

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation from Mr. Jonathan Star on the climate and communities initiative ([Agenda Item E.2, Situation Summary, September 2019](#)).

Mr. Star presented a preliminary list of “driving forces of change” which may form the basis of scenarios and asked for input from the SSC. The preliminary list includes drivers of change described in very general terms. It includes aspects of climate change but also a variety of potential future social, economic, and policy developments. The SSC suggested a number of additional or more specific drivers of change to consider in scenarios including:

- physical changes in the California Current ecosystem including upwelling, wind, currents, and dissolved oxygen;
- changes in the amplitude and periodicity of climate variability;
- changes in ecosystem function and productivity;
- more frequent and/or larger harmful algal blooms;
- changes in the cost and methods of collecting data and doing research driven by technological developments and budget constraints;
- increasing public pressure to reduce human impact on ecosystems;
- changes to national fishery policy; and
- changes to national legislation including the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

The SSC noted, and Mr. Star agreed, that physical changes related to climate change, as well as other driving forces described in general terms, must be translated into outcomes that directly impact fishing communities (e.g., relative changes in acceptable biological catches or prices for particular species) when constructing scenarios. The SSC has expertise relevant to the scenarios being developed and can, if requested, participate in the scenario validation process.