

**Western Regional Action Plan (WRAP) for implementing the
NMFS National Climate Science Strategy (NCSS)**

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Request: We are writing to request time with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council) and its Advisory Bodies at the April and/or June 2016 meetings to discuss the content of our draft Western Regional Action Plan (WRAP) and receive feedback on the appropriateness and relative priority of the scientific work that we initially propose for this effort. This time frame will hopefully allow the Council to review the draft WRAP and provide NMFS time to respond and integrate Council's and its advisory bodies' comments and concerns of the.

Background: NOAA Fisheries released last year its National Climate Science Strategy (NCSS) <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/climate/national-climate-strategy>. The NCSS provides general guidance for its science arm to develop and deliver scientific information in support of the management of our living marine resources under climate change. Now, the agency is developing Regional Action Plans (RAPs) that will establish regional scientific priorities and guide more local efforts to conduct science for fishery and protected resource management given these changing environmental conditions. Specifically, the purpose of these RAPs (from the NMFS Regional Action Plan Guidance memo) is to:

- 1. Identify strengths, weaknesses, priority needs and actions to implement the seven NCSS Objectives in each region over the next five years.*
- 2. Increase awareness, partnerships and support for these efforts internally and externally at regional to national scales.*

For the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, including its associated watersheds, the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers are jointly developing a WRAP. Please find a discussion draft in Informational Report 1, April 2016; the final WRAP is due in October 2016. Its content will drive NOAA Fisheries' climate-related research on the U.S. west coast for the next five years.

The scientific work that will be prioritized for the Science Centers through this process is directly applicable to research needs identified by the Council in its most recent "Research and Data Needs" document. Specifically, the research identified by the Council include investigation into climate change effects and mitigation for species in all four Fishery Management Plans as well as efforts to identify linkages between climate effects and drivers of recruitment, distribution and abundance for these commercially and recreationally important species. In addition, the key research needs to support Ecosystem Based Fishery Management identified in this document also include climate-based inquiry.