

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE WORKSHOP REPORT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Dr. Kit Dahl, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff, which summarized the various reports and documents associated with the Climate and Communities Initiative Workshop held earlier this year. The GAP also reviewed the reports on this topic developed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS). In general, the GAP supports the recommendations provided in the SSC and EAS reports. As in previous statements, the GAP continues to highlight the importance of this issue to fishery participants and fishing communities.

From the [EAS report](#), the GAP supports this statement: “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.” If dedicated funding is available that does not reduce the Council’s ability to address core workload, the GAP supports outreach efforts such as workshops in coastal communities with fishery participants.

From the [SSC report](#), the GAP highlights the importance of this statement: “The next stage should also include consideration of institutional changes that may be required as biophysical, social, and economic conditions change. If the Council identifies legal or other constraints in how they can respond, then it may be useful to consider what would happen if these constraints changed.” Effective and meaningful responses to changing ocean conditions and concomitant effects on fisheries and fishery participants will require management systems that are flexible and adaptable. To take the SSC comment a step further, in addition to considering what would happen if institutional constraints lessened, it is also important to consider how the Council can work toward making those changes happen. The Groundfish Strategic Plan review and revision process, currently shaded for September and November on the year-at-a-glance summary, could provide an important opportunity to think about ways to make management more streamlined, flexible, and adaptable.