



November 4, 2018

Mr. Phil Anderson, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, #101  
Portland, OR 97220

RE: Agenda Item H.1: Climate and Communities Initiative Update

Dear Chair Anderson and Council Members:

Ocean Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) thank the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) for its work implementing the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Climate and Communities Initiative and preparing West Coast fisheries for climate change. As the Council considers next steps to implement the Initiative, **we recommend adopting the Climate Scenarios Investigations (CSI) Committee report with minor changes, continuing the CSI for the duration of the initiative, and engaging the support of a scenario planning expert.**

*CSI Report (Agenda item H.1.a, Supplemental CSI Report 1)*

The report provided by the CSI lays an excellent framework for moving the Initiative forward. The timeline is appropriate, and the proposed two-phased approach (first exploring topics and then moving to the scenario planning process) is an effective method to achieve the goals. To improve execution of the process and engage stakeholders most meaningfully, we recommend the following minor changes:

- **Further define the format of scenario topics.** To help the advisory bodies and the public provide substantive input, guidance should be provided on how the Council would like to see scenario topic recommendations, for example, as problem statements or as questions to explore.
- **Expand the 15-20 year range proposed as a timeframe for developing scenario topics.** The currently proposed window is too short and excludes critical climate impacts that occur on shorter or longer timeframes. Exploring a fuller range of risks at this point in the process will ensure a more complete evaluation of all potential climate change impacts and solutions.
- **Include ecosystem in the second bullet of section IV: *Criteria to Inform EWG-MT Scenario Topic Scoping and Recommendations*.** Risks to ecosystem integrity are critically important to identify and address, as their impacts are likely to be cross-fishery and provide the basis for resulting impacts to individual fish species and fishing communities.
- **Provide additional guidance regarding final products.** Where will the results of the scenario planning exercises be housed? How will they be linked to any subsequent management action or potential actions?

- **Recognize that this scenario planning process is indeed a call to action.** Results from the scenario planning exercise should be directly linked to subsequent Council action to address identified issues and/or solutions.

*Continue the CSI*

We recommend continuing the CSI for the duration of the scenario planning process. The CSI provides a direct line of guidance from the Council and creates a venue for additional Council expertise to be applied.

*Engage Scenario Planning Expertise*

The application of scenario planning to fisheries management at this scale is novel. While the process is in formative stages, engaging an expert could be not only helpful in ensuring a productive process, but also save time and money over the life of the Initiative. We endorse the EWG's recommendation in their report (*Agenda item H.1.a, Supplemental EWG Report 1*) to invite one or more speakers with expertise in the process to provide a presentation or training on the topic.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Council, especially the CSI Committee and the EWG, to further develop and refine this initiative. Preparing for climate change is essential and it should be done so strategically, with a targeted set of actions, an adaptive approach, and with a commitment to climate-ready fisheries management that maintains ecosystem integrity.

Sincerely,



Corey Ridings  
Ocean Conservancy



Gway Kirchner  
The Nature Conservancy