

REPORT ON CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE FUTURE STEPS

At its meeting in March 2020 in Rohnert Park, California, the Council considered progress on the scenario planning portion of the Climate and Communities Initiative (Initiative) ([Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1, March 2020](#)), extended the timeline for completion of the scenario planning activity to March 2021, and requested this follow-up report from the Climate and Communities Core team (CCCT) to be provided for the Council's April 2020 meeting. During a webinar on March 20, 2020, the CCCT considered input from the March 2020 Council meeting and the original goal of the Initiative, discussing logical next steps to complete the initiative by March 2021.

As described in September 2017 by the Council, the Initiative's goal is to "consider strategies for improving the flexibility and responsiveness of our management actions to near-term climate shift and long-term climate change, and strategies for increasing the resiliency of our managed stocks and fisheries to those changes". At that time, the Council charged the CCCT with coordinating a scenario planning process to explore potential fisheries management challenges under climate variability and change and the tools, information, and approaches the Council might need to address those challenges.

During the webinar on March 20, 2020, the CCCT considered refinement of two key steps in the scenario planning approach approved by the Council for the Initiative:

1. Enhancing the clarity of descriptions for each of the four scenarios (also referred to as 'deepening' the scenarios) of plausible future conditions, which were developed during the *Developing Future Scenarios for Climate Change in the California Current Ecosystem Workshop* (Workshop) in Garden Grove, California (January 2020); and
2. Designing an effective stakeholder outreach and engagement process whereby information could be gathered on the potential implications of the developed scenarios regarding key fishery, community and conservation outcomes within and across species groups and regions.

Given the extensive uncertainty currently related to public engagement opportunities due to COVID-19, the CCCT webinar focused mainly on necessary tasks for Step 1, enhancing the clarity of descriptions of the scenarios.

To this end the CCCT intends to pursue the following steps, subject to any further Council guidance:

1. By mid-April 2020, the CCCT will clarify and describe the underlying conditions of each of the four scenarios, using notes from the January Workshop, reports and comments from the March 2020 Council meeting (including from Management Teams [MTs] and Advisory Bodies [ABs]), other public input, and the CCCT's March 2020 webinar discussion.
2. By the June 2020 Council meeting, the Council's ABs and MTs will test and add details to these scenarios. This will include the development of examples for key species within (and across) each of the fishery management plans that have particular economic and community importance for Council fisheries and conservation objectives. AB and MT input will be sought in the May – June timeframe via web-based workshops.
3. At the June 2020 Council meeting, the CCCT will report on the further development of the four scenarios, and recommendations for the public and stakeholder engagement process.

The scenario enhancement step will provide the foundation for applying the scenarios in a public and stakeholder engagement process beginning as early as July 2020 and to be completed in time for the CCCT to report and discuss results with the Council in March 2021. At that time, a final report on the scenario planning process and its review/comment by the MTs, Abs, and public should provide the basis for the Council to make an informed decision about whether additional development of new information, tools and/or approaches are strategically needed to meet the goals of the Initiative.

The CCCT will work with consultant Jonathan Star, in parallel with enhancing the scenarios, to design the public engagement process to explore implications of the scenarios to stocks, Council fisheries, and communities. Progress on these various steps will be reported and reviewed with the Council at future meetings between April 2020 and March 2021, the intent and timing of which can be discussed under future workload planning agenda items. The ultimate timing and approach for public outreach to gather input on scenario implications will need to be guided by COVID-19 management requirements.

PFMC
3/30/2020