

Methodology for Species Data Analysis

Species data were gathered from a pre-workshop survey that was distributed to all workshop invitees in advance of the workshop through the platform Survey Monkey. Respondents were asked to answer “yes” or “no” to a series of six criteria for each species (Table 1). These criteria were previously assigned weights by the Workshop Planning Committee, based on relative importance of each criterion. Respondents were given the option to leave any answers blank if they felt they did not have the knowledge to answer, and were given the option to complete the survey for additional species that were not included.

A fraction of “yes” votes to total votes was calculated for each criterion for each species, and these fractions were added for the total species score. An extra point was added to those species that are also indicated as “climate indicator species” in the GFNMS Climate Change Indicators Monitoring Inventory and Plan, as these species are of special concern to sanctuary management. For an abbreviated example, consider the species *Endocladia muricata* (sea moss). For criterion 1, sea moss received 1 yes vote of 3 total votes, so received .33 points times 2 (weight) for .66 points. For criterion 3, Sea moss received 3 yes votes of 3 total votes, so received 1 point. Sea moss is not an indicator species, so the total score for this species is 1.66.

Species were then rank ordered by total score within each organism group. The total score is indicated for each species in the Focal Species Checklist, and should be used as a reference for workshop participants when finalizing the list of focal species to include in the vulnerability assessment workshop.

Table 1. Table of Species Criteria and Weights

Criterion	Weight
The species is considered a keystone, key, ecologically foundational, strong interactor, or umbrella species.	2
The species has available data and information upon which to base the vulnerability assessment.	2
The species has socio-economic and/or cultural significance.	1
The species is considered to be, or used as, a surrogate for a larger group of species.	1
The species is widely represented across the California Current (Southern Baja peninsula to US-Canadian border).	-1
The species is present only, or predominantly, in the study region (Ano Nuevo to Pt Arena).	1