

## ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE WORKSHOP REPORT

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) appreciates the *Developing Future Scenarios for Climate Change in the California Current Ecosystem Workshop* (Workshop) conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and The Nature Conservancy, and the presentation we received from facilitator Jonathan Star on this agenda item. Both attendees and non-attendees of the workshop felt that the report is an important first step in defining relevant and plausible scenarios and furthering the Climate and Communities initiative.

We recommend the Council review Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 3, for further insights into the four scenarios developed during the Workshop; we found these scenario descriptions helpful in visualizing and understanding both the scenarios themselves and better understanding how they fit into the overarching scenario planning process.

We continue to support the purpose and benefits of the scenario planning process and the Climate and Communities Initiative. Finding ways to manage fisheries for resilience and sustainability and provide for viable fishing communities are important goals for this process. This process can also identify tools, products, and processes that can serve us in a changing climate and future ecosystem states. Since climate changes will affect different fisheries and different communities in different ways, it will be valuable to engage diverse fishing communities in identifying local and cross-cutting impacts of potential scenarios, responses, and management actions.

We are impressed that the scenarios have already helped us envision outputs of this exercise and possible solutions. We emphasize that this is a step along the path to responding to climate change. We encourage the Council to develop mechanisms to respond to climate change as informed by the outcomes of this exercise. Such responses may include a wide range of actions, including some outside of Council purview. For example:

- initiating targeted research
- identifying research needs that can be leveraged to drive research across multiple agencies and organizations
- exploring changes to state and Federal legislation that may be required to provide for more agile management that can capitalize on unexpected abundance or novel responses to constraining factors.

Regarding next steps, we encourage the Climate and Communities Core Team to think creatively about how to include fishermen and other stakeholders in subsequent focal groups or other engagement mechanisms, as this may be challenging. Engagement with stakeholders will require their understanding of the value of this exercise and a commitment that the Council, and community and regulatory bodies both state and Federal, will listen.

We encourage the Core Team to utilize the facilitator's expertise in preparing further details, and propose several ideas regarding how to shape focal groups, reach stakeholders, and increase participation:

- Develop materials to help stakeholders quickly and easily digest the information. For example, through videos, clear graphics, and providing advance materials to participants with ample time to review. Include industry voices in these materials.
- All relevant stakeholder groups should be represented inclusive of individuals and groups not usually active in the Council process.
- Meet with groups in their communities. Smaller, more unstructured meetings may be more useful for some groups (e.g., smaller or specialized fisheries), while larger and structured meetings may be more effective for others (e.g., trade groups).
- Be willing to extend the timeline. We are concerned that sufficient data gathering and reporting may not be possible for completion by the September briefing book deadline.
- Include individuals from the Council and from state agencies where possible, to demonstrate Council commitment, and so participant insights and comments can be heard directly.
- We recommend that one to two community discussions are held to test engagement strategies and yield insights into how such community-based efforts can be effective.

We again thank and applaud the Council, The Nature Conservancy, and Jonathan Star for conducting a successful workshop and producing an excellent report. We look forward to helping this initiative yield actionable insights for the Council and the fisheries.

PFMC  
03/06/20