

ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) greatly appreciates the work done by the Climate Scenarios Investigation (CSI) and the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG), and endorses the approach and timeline in the CSI Report. After reviewing the CSI Report (Agenda Item H.1.a), the CSI webinar, and the EWG webinar, we offer the following observations and recommendations:

- The EAS holds valuable ecosystem-based fishery management expertise. We request that the EAS be included in any joint meetings, webinars, or work sessions to scope Scenario Topic and the Scenario Planning process.
- Under the *Considerations for Proposed Scenario Topics* section, the CSI Report suggests a “medium-term, 15-20 year window for describing future, potential shifts.” The EAS notes that such a focus would miss, and fail to address, the short-term changes that can, and already have, impacted the fishing fleet. At the same time, the mid- and longer-term planning horizons are likely to be complicated by accelerating changes in environmental condition. The EAS suggests that the focal time horizon for the initiative be carefully reconsidered, and that a clear rationale is presented for the time-frame that is selected.
- Recognizing that Scenario Topic scoping will likely occur over the next five months, the EAS recognizes the importance of addressing cross-Fishery Management Plan (FMP) topics. Several preliminary topics that arose were salmon, as anadromous species they are highly vulnerable to climate change, addressing geographically shifting stocks, and changes in stock productivity.
- In the *Criteria to Inform EWG-MT Scenario Topic Scoping and Recommendations* section, the CSI Report recommends a focus on existing FMP management tools. While this is a logical place to begin, scenarios should also consider other possible tools that could be utilized so we aren’t limited to only traditional management tools.
- The scenario planning process should be open and accessible to many different stakeholders. Visualization tools, such as diagrams used in systems-thinking exercises, can be helpful in doing so.
- We note that the NOAA Climate Vulnerability Assessment has already done high quality work related to identifying and prioritizing species affected by climate change, and should be used in this effort.
- As the scenario planning process moves forward, we recommend that the CSI, EWG, or other group tasked with completing next steps provide an example in March 2019 of what a scenario might look like to help enable stakeholders to more concretely understand the process and improve subsequent engagement.