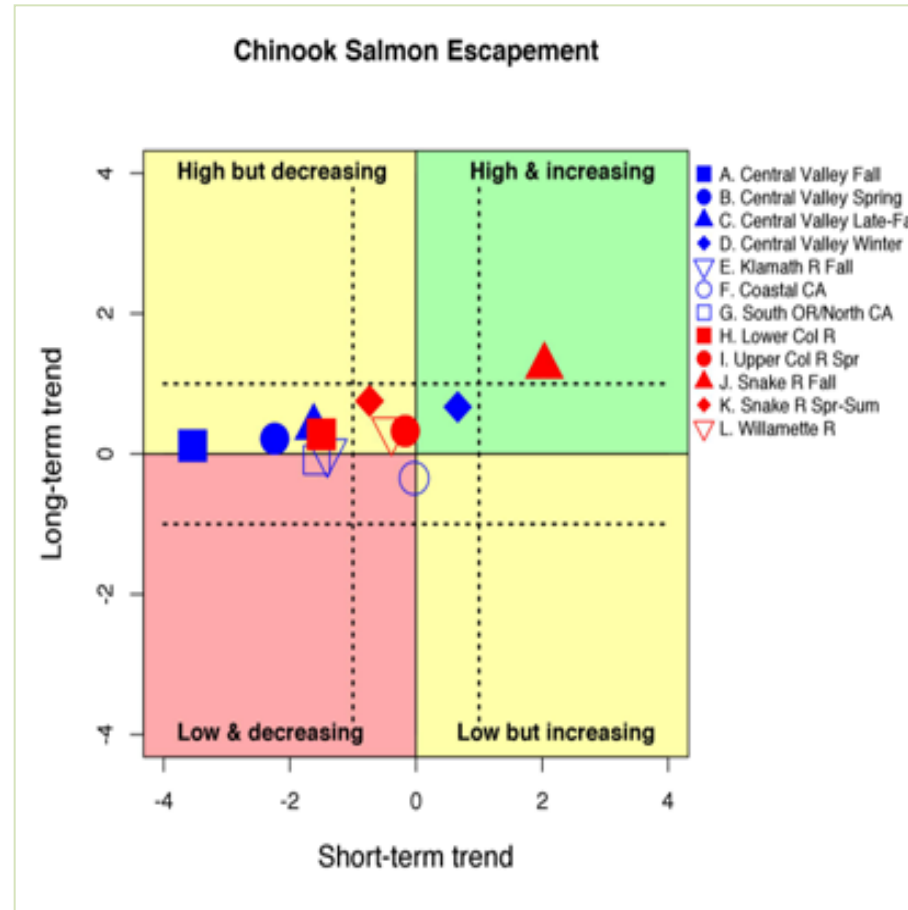
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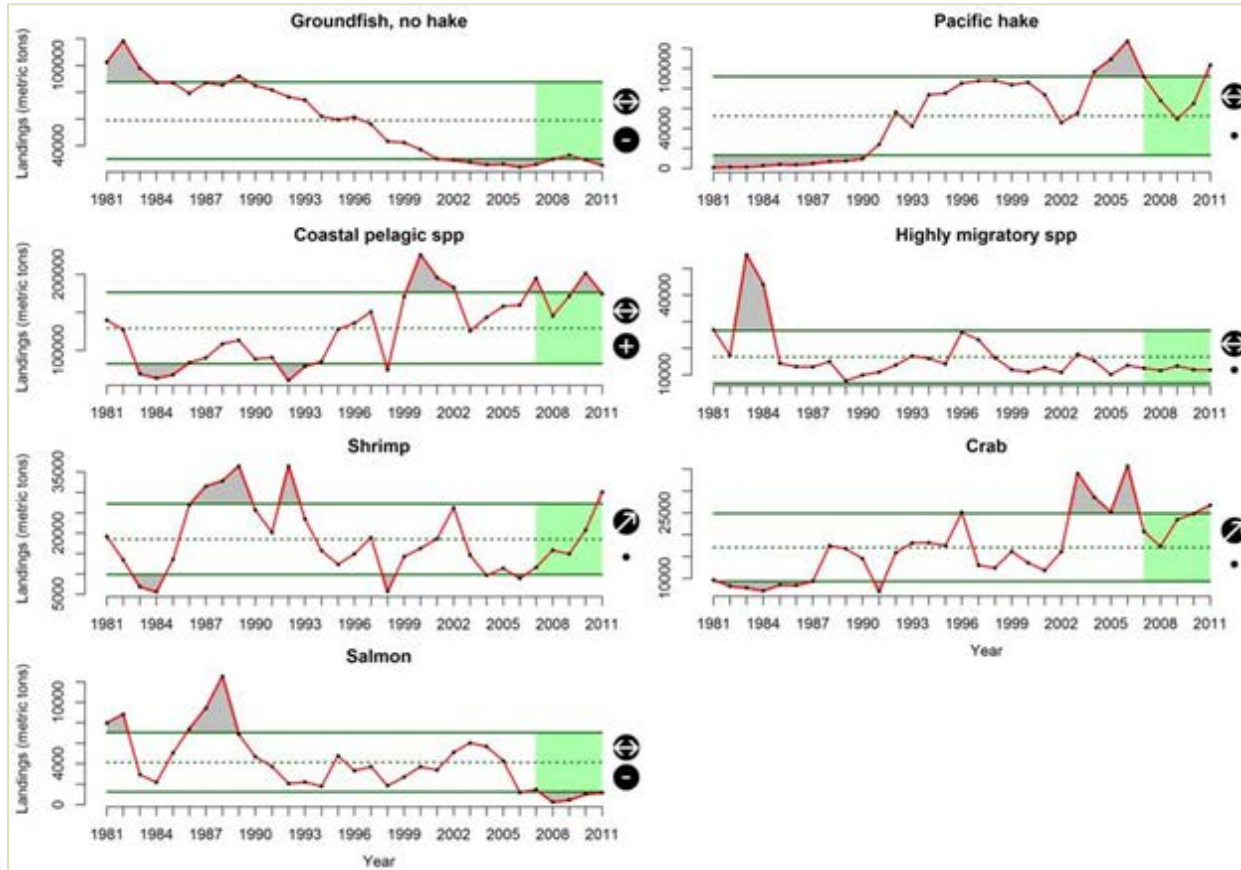
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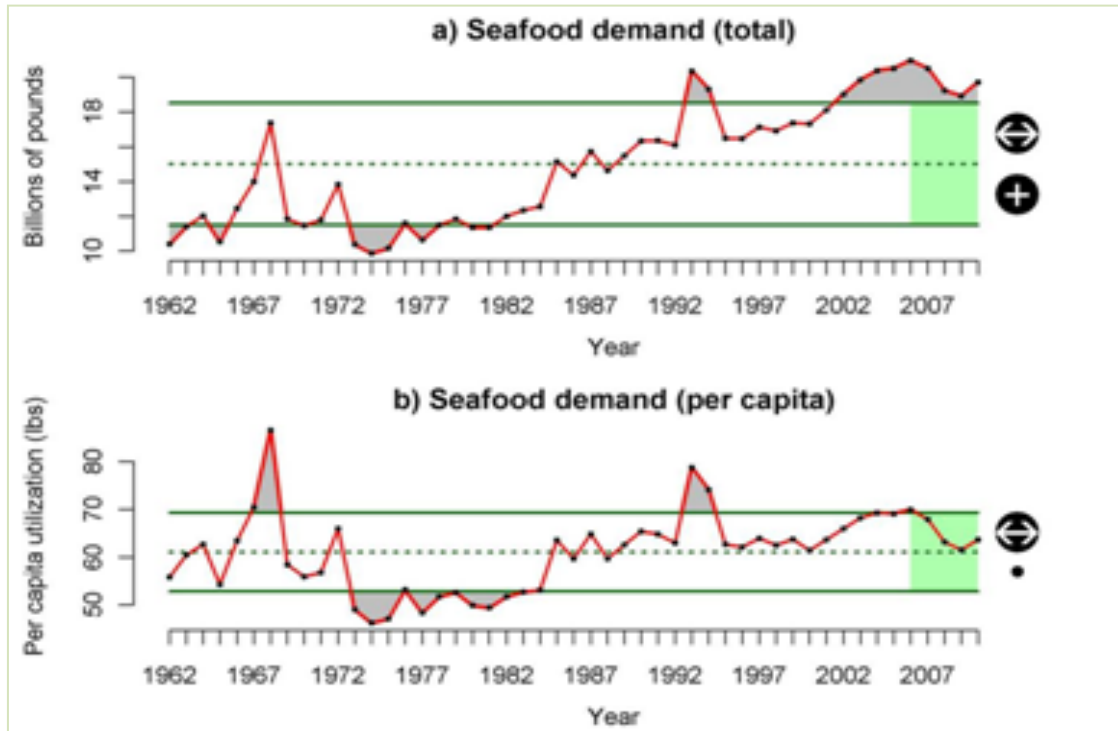
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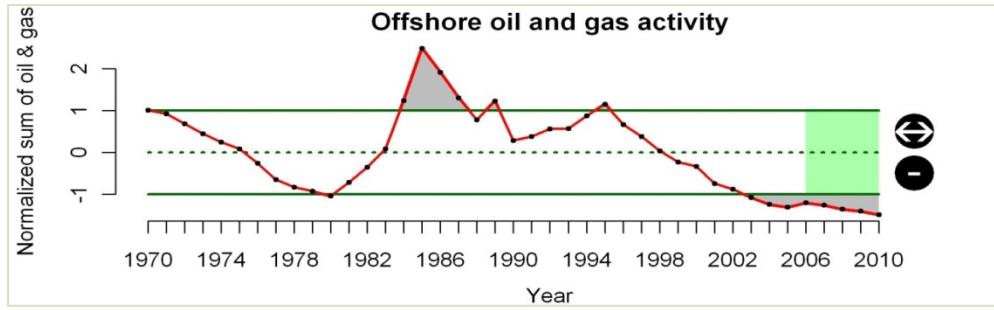
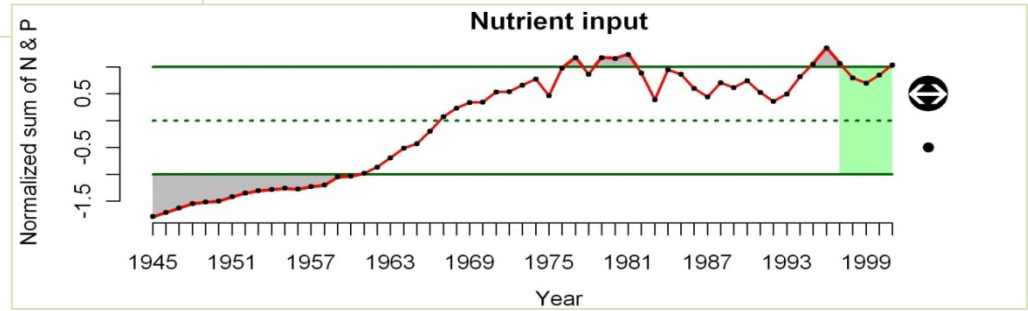
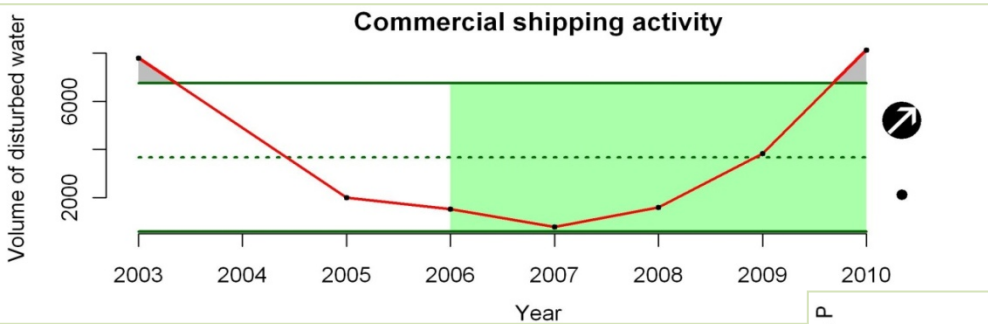
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Fishery Ecosystem Plan

State of the California Current Ecosystem



Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

- Protection for Unfished Forage Fish
- Potential Long-Term Effects of Council Harvest Policies on Age- and Size- Distribution in Managed Stocks
- Bio-Geographic Region Identification and Assessment
- Cross-FMP Bycatch and Catch Monitoring Policy
- Cross-FMP Essential Fish Habitat



Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

- Cross-FMP Safety
- Human Recruitment to the Fisheries
- Cross-FMP Socio-Economic Effects of Fisheries Management
- Cross-FMP Effects of Climate Shift
- Indicators for Analyses of Council Actions



Fishery Ecosystem Plan

Protection for Unfished Forage Fish

- Species to be included in existing Fishery Management Plans
 - Round and Thread Herrings
 - Mesopelagics - Myctophidae, Bathylagidae, Paralepididae, Gonosomatidae; 100s of species
 - Pacific Sandlance
 - Pacific Saury
 - Osmerid Smelts
 - Silversides
 - Pelagic Squids - excluding Humboldt Squid



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Fishery Ecosystem Plan

Protection for Unfished Forage Fish

The purpose of this action is to recognize the importance of forage fish to the marine ecosystem off the U.S. West Coast. This action is needed to provide protection for unmanaged, unfished forage fish of the U.S. West Coast EEZ by prohibiting new directed fishing on those species until the Council has had an adequate opportunity to assess the scientific information relating to any proposed fishery and to consider potential impacts to existing fisheries, fishing communities, and the greater marine ecosystem.

